

SPORTS

Technique • Friday, June 28, 2001

Kickball isn't just for kids

The summer leagues at SAC are going strong, playing hard, and putting the fun in summer sports. Page 15

Parking works summers

The decks are undergoing renovation or cleaning, and permit registration ends June 30. Page 1



by the numbers

1

Number of Tech golfers to have ever captured the NCAA Individual Championship. Troy Matteson's final round at the championship tied the best final-round score ever by a Tech player.

.563

Batting average for senior shortstop Victor Menocal in Tech's three games versus Clemson and South Carolina in the College World Series. Menocal is the fourth Tech player to be named to the all-College World Series team.

5

The number that Georgia Tech men's baseball was ranked in the final college baseball polls by both Baseball Weekly and Collegiate Baseball magazines. This was the highest ranking since being ranked 2nd in the 1994 polls.

1:49.21

All-American Brendon Mahoney's time for the 800 meters at the USA Track and Field Championships. Mahoney placed 8th with this time, and former Tech standout David Krummenacker won with a finish of 1:47.24.

Omaha run ends short



Photo courtesy GT Sports Information

The Jackets congratulate Wes Rynders during a CWS game in Omaha. Though the team fell after three games, 2002 squad had three players named as All-Americans and set a new school record this season with 52 wins.

By Al Przygocki
Senior Staff Writer

The Joltin' Jackets came up short in Omaha at the College World Series but have nothing to hang their heads about.

Tech went 1-2 and ended up tied for fifth in the event as they were eliminated by a South Carolina team who went on to lose in the title game to Texas. The Jackets actually beat the Gamecocks 11-0 in the opener for both teams on Friday behind a strong overall team effort highlighted by Kyle Bakker's dominance. His masterful performance in his hometown was by far the most impressive pitching performance in the entire CWS.

On being able to pitch in his hometown and getting run support early, Bakker explained that, "It is always awesome to play in an atmosphere like this. The runs in the first inning before I even took the mound were great." The

southpaw added, "It's always great when the defense is playing well, and the run support is there."

Things were looking good for the Jackets after the opening win and spirits were high on Saturday as Kyle Bakker's family made good on a promise long ago to host a pig roast in Omaha if Georgia Tech made it to the College World Series. It was an amazing get-together as the entire Tech family was invited to join in the festivities. The highlight was watching shortstop Victor Menocal and third baseman Matthew Boggs compete in a friendly run behind the Bakker home.

On Sunday, things did not go anywhere near as well. The Jackets' chances disappeared in the second inning as Chris Goodman and Aaron Walker combined to give up eight runs before the Jackets finally halted the Clemson onslaught. Philip Perry pitched his longest outing of the

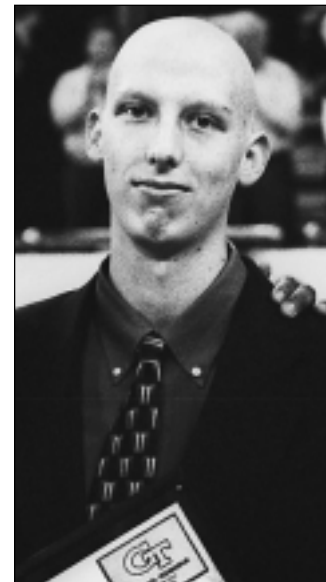
season going 6.1 innings in relief to give Georgia Tech a chance to get back in it, and the offense kept chipping away at the lead. Unfortunately, the Jackets ran out of innings and eventually succumbed by a score of 9-7. A win would've put the Jackets into the driver's seat in their bracket, but instead they were consigned to the losers' bracket.

Head Coach Danny Hall said, "It was a tough loss for us. I think the keys to the game were in the first inning we had the bases loaded and no out and we don't score. If we put the ball in play, we would get on the board. Then, in the second inning, we couldn't get them out. They had some great at bats. To our guys credit, we battled back but we couldn't get the guys in."

Speaking about playing Clemson, Hall continued, "They are an outstanding offensive team. You look at today. We got Khalil Greene out,

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In Memoriam



Michael Isenhour
1979-2002

see page 3

Tech Baseball players named to USA Team

Sophomore pitcher Kyle Bakker and freshman second baseman Eric Patterson were named to the 2002 USA Baseball National Team. Bakker and Patterson were selected from a pool of 35 players after a 4-day trial process in Tuscon, Arizona.

Women's Basketball will play in WNIT

Tech's women's basketball team has been selected to participate in the Preseason WNIT for the first time in school history. Their season will begin on November 15 against Charlotte in Alexander Memorial Coliseum.

