By Joe Dana  
The Daily Universe  

(U-WIRE) Brigham Young University—It would be too many seconds wasted on [BYU mascot] Cosmo the Cougar. BYU's lovable smile with long legs was supposed to be introduced before the team's starting five. Before? The man crouched in a van outside of the Marriott Center said that would be unacceptable.

"I don't want the mascot to be introduced first. We need the team to come first with the music," said ESPN producer Jeff Kibler, dressed in black and a headset.

Kibler sat in front of more than 20 televisions with his crew, shuttled from San Francisco over the weekend. They were covering Big Monday, which featured the basketball rivalry between BYU and Utah.

They are part of The Entertainment Sports Network, holder of a seven-year contract with BYU and the Mountain West Conference, and they dictate many details of the BYU football and men's basketball games, including game schedules, play times, and the staging strategies.

"We need the starters nearest to the half court in the order they are introduced," Kibler said, the clock reading 22 minutes until game time. They were covering Big Monday, which featured the basketball rivalry between BYU and Utah.

ESPN's Big Monday College Basketball Game has been compared to the NFL's Monday Night Football. Is the business of College Hoops making too much of an impact on the team, the student and the fan? Who's really in charge?

Of course," said Brett Pyne, Director of Sports Information.

It is also a national popularity contest between colleges to win over recruits and more fans. "BYU has determined they want to be one of the preliminary programs in the country and they were willing to make some sacrifices," Minor said.

But some believe the control of television is disrupting the college sports community's original intentions.

"She's got school tomorrow," Benson said. "It's about money, I know that. But I don't know who stays up late enough to watch it on TV anyway. I would rather be here with my family." Pyne admits there are drawbacks to television's clout.

"The students probably benefit more than the families of the community," Pyne said.

But the interest in gaining from BYU's Nielsen potential is not all bad, Minor said. It is also a sign of improvement for the program. "BYU is one of the jewels of the Mountain West Conference believe in the long run it is a worthwhile trade-off." ESPN's power is simple. It's the ability to put the Mountain West Conference in living rooms across the country," Burda said. "You try to convey that to the fans and hope they understand." Burda said the contract is worth upwards of $50 million for the conferences.

"BYU has determined they want to win over recruits and more publicity contest between colleges," Minor said.

I regret that I ran U-WIRE. I have been a big slacker when it comes to the paper. I'm sorry.

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By Kristi Odom / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

The business of College Hoops making too much of an impact on the team, the student and the fan? Who's really in charge?

"College sports is largely driven by television now," said Mikel Minor, Executive Producer for Sports West, a division of KSL broadcasting.

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But the interest in gaining from BYU's Nielsen potential is not all bad, Minor said. It is also a sign of improvement for the program. "BYU is one of the jewels of the Mountain West Conference believe in the long run it is a worthwhile trade-off."
The Georgia Tech Wrestling Club is this week’s Club Sports Spotlight. The club has organized several tournaments including the Georgia Tech Open and the Georgia Tech Team Duals which took place last fall and represents Tech in competitions against both varsity and club teams. For more information on joining the team or their schedule visit the website at http://cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/wrestling or keep reading the Technique.

Be creative.
Express yourself.
Don’t fit the stereotype.
Submit your original:
- poetry
- short stories
- fiction
- nonfiction
- artwork
- photography

dspubera@prism
Jackets sting Seminoles; Jones has excellent showing

By Terence Jones
El hombre grande

Alvin Jones recorded his sixth double-double of the season with 26 points, 14 rebounds, and four blocked shots as Georgia Tech beat Florida State 77-68 last Saturday afternoon at Alexander Memorial Coliseum. The win moved the Yellow Jackets to 4-4 at the half-way point in the ACC season for just the second time in the last five years. Meanwhile, the hapless Seminoles remained winless in the ACC, pushing their league record to 0-7.

Jones matched his season high in scoring, set in the previous game against Clemson, shooting 8-of-11 from the floor, and 10-of-15 from the free throw line. His performance marked the seventh time this season he has led the Jackets in scoring. With Tech shooting just 4-of-19 from beyond the arc, their worst outing of the season, Jones’ performance kept Tech in the game throughout, eventually helping the Jackets pull away convincingly at the end.

