Ultimate from page 34

But the real beauty in the game perhaps lies in the fact that it truly is a team sport. Because players aren’t allowed to move when they have the disc, it is impossible for one person to dominate the offense.

This is unlike most sports, such as basketball, hockey and football, where one athlete seems to be the center of the offense, or where one can score with essentially no help from teammates.

This equality among the players on offense makes it a very enjoyable sport both to play and to watch because there will never be one “ball hog.”

I often wonder, though, if Ultimate’s popularity will remain for years to come, or if it is just a fad that will soon fade away. It’s been roughly 40 years since the game was created, and I wonder how popular the mainstream sports of today were just 40 years after their creation.

The first official game of basketball was played in 1892. Basketball was an Olympic sport for the first time 44 years later in 1936, and by 1938 the National Invitation Tournament (NIT) was created.

Modern American football really only started around 1912, a few years after the forward pass was introduced, and after the changes were made that touchdowns were worth six points and a possession consisted of four downs.

Roughly 40 years later in the early 1950s, some NFL games were being broadcast nationally on television. The first Super Bowl was played in 1967 between the Green Bay Packers and the Kansas City Chiefs.

New the Super Bowl is so big that it is declared a National Special Security Event by the Department of Homeland Security along with such things as State of the Union addresses.

For the sport of baseball, the National League was formed in 1876 and less than 30 years later in 1903 the first World Series was played between the American League’s Boston Red Sox and the National League’s Pittsburgh Pirates.

Baseball grew enough over the years that it garnered the title of national pastime.

Reflections on the histories of the three big American sports lead me to believe that Ultimate may never grow to become an Olympic sport or draw millions of viewers on TV, but it still can earn its niche as one of the best recreation sports around.
New season dawns on rugby club’s storied history

By William Bretherton
Contributing Writer

The rugby team at Tech has been around since the end of 1974. They started out with about eight to 10 players from the Atlanta Rugby Football Club (RFC).

Tech’s first game, which was played with Tech players on the Atlanta RFC, was against Emory. Tech shut out the Emory team, and, needless to say, rugby at the Institute had begun.

In the course of the next several years, Tech played many other opponents ranging from schools such as Clemson, Auburn, N.C. State and Georgia, to other club teams like Old White, High Country and the Renegades.

The rugby team has always been called the Burger Bowl its home field. This really is an appropriate place for this team to meet. Like the field itself, the team is very open and rugged, and has a work-oriented attitude. Make no mistake about it—this team is very passionate about the sport they play.

Rugby is not only a tough physical test but also a difficult mental test. These two things combined make it a test of a person’s character.

The sport of rugby is not only a tough physical test but also a difficult mental test. These two things combined make it a test of a person’s character.

“I started out as a long snapper for the football team, then quit and went out for rugby,” Greg Curtain said.

“I started out playing soccer, and then decided to play rugby,” Nathan Bruce said.

As far as the outlook for the season, Tech has been consistently good for many years. Tech RFC consistently defeats their biggest rival, UGA. There are many talented players on this team. Some of these players to look out for in the upcoming season include David Blanton (nicknamed “Goliath”) in addition to Bruce and Curtain. Last weekend the team opened their season at Auburn. The A team was defeated by Auburn 28-19, but the B team won 24-17.

Members of the Tech Rugby Football Club assemble into a scrum to push a sled full of players at practice. The team opened the season against Auburn. The A team lost 28-19 while the B team won 24-17.

The team opened the season against Auburn. The A team lost 28-19 while the B team won 24-17.
Runners from page 36

We have a great young group that will enable us to move into the top [half] of the conference. It’s a very competitive conference and we’re glad that the ACC has expanded to 12 teams with the new addition of BC this year.

The men’s and women’s teams have some fresh faces this season who should bolster their chances at moving up in the ACC ranks.

The men’s team has an unprecedented thirteen new runners. Among the talented newcomers are Paul Specht, Will Bonn, Alex Erikson and a host of others.

Paul Specht is now a junior. He ran in high school, kept running in college and decided to walk on to our team. He has a great chance to be in our top five guys, possibly top three. We need to take the intensity level that we have in the beginning of the season and carry it into the later meets and the ACC Championships,” Drosky said.

Will Bonn was a single-A state champion last year in high school in cross country. Alex Erikson is very talented (finishing third for class five-A).”

For the women’s team Katina Zuganelis and Ashley Keck are among those newcomers.

The Tech cross country team has had a distinguished past.

While George Griffin is best known for being the Dean of Students from 1946 through 1964, he was first a renowned cross country and track and field coach from 1921-25 and 1934-43. He remained the cross country coach until 1974.

While Griffin was coach, the men’s cross country team won a total of 30 SEC titles, including six in a row from 1935 through 1940. This still ranks as the second largest number of cross country titles in SEC history, a significant mark considering that Tech last competed in the SEC in 1963.

