I Ms off with a bang

The seasons have kicked off for the spring and the action is getting loud. Or maybe that is just the team names speaking. Page 29.

Bedeviled in Durham

Jackets play a first-half game against No. 3 Duke Blue Devils. Check out the game review of the Jackets road performance. Page 32.

Jackets 9-0 in Thrillerdome

By Al Przygocki
Senior Staff Writer

On a rainy night in Georgia, amid posters exclaiming, “Oh, My Bosh!” and “Respect Your Elder,” a sold out crowd watched Georgia Tech bounce back from a crushing loss at the hands of Duke to rout North Carolina by an 88-68 margin. With the win, the Jackets improved to 10-7 overall, and 3-3 in the ACC. The Heels fell to 11-8 over all and 2-4 in conference play.

It wasn’t just the offense. De- nse and rebounding are the less obvious, but equally important parts of the game. The Jackets scored in double digits. Chris Bosh hit 9-of-14 shots in Wednesday night’s victory over NC State. Bosh finished the night with 22 points and six rebounds.

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It was a back and forth affair until the 7:27 mark of the first half when Tech used both a 10-1 run and a 12-1 run to turn a game that was tied at 25 into a 51-38 halftime cushion.

The second half was once again back and forth with North Carolina making repeated inroads. Twice the Heels closed the gap to 6 points, but with 9:37 to go in the contest, the Jackets went on a 17-1 run that all but ended the contest and stretched the lead to its largest at 85-61.

Tech’s offensive attack was both efficient and balanced. Twenty-two assists on 29 baskets led to 49 per cent shooting for the team. Four Jackets scored in double digits. Chris Bosh erased the memory of a frustrating five-point effort at Duke by leading the way with 22 points. B.J. Elder chipped in 19, Marvin Lewis had 18, and Jarrett Jack threw in 13 points.

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Mallory leads Lady Jackets to ACC win

By Katie Neal
Sports Editor

The Georgia Tech women’s basketball team won its second-straight game with a 64-54 victory over NC State on Sunday afternoon at the Thrillerdome. The win marked the second victory over ACC rivals this season.

“I thought that the entire team played well today and this is a great win for us. I can’t say enough about what a great job everyone did.”

Agnus Berenato
Head Coach

The ACC’s nine head coaches selected Georgia Tech as the top pick to win the conference championship in 2003 and a preseason No. 1 national ranking from Baseball America magazine. The Yellow Jackets were 22 of the 28 litter writer from their 2002 squad that finished the season with a 52-16 record, including a 14-9 league mark and a trip to the NCAA College World Series. On the toes of the Yellow Jackets is Florida State, who finished a close second.

Rabbit named as ACC Performer

Cornerback Samuel Williams of Mays High School and Tampa Plant Senior High linebacker Kyle Pupello, of Tampa, Florida, have committed to Georgia Tech.

Williams chose Tech over Louisiana, Alabama State and Alabama A&M. This past fall, he registered 65 tackles, 15 pass breakups and a team-best six interceptions.

Pupello, 6-2, 230, chose the Jack- ets over Boston College. He totaled more than 80 tackles and three forced fumbles as a senior and bench presses better than 330 pounds.

Softball picked 2nd in ACC, No. 19 nationally

Coming off its first-ever ACC title, the Georgia Tech softball team was picked by the league’s five head coaches to finish second this season behind 2002 Women’s College World Series participant Florida State. The team also opens the 2003 season ranked 19th in the preseason USA Today/NFCA Division I Top 25 Poll.

The Jackets, who went 6-2 in the league and 52-18 overall a year ago, tallied one first-place vote and 10.5 total points to finish behind the Seminoles, who garnered the re- maining four first-place votes and 24 overall points.

Tech ranked first in ACC, national baseball polls

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Divers lead team to sweep Duke, fall to N.C. State

Led by impressive diving performances, Tech’s men’s and women’s teams top Blue Devils, fall to Wolfpack

By Kimberly Rieck
Senior Staff Writer

After a series of tough losses to Clemson and Alabama, the Yellow Jackets ventured into Research Triangle Park to gain momentum before the end of the regular season next month.

The men’s and women’s swimming and diving teams came into the meets anxious to pick up their first ACC wins. The first stop over the weekend was to Duke, who finished last at the men’s ACC championships and seventh at the women’s ACC championships last year.

Led by the most impressive diving performances of the season, the Yellow Jacket men topped Duke 145-86, while the women overpowered Duke 134-109. It was the first time the Tech women had beaten Duke, who narrowly defeated the Tech team at last year’s conference championships.