Bobby Dodd stadium set for on-time completion



By Shelley Hoyal / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Bobby Dodd Stadium construction has been an annoyance for many East Campus residents, but students look forward to the improved stadium.

By Joseph Jeong
Contributing Writer

There will be no hiccups to the start of the football season at Boddy Dodd Stadium. "I will state as emphatically and clearly as I can that the construction is on time and on budget," were the words Sterling Brown, Senior Associate Athletic Director, stressed when asked about the stadium construction.

Numerous rumors have been floating around recently about the state of the construction, most of them claiming that the stadium construction will not be complete in time and an alternate venue had to be found. Brown was adamant that all these rumors were baseless and the construction will be completed in time. He confidently stated, "We will play Vanderbilt on August 31" as planned."

When probed further, Brown admitted that there have been delays in the construction but the team of Turner Construction and Carter Associates had made up for any lost time. Causes of delays ranged from the mundane like bad weather and

to the surprising, like hitting previously unknown lines and pipes. East campus residents felt the repercussions of such delays when power went out for a while when a power line was accidentally cut while drilling.

Other incidents include an underground granite ledge that prevented further drilling. The construction team had to use dynamite to blow up parts of the ledge so drilling could continue. This meant obtaining a permit to use explosives on site, which caused even further delay.

Overall, Brown estimated that the various unforeseen circumstances caused about four to five weeks of delay. He then went on to add that Turner & Carter had a recovery plan and the lost time was made up. He repeated that the project is on schedule and there will be no contingency plans for the football season.

The stadium construction is a two-phase project and the first phase will be completed by before the Vanderbilt game, according to Brown. Completion of the first phase

will not change the seating capacity of Bobby Dodd Stadium, which stood at 42,000 before construction began. It will however cause some changes in seating arrangements because the North stands will remain closed. The second phase of construction continues next year on the North stands and the stadium will re-open with a seating capacity of 55,000.

When asked about the inconveniences this might cause for fans this season, Brown stated that the stadium will not lose any functionality but fans might have to bear with some cosmetic idiosyncrasies. He cited as an example that some bathrooms and toilet facilities might have cinder blocks where brick walls should be for the upcoming season. Aside from such cosmetic changes, Brown reiterated that the stadium would be re-opened on time without any loss of real functionality.

The Jacket's season opener against Vanderbilt will be on Saturday, Aug. 31 at 6 pm at Bobby Dodd Stadium/Grant Field.

Intramural Notebook with Jack B. Nimble

Summer sports strong at SAC



By Robert Hill / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Kickball leagues are in full swing at SAC fields, and other intramurals like basketball and softball are creating some serious competition and sweat.

The summer intramural season is in full swing with kickball, sand volleyball, 3-on-3 basketball and softball championships up for grabs. Oddly enough, there is no A-league in either kickball or sand volleyball. Is it too late to claim those championships? I'll sign up Monday.

In the top division of kickball, "B-league," Outfield in Motion holds the top spot with a 3-0 record. They've outscored their opponents by a combined 37-11. They're followed by the Red Rocket Raiders and AEPi, both with 3-0 records. They have to be the favorites heading into the playoffs, but the battle-tested teams out of the Boot division could make some noise. Ruckus, Nucleophiles, and The Sofas are all 2-1 and ranked in the top ten. The Atomic Death Weasels were tough luck losers in this group, going 0-3. What a shame for the best-named team. It's more original than something always being in motion. They might be interested in forming a division of WAKA (World Adult Kickball Association) in Atlanta. Seriously, surf over to worldkickball.com. Make sure to listen to their official song, "Everybody Loves Kickball," Music and lyrics by Pete Papageorge. As far as I know, he has no relation to Senegal's Papa Bouba Diop (like the way I got my shameless World Cup reference in?).

On the basketball front, DGN was handed the regular season title

in A-league, benefiting from a no-show and a forfeit. Let's see if the page in B-league because they have yet to give up a point in two games, really easy when the wins come once again by a no-show and a forfeit. I can't help but laugh at how apt the name Airball has turned out, being 0-2 and ranked 13 out of 15. (The moral of the story is that the press only ignores mediocrity.)

In A-league softball, it's a dead heat. There is nothing between K Sig, All Stars, Theta Xi, or Reggie's Sluggers, as all the games have been close. It's easier to distinguish contenders from pretenders in B-League. The Sultans of Swunt, Morally Relaxed, The Outsiders and See You There have all dished out beatings in both of their games and are clearly the class of B-League. On the clever names front, there's the MiRC Geezers... "Only at Tech" is all I can think to say.