“We said we were not going to be beaten by the 3-point shot, and if they went to Alvin, he was going to have to beat us,” said Monte Cummings, the Seminoles sixth man and leading scorer on the night. “But he played a great game and put his team in position to win.”

The Seminoles had a hard time trying to contain Jones without the services of their 6-foot-10, 350 pound, starting center, Nigel Dixon, held from the game for unexplained reasons. The Seminoles other two centers, Mike Mathews and David Anderson, both fouled out trying to contest the goliath Jones. Jones has now scored over 20 points in three of his last four games. His recent play has earned him a share of ACC Player of the Week honors for back-to-back dominating performances against Clemson and FSU.

“It’s been a great career for me so far...this is like icing on the cake. I have really enjoyed this season.”

Alvin Jones
Senior Guard

El hombre grande

Two days until Christina’s Birthday...are you ready?
I'm filling these for Chris

Alex Stewart figured six years was enough.

Stewart recorded the second triple-double in school history Tuesday evening as the Jackets ended their four-game losing skid by defeating Charleston Southern 94-65.

Stewart, a 5-5 sophomore guard, had 11 points, 11 assists, and 10 rebounds, as she became the first lady Jack to complete the rare feat since Kisha Ford’s effort on February 13, 1995.

“IT was just unbelievable. I didn’t know I had it until Coach Berenato told me in a timeout I needed one more point,” said Stewart.

“What’s next for Stewart? I’ll dunk in a year and a half,” joked Stewart, the smallest player on the Ramblin Wreck.

Tech was unable to pull away from the overmatched Buccaneers (11-8) in the first half, but a strong second period defensive effort was too much for Southern.

The Bucs shot only 30 percent from the floor in the second half after shooting at a 50 percent clip in the first stanza. The Bucs turned it over 24 times, and the Tech defense forced numerous shot-clock violations. Jackets sophomore center Sonja Mallory, who had 21 points and 15 rebounds, and freshman forward Fallon Stokes dominated Southern’s front court starters to just 7 points.

Guard Milli Martinez and Stokes, getting her first career start, joined Mallory and Stewart in the double-digit point column with 14 and 11, respectively.

Scoring points has not been a problem for the Jackets and that trend continued against Southern. The 94 point output was the second highest of the season, trailing only a 102-90 win over Mount St. Mary’s in the Atlanta Marriott Northwest Classic. The Jackets shot 51 percent from the field in the game.

The Jackets kicked off the second half of the season last night against North Carolina and then head to Florida State on Monday in a battle with the Seminoles.
Recruiting

been recruited to play a certain position only to find themselves at a different position by the time they graduate. Some examples on the Tech squad this year are Nick Rogers, a defensive end originally recruited as a running back, and Gary Johnson, a defensive lineman originally recruited as a fullback.

Perhaps the most notable example of this trend in recent years was that of Peter Warrick at Florida State. Originally recruited as a quarterback, Warrick ended his career at FSU as one of the most prolific wide receivers in the history of college football.

Even though Tech has an ample number of players returning at quarterback and linebacker, those two positions usually yield some of the best athletes on a high school team, therefore, the Tech coaches are planning on signing as many recruits at those positions as they can possibly get their hands on.

Filling out the Tech positional recruits are three safeties, one cornerback, one running back, and one tight end.

With the current amount of scholarships available due to departing seniors, transfers, and academic casualties, Tech looks to be able to sign around 27 to 28 players this coming Wednesday. That means that two or three slots still remain open, which may well be decided upon as soon as today or as late as signing day.

Such is the intrigue that surrounds national signing day. Who will sign? Where will they sign? When will they sign? And until each players signs his official letter of intent (LOI) to play for a certain school, there are no guarantees, non-binding verbal commitments are just that, non-binding.