The Jackets swept the one and three meter boards on both the men’s and women’s sides. Junior Paul McCarty won the one-meter and three-meter event with scores of 325.425 and 349.8 respectively. McCarty qualified for the NCAA Zone Diving Championships with his mark in the one-meter event.

Joining McCarty at the Zone Diving Championships will be freshman Matt Anderson, who earned second place on the one-meter board with a mark of 301.35 and a third place finish in the three-meter event.

The women swept first through third places on both boards, led by first place marks from freshman phenom Laurissa Prystaj. Prystaj had already qualified for the Zone championships on both boards during the first part of the season.

Sophomore Amy Sutton took second and qualified for the Zones in both boards, while teammate Jessica Jopek placed third in both of the events.

In the racing events, the women took home five individual wins. Sophomore Amy Sutton took second and qualified for the Zones in both boards. Assistant coach Rich Lubeck also pointed out that Prystaj, who is ranked seventh in the nation, could make a strong showing in the NCAA championships.

In the men’s swimming events, the Jackets finished sixth at the ACC championships and ninth at the ACC meet last year. Freshman Brad Brownlee, who qualified for the NCAA Zone Diving Championships, won the one-meter board with a score of 306.25.

Ayalon showed once again over the weekend with his performances against Duke and N.C. State why he was voted one of the 50 greatest swimmers in the ACC and remains a viable candidate for the Israeli Olympic team for the 2004 Olympic Games.

After the win against Duke on Friday night, the Jackets took on NC State in nearby Raleigh on Saturday afternoon. However, despite several key individual victories the Tech men fell to the Wolfpack 149-114 and the women lost by a score of 176-88.

Perennial champion Shilo Ayalon led the men’s effort with three individual victories in the 500-yard freestyle, 1000-yard freestyle and 400-yard individual medley events. Ayalon showed once again over the weekend with his performances against Duke and NC State why he was voted one of the 50 greatest swimmers in the ACC and remains a viable candidate for the Israeli Olympic team for the 2004 Olympic Games.

However, the strong sweeping of the top finishes in the 100 free and 500 free showed that Tech still led by the most impressive diving performances of the season, the men topped the Duke Blue Devils 145-86, while the women won 134-109.
Beyond the White and Gold

Football is over, so now what to do?

By John Parsons
Senior Staff Writer

It’s nap time, ladies and gentlemen. That’s right, the Super Bowl is over and the Madness won’t start for a little over a month. So now we enter the sports wasteland known as February.

At this point many die-hard NBA or NHL fans are dismissing me as an idiot, (so what else is new, right?) but I’m sticking to my guns on this one.

So what does a sports fan do to pass the month by? Do NOT, under any circumstances, pay the $300 to order the Cricket World Cup.

Both the NBA and NHL have playoff formats that allow over half the league to make the playoffs, so the race for the last playoff spot is about as compelling as a high school game that doesn’t involve LeBron James.

Tangent: Is anyone else waiting for that game between the Cavs and Nuggets, where they’re tied for the worst record in the league, so they spend the entire game intentionally trying to score in the wrong basket to improve their chances of getting LeBron? Wouldn’t that be the greatest moment in sports history?

Anyways, the regular seasons in basketball and hockey are both over 80 games long—way too long to keep my attention. That’s part of the problem with baseball, too.

Sure you get to have great pennant races in September, but you could shorten the season by a month and a half and have the same great pennant races while people still care.

The same goes for the NBA and NHL. Look at the NFL. Who doesn’t love those wacky, paragraph-long playoff scenarios that some teams have going into the last week of the season?

Finally, the playoffs are almost as long as the regular season, but now the players actually care, leaving no reason to watch before then.

I’ve always said that hockey players pick up their game more than any other athletes when the playoffs start. If you watch a hockey playoff game, especially when one team is on the verge of elimination, it’s incredibly intense. Unlike the regular season, you can tell this game means the world to everyone on the ice.

In the NBA, the players that aren’t busy keeping up a street cred, recording a rap album, or negotiating a shoe deal will play like they care. So I guess about three or four guys on the floor at any given time who actually care.

Every weekend for the last five months watching college and pro football, we probably don’t have too many friends left.

For the guys, unless you’re fortunate enough to have female friends that like football, you’re probably not doing too well in that department. As I myself am currently single, I can’t help you there. So I ask this of you: just sit there and read this paper from cover to cover about... twenty times. I think that’ll be a sufficient head start for me.