In volleyball, we've got Powerhouse, Silicates, and TKE off to 2-0 starts, with AEES, Dig the Dirt, and Donkey yars off to 1-0 starts. There's still a long way to go, it's still anybody's title (sports reporting cliché #36).

That's the summer intramural scene so far. I'll keep following intramurals throughout the summer, at least until our kickballers go pro. That's a sport with a real future. WAKA's talking Olympic exhibition in 2012. I think those were the Olympics Iraq wants to make a bid for, seriously.

Omaha

but (Michael) Johnson kills us. (Jeff) Baker had a great hit. You look at the guys in the middle of the order. If you don't do a good job, they can kill you."

On Tuesday, the Yellow Jackets faced a rematch with the Gamecocks. The Jackets fell behind 5-1 in the fourth as starter Brian Burks failed to escape the inning. Tech continued to get runners on base but was unable to score enough runs with three double plays contributing to the frus-

"As long as you hit the ball hard, you can't be disappointed"

Matthew Boggs
Senior Third Baseman

tration. Jeff Watchko tried to repeat Philip Perry's performance of the previous game but eventually ran out of gas in the eighth as South Carolina pounded out three critical insurance runs to push the lead to 9-2 and effectively end the Jackets' chances.

Senior third-baseman Matthew Boggs talked about the frustrations of losing due to errors and double plays saying that, "You can't control hitting into double plays. As long as you hit the ball hard, you can't be disappointed. We're disappointed in the loss today, but overall it's been a great season. The team has played great all year. It's a great experience to finally make it out here (to Omaha)."

The two critical factors in Tech's defeats were the same things that had plagued them throughout the year: Inconsistent pitching and not converting base runners into runs. Those two factors had been on the Jackets' side on their run to Omaha but things went the other way against the two teams from the Palmetto state. Except for Kyle Bakker's outstanding opening gem, the starting pitching lagged behind the relief pitching which was the opposite of how things were in the rest of the season. All in all, it was a strange week in Omaha for the Jackets, but

hopefully one they can build on for the future.

On the season overall and this year's team, Coach Hall said, "Everybody contributed on our team and on our staff. This team has won more games than any other team at Georgia Tech. If you look in the Georgia Tech yearbook, you'll see there were some good teams in the past at Georgia Tech."

Omaha disappointments aside, the Joltin' Jackets just completed their best season ever, especially in light of expectations. This was supposed to be a rebuilding year. This year's team lost nine players who signed pro contracts after a disappointing 2001 season, including two first round draft picks in Mark Teixeira and Richard Lewis. The incoming class of 17 freshmen was the largest class of newcomers in school history and was going to be asked to carry a lot of weight. There were also plenty of questions about the pitching staff, and set a school record for wins in a season (52), made it to the College World Series for only the second time in school history, and ended up with a long string of individual awards and updates to the school's record books.

From the get-go, the freshmen were ready. Eric Patterson at second base and Jeremy Slayden in right field started almost every game and were the numbers one and three

"We battled back, but we couldn't get the guys in."

Danny Hall
Men's Baseball Head Coach

hitters for one of the most potent offenses in the country. Fellow rookies Brandon Boggs, Clifton Remole, Mike Nickeas, and Garret Groce were valuable contributors throughout the season as well.

As far as those unproven pitchers, well, Kyle Bakker stepped into the ace's role and dominated all year long on Friday nights. Converted shortstop Chris Goodman started the year as Tech's closer, but after

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Courtesy GT Sports Information

Tech's Kyle Bakker pitched in front of his hometown fans in Omaha.

struggling in that role, he developed into Tech's number two starter turning in dominating efforts against Clemson and UGA down the stretch. Brian Burks started the year in the bullpen but came on to pitch a complete game shutout and ended the season as the number three starter. Freshman Kyle Schmidt showed off a fine curveball on the way to establishing himself as a solid part of the rotation. Jeff Watchko started the season by making the move from closer to starter but moved back when the team needed him to.

The other question was one of heart. The Jackets had suffered through humiliating disappointments in the last two postseasons after carrying around the burden of high expectations. This year, the seniors on the team, Victor Menocal, Matthew Boggs, and Wes Rynders, got together during fall practice and decided to do whatever it took to make sure that this team would play as a team and not as a collection of talented individuals with one eye on the pros. Whatever they did worked as this team came together early on and the collective team spirit was in evidence from February all the way through June.