Therefore, to find out who may be the next Joe Hamilton, stay tuned this coming Wednesday as the Yellow Jackets look to reload with talent from around the nation, all the way from California to Minnesota and back down to Florida.

It is certainly an exciting time to be a college football fan in the midst of an off-season, and an especially exciting time to be a Yellow Jacket fan in the midst of another great recruiting year by George O’Leary and his hard working staff.

The Athletic Association is unable to comment on recruiting before signing day. Coach O’Leary will host a 3:00p.m. chat this Wednesday, signing day, online at http://www.ramblinwreck.com.
Jackets to start season with Syracuse

By Derek Haynes

Vine, Vs. Conquisté

Tech heads to UNC

returns home for Terps

By Derek Haynes
Assistant Sports Editor

It’s not where Jackets head coach Paul Hewitt wants to be four years down the road, but there won’t be anyone complaining if Tech is in the same position four weeks from now.

Georgia Tech entered the season as one of the favorites – for the cellar – in the ACC, but halfway through the season the Jackets are in fourth place and knocking on the door of the Top 25.

Every season several teams surprise the college basketball world, and this year Tech is one of those teams. With a cupboard deemed bear by college basketball analysts, Hewitt has proceeded to interject confidence in a team left for dead after the departure of legendary coach Bobby Cremins.

After a mediocre season, Hewitt’s squad will travel on Tobacco Road to face the fourth ranked Carolina Tar Heels. One team that is not looking ahead to Georgia Tech is North Carolina. The Tar Heels had one focus heading into the week: the school a couple miles down the road called Duke. As of Wednesday, UNC was on a 3-game winning streak, tops in the country with number one ranked Stanford. While fellow ACC leader Duke wins with offense, Carolina wins with defense. The Heels are second in the country and first in the ACC, in opponent field goal percentage, as teams are shooting a paltry 37.8 percent from the floor against the Carolina Blue.

Luckily for Tech, the Terps aren’t at home, where they have a 47-6 record in the last four seasons. Maryland, coming off a loss Wednesday to Virginia, would have the highest scoring offense in the ACC if it wasn’t for the Blue Devils’ Joseph Forte (20.7 ppg, 5.3 rebounds, and 3.4 assists per game). Heels will sweep the season series.

Tuesday the schedule gets easier – Tech plays only the 9th ranked team in the country. Maryland, coming off a loss Wednesday to Virginia, would have the highest scoring offense in the ACC if it wasn’t for the Blue Devils’ Joseph Forte (20.7 ppg, 5.3 rebounds, and 3.4 assists per game). Heels will sweep the season series.

Not in very serious need of either position with the players that are returning, it is a good possibility that Hewitt may proceed to interject confidence in a team left for dead after the departure of legendary coach Bobby Cremins.

By Terence Jones

Que avoids?

Just five days remain until the single most important day of the college football offseason, national signing day. Wednesday, February 7. It is a day that all coaches look forward to in hopes of reaping the fruits of their labor. A day that highly touted high school seniors make the difficult decision of where to continue their football and scholastic careers.

Coaches work diligently almost year round to recruit these young men into their programs where they will receive the opportunity to excel both on the field and in the classroom.

Over the past few years, George O’Leary and his staff have done an exceptional job of recruiting rich young talent to play on the Flats, as evidenced by their consecutive winning seasons coupled with four straight bowl appearances by the Yellow Jackets.

And so far this year looks to be no different; Coach O’Leary and his staff have been receiving verbal commitments from across the nation.

According to various published reports, as of Wednesday, January 31, the Yellow Jackets have received 25 non-binding verbal commitments.

Looking to fill the gaps left by departing offensive guard Brent Key and offensive tackle Chris Brown, the Yellow Jackets have been recruiting heavily on both the offensive and defensive lines.

So far the Jackets have received non-binding verbal commitments from six offensive linemen and five defensive linemen/ends, which amounts to nearly half of the 25 commitments received thus far.

Other positions the Jackets have been recruiting heavily are the quarterback position with 3 non-binding verbal commitments, along with one transfer, and the linebacker position, with 4 non-binding verbal commitments.

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