Luckily for you sports fans out there, February is the shortest month of the year. It also starts out with Groundhog Day celebrations, which can be considered some form of sport, at least in Pennsylvania.

Steady Strokes

By Bill Allen
Senior Jaime Wong led the Georgia Tech women’s tennis team to a 7-0 win over Georgia State on Wednesday afternoon.
Jackets drop the ball in Durham

By Scott Meuleners / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

The Jackets lost on the road at Duke, but with a 88-68 win over the North Carolina Tar Heels, the Jackets improved to 9-0 at home.

By David Rottman
Staff Writer

The Yellow Jackets went into Cameron Indoor Stadium Saturday expecting the third-ranked Blue Devils to come out firing from the perimeter. Instead, the Devils broke out of their worst losing streak in league play since January 1996 by dominating Georgia Tech inside on their way to a 91-71 victory.

The Blue Devils were led by senior Dahntay Jones, who had 21 points, and freshman Shelden Williams, who added a season-high 18 to end the Devils two game losing skid.

Duke matched a season-low with just 13 three-point shot attempts, opting to use an assortment of big men usually in the shadow of the Devils' highly rated backcourt. The interior presence was apparent as Williams, Casey Sanders, Shavlik Randolph and Nick Horvath went a combined 13-21 from the floor with 24 rebounds.

“We weren’t ready to play in the second half.”
Paul Hewitt
Head Coach

“The only fouls that may have changed the game were the ones on Chris (Bosh),” added Georgia Tech coach Paul Hewitt.

Sophomore guard B.J. Elder led the Jackets with 22 points. Georgia Tech was able to keep close with the Devils throughout the first half, only down 42-37 at the break. However, Duke proved to be too much to handle in the second half.

“Theyir intensity was greater than ours—collectively,” Georgia Tech guard Marvin Lewis said. “We weren’t ready to play in the second half.”

By The Gooley / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Marvin Lewis had 18 points in Wednesday night’s victory over ACC rival North Carolina and 14 in the loss to No. 3 Duke.

Lighting up the Thrillerdome

By Tim Gooley / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Marvin Lewis had 18 points in Wednesday night’s victory over the North Carolina Tar Heels, the Jackets improved to 9-0 at home.
Swim

has a great deal of depth in the distance events, even in future years to come without Ayalon’s presence on the team.

Freshman Sam Morgan had impressive second-place finishes in both of the events. Junior Ezzy Oliver was right behind Morgan in both events, taking home third places and ensuring the sweep.

Another area of strength for the men were the breaststroke events. Senior Robbie Foster won the 100 breast in a season-best mark of 57.07, while his teammate senior Tomonori Tsuji swam the 200 breast in 2:02.69 to take a second place finish.

Junior Itai Eden had a great meet as well. Eden won the 200 fly in 1:53.03. He also placed second in the 200 free. On the diving side, McCarty placed second in the one-meter event.

Continuing a great streak over the weekend, sophomore Hancock won the 1000 free and earned a season-best time in the 200 fly with a mark of 2:05.83. Other wins included sophomore Anna Saum’s first place in the 100 fly with a season-best time of 58.39 and a win in the 200 free relay with the team of Wallis, Jill Vukmanic, Jaclyn Keys and Jennifer Christianson.

Freshmen also helped lead the women’s effort. Meghan DeVinney placed second in the 100 fly, while Laura Heiser went 2:27.00 in the women’s 200 breast for a second place win. Prystaj was also runner-up on the women’s one-meter board.

With the loss to NC State, the men are now 1-3 in the ACC and 3-6 overall. The women are 1-3 in the ACC and 4-5 overall.

The Jackets return to action this Saturday in a dual meet against ACC rivals Maryland and North Carolina in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

See supplemental coverage online: www.ramblinwreck.com

Swimming and Diving

2003 Remaining Schedule

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
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<td>UNC, Maryland</td>
<td>Chapel Hill, N.C.</td>
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<td>Women’s ACC Chmps</td>
<td>Chapel Hill, N.C.</td>
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game-high 20 points, followed by Fallon Stokes with 19 points.

“I thought that the entire team played well today and this is a great win for us,” said Tech head coach Agnus Berenato.

“Once again, our coaching staff did a great job of preparing us for NC State and I think that really showed in the second half.”

The Lady Jackets defense turned it up a notch in the second half, proving that the Tech team wouldn’t completely rely on offensive ability.