Among other Tech successes of the past, the women’s cross country team won the NCAA South Regional in 2000. In 2002, the ACC announced its 50th anniversary team which included Kevin Graham from the men’s team and Beth Mallory and Renee Metivier from the women’s team.

Kevin Graham was a two time All-ACC selection in 1993 and 1994. He was an All-Region selection and an NCAA Championship qualifier in those same years.

Beth Mallory was Tech’s first All-American cross country women’s runner. She was a multiple-year All-ACC and All-Region honoree.

Most recently Renee Metivier became Tech’s first national finisher with a second place finish at the 2001 NCAA Championships. She also won the 2002 South Regional individual race, as well as finishing second in the ACC Championships and earning an All-ACC selection.

Auburn from page 36

zone. Travis Bell hit the 32-yard field goal to give Tech the 10-0 lead.

Meanwhile, Cox and the Auburn offense spent the entire first half trying to solve Tech’s defense. Cox didn’t complete his first six passes as Auburn went three-and-out on each of their first three possessions.

The Tigers used all three timeouts with more than eight minutes remaining in the second quarter, perhaps a result of an inexperienced quarterback.

Momentum shifted in the second quarter, however, as Cox began hitting receivers on short, timing routes. It took the Tigers just four plays to move 78 yards and score as the second quarter began.

With less than two minutes left in the first half, P.J. Daniels ran for a touchdown that topped off a 77-yard drive.

Auburn responded in kind with 41 seconds left in the half. Cox connected with Ben Obomanu, who cruised past Kenny Scott and into the end zone, cutting Tech’s lead to 17-14.

Cox had an impressive second quarter, completing eight for 11, with 158 passing yards, but his stats didn’t hold up for the entire game. Turnovers plagued the Tigers in the second half, with two turnovers on downs, four interceptions and one lost fumble.

Late in the third quarter, Dawan Landry intercepted a Cox pass at the Tech four-yard line, perhaps saving a touchdown in the process. Auburn had another chance to regain momentum early in the fourth quarter, but Phillip Wheeler corralled a Cox throw deep in Tiger territory, setting up a Bell field goal to make it 20-14 in favor of the Jackets.

In the middle of the fourth quarter, Tech’s Joe Anoa’i clipped Cox’s passing arm, which sent the ball straight into the arms of linebacker KaMichael Hall.

Cox was picked again with under four minutes to play, this time by Gerris Wilkinson. The interception set up another Bell field goal, putting the ACC in favor of the Jackets.

“We expected to get this win out of here. It’s just a good kickoff to the season. You always want to start the season off with a win, but we still got to battle in the ACC.”

Reggie Ball
Junior quarterback

The game was sealed when Eric Henderson crashed Auburn’s offensive line with under a minute to go and sacked Cox, causing a fumble that Adamm Oliver recovered.

Cox ended up with 342 yards, but his five turnovers prevented the Tigers from winning the game.

The receiving corps had a solid game. Six receivers caught passes, in addition to P.J. Daniels who had two catches for a total of 15 yards.

“Pat Clark and Bilbo [and Chris Dunlap] did a tremendous job today,” Johnson said. “I was out for a little while due to cramps, but they did a great job and hung in there, and that’s exactly what we need. So we have a solid receiving corps.”

Clark caught six passes for 36 yards, while Johnson gained 66 yards on four catches. Bilbo’s two catches gained a total of 21 yards.

James Johnson, Chris Dunlap and Ajauny Eniemefie each had one catch, which combined for 36 yards.

P.J. Daniels ran for 111 yards on 23 carries and scored one touchdown. At Tuesday’s press conference, Daniels credited the mobile offensive line for the team’s running success.

“These guys are great people on and off the field…You can’t ask for more,” Daniels said, referring to the offensive line.

The Jackets will start ACC play tomorrow as they host the North Carolina Tar Heels.

Even right after the Auburn game in the locker room, players and coaches were already looking forward to their next game.

“We expected to get this win out of here. It’s just a good kickoff to the season. You always want to start the season off with a win, but we still got to battle in the ACC,” Ball said.

Ever since Chan Gailey has been head coach, he has had a “24-hour rule” about thinking about the previous game. This means players shouldn’t get too high off a win or too low off a loss.

“If you win one game, celebrate for 24 hours, and after that, celebration is over. It’s time to get back to work. All the fun is over,” Gailey said.

Tech’s home game against North Carolina begins tomorrow at 3:30 p.m.
The Tar Heels visit Bobby Dodd Stadium to play their season opener against a ranked Tech team. North Carolina has not defeated Tech in Atlanta since 1997, but the Tar Heels carry momentum from last year’s 34-13 victory. UNC returns six offensive and eight defensive starters, but they have a new quarterback in Matt Baker. For the Tar Heels to repeat an upset performance this year, they will have to avoid penalties and turnovers, something that can be difficult to do in the first game of the season.