The Tech defense forced the Wolfpack into 11 turnovers in the second half alone, and limited the NC State’s leading scorer, Kaayla Chones, to only four points after she had 11 in the first period.

“Our defense really stepped up in the second half,” said Berenato.

“We’ve really been stressing to the team that playing solid defense can get you easy points off of turnovers and you don’t have work so hard in your half-court set when you can get easy baskets in transition.”

“I can’t say enough about what a great job everyone did on the defensive end today,” Berenato added. “Especially people like Jessica Williams and Megan Harpring, who came off the bench and gave us a great lift defensively.”

Sonja Mallory, the senior who has taken on a great deal of the leadership load for the team, recorded her eighth double-double of the year with 11 rebounds.

“Sonja has really taken a leadership role on this team,” said Berenato. “She wants this so badly that she has stepped up for us in the last couple of games.”

“Fallon was critical for us today also,” Berenato said of Stokes. “We really felt that she could score off of the dribble today and even though she started out tentatively, she calmed down late in the game and did a great job.”

Kaayla Chones, who finished with 15 points and eight rebounds, led NC State offensively. Terah James, who finished the game with 10 points, joined her in double figures.

The Lady Jackets’ next ACC match-ups will be with the Wake Forest Demon Deacons tonight at 7 p.m. in Atlanta and then they are up against the North Carolina Tar Heels at Chapel Hill on Feb 2.
of the game, and Tech controlled those areas as well. The Tar Heels were held to just 39 percent from the field, and were out-rebounded by a 43-31 margin. Jawad Williams had 22 of UNC’s 38 first half points but had only two meaningless free throws in the closing moments of the second half. Booth’s four blocks and Ed Nelson’s 13 rebounds went a long way in helping Tech secure the much needed victory.

The fan support has been building steadily in the last 12 months, and the Thrillerdome is beginning to re-earn its moniker. The thrill is back, as they say.

Looking Forward
With 10 games left to play in the regular season, plus the ACC tournament, the fate of Tech’s season is still to be determined. Anything less than a trip to the NCAA Tournament would be a disappointment, than a trip to the NCAA Tournament, the fate of Tech’s season is still to be determined. Anything less than a trip to the NCAA Tournament would be a disappointment, than a trip to the NCAA Tournament would be a disappointment, than a trip to the NCAA Tournament would be a disappointment.

It all starts Saturday when the Virginia Cavaliers come to town in a 4 p.m. matchup. After three straight road losses, the Cavaliers are on a bit of a roll, having won their last two games, both at home, over Wake Forest and Florida State. Like seemingly every team in the ACC and the country, the Cavaliers are a much better team at home than on the road. Look for the Jackets to use their depth on the blocks to neutralize the bruising play of Travis Watson on the inside and then extend out to control the outstanding perimeter shooting of Todd Billet.

Basketball Notes
The 3-3 mark in ACC play is Tech’s best start since 1995-96. Stephon Marbury’s 20 points on 9-of-9 from the floor, the Jackets are now 10-5 in their last 15 ACC games. The Jackets also improved to 9-0 at home this season on the way to building an 11-game home winning streak that dates back to last season.

Several more intramural leagues got underway this week, including three A-League soccer divisions. FIJI, Lambda Chi and the Impotent Seasnakes are all off to impressive starts, having all won their opening matches by at least three goals.

Pike, Theta Xi and Redrum were all idle and will plan on starting their seasons next week. Pike and Theta Xi have particularly difficult assignments as they will be facing FIJI and Lambda Chi, respectively, who, as mentioned earlier, will be coming off some big opening wins.

You seriously gotta give it up for some of the men’s basketball teams. If the team names are any kind of indication of the effort those fellows put into just thinking about basketball, the season should be an interesting one. Confused Immigrants are dwindling at the bottom of the C-League rankings, but with a team like Vasa-hundsgymnastier at the leader in B-League, does anyone even notice? At least the Below the Rim guys are being honest about their game. The ‘92 Dream Team seem to have delusions of grandeur right now, since they are ranked very low on them totem pole at No. 7 in C-League at the moment. Even if Dix and Dixon hold the No. 1 and No. 2 spot in the C-League line up. But I do have to give up to the B-League team of Bling Bling. A name like that cries out for an audience.

The games have been close, but it’ll be another week or two before any clear favorites emerge from the masses. Most of the games have been close so far, so it should be exciting.

If you’re into wallyball, then mark your calendars for Sunday, February 2, when the first two divisions begin play.

The other two will start Monday. There’s no telling who will emerge here. Can you really scout wallyball?

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