“We learned our lesson last year. You know we had a big win on Clemson, and it just so happens to be the same team that we’re going to face.... They have a good team.”

Coming off an impressive start against Auburn last week, Tech will face the team that last year upset them the week after the win over then-ranked Clemson. The Jacket offense looked solid last week, and if they perform as well tomorrow, the Tar Heel defense may be in for a long day. At times the Jacket defense looked weak against Auburn’s passing game, but the Jackets have a week to improve on their first game performance. Since North Carolina didn’t play last week, the Jackets will be scouting mainly from last year’s films.

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Joe Anoa’i
Speaking about UNC

Four Key Questions

• Will Tar Heel quarterback Matt Baker be a threat as the starter after three years of being the backup?
  For the second week in a row, the Jackets face a quarterback who is making his first start. Matt Baker was the understudy to Darian Durant who holds more than 50 school records at North Carolina. Tech cannot make the mistake of underestimating him as he is a senior veteran of the team and has had three full years to master the details of the Tar Heel offense.

• Will the nine returning starters for the Tar Heel defense give North Carolina a distinct advantage?
  On defense the Tar Heels effectively return all but one position, the strong safety. Chase Page missed the entirety of last season due to injury but started all 12 games in 2003. Last year North Carolina held Tech to 33 points and forced three interceptions and recovered two Tech fumbles. The experienced defense could have the advantage over Tech’s offense. Just as Tech went into the Auburn game knowing they could beat any opponent, based on their win in 2003, the Tar Heel may visit Bobby Dodd not knowing that they are the underdog.

• Will Tech’s defense be able to contain the running game?
  In last year’s game, the Tar Heels racked up 248 yards of rushing on the Jacket defense. This year the Jackets will face Barrington Edwards, former SuperPrep All-American and LSU transfer. Edwards, along with James Arnold will be replacing the former starter Ronnie McGill, sitting out from a chest injury.

In a press conference Tuesday, Head Coach Chan Gailey said that a loss of outside containment by the defense allowed last year’s Tar Heel team to gain so many yards.

• Will Reggie Ball and the passing corps continue their great start?
  Tech quarterback Reggie Ball played like a true veteran last week. He made smart decisions placing his passes, throwing where only his guys could catch it and often times throwing it away rather than taking a sack or a turnover.

Calvin Johnson lead a diversified receiving corps that included Pat Clark, Damarious Bilbo and James Johnson pulling in double digit receiving yards. If the Jackets continue this success, North Carolina and most other teams will not be able to prevent the Jackets from scoring.

Spread: Tech by 10

Wanna write for the ‘Nique?

It is very easy to do-
Simply email development@nique.net and show up for the Tuesday night meetings at 7:00 in the Flag Building. No Experience Necessary.
Created in the second half of the 1960s, the sport of Ultimate is quietly taking the nation by storm. It marries the stamina required of soccer with the end zones of football but is played with a flying disc.

The self-officiating evokes a spirit of the game like that found in the game of golf.

I must admit that I’d never heard of the sport before I came to Tech, but once here, I saw it being played everywhere. The men’s and women’s club teams on campus are very successful, and it was through my contacts with those players that I was introduced to what the sport is all about.

To get an idea of just how big the sport has become, check out the Ultimate Players Association (UPA) website at upa.org. The videos of the UPA College Championships are absolutely amazing and showcase the talent of some of the best teams in the country.

The offensive scheming of these games reminds me of watching a hockey or lacrosse match, and when I see a long throw that a player snags with a diving catch in the endzone, it’s hard not to think of those dogs you see on TV that can run 50 yards and then catch the disc in their teeth.

Ultimate is a low-impact sport, which means people of every age can partake in a game, and the amount of running involved makes it an excellent cardiovascular exercise.

To navigate to the video, click on "2005 UPA College Championships as seen on CSTV" from the UPA homepage. This takes you to a page hosted by CSTV. The streaming video links are on the right side of the page.

Ultimate is one of the most popular pastimes on college campuses, in part because it requires only a disc and an open field to play.
Winthrop, beating the Eagles in four games 30-26, 36-38, 30-26, 30-24.

The Jacket offense came alive as the freshman trio of Laura DeMicheilis, Talisa Kellogg and Callie Miller posted a combined 47 kills.

“It feels really good to get our first win of the season, and Winthrop made us work for it,” Shymansky said. “I was very pleased, though, with how our team responded when Winthrop made runs at us.”

“Since we graduated five crucial players last year, a lot of people view this as a rebuilding year, but I think we are much better than that. We aren’t rebuilding—we are reloading.”

Jennifer Randall
Senior libero
Jackets break Auburn winning streak

By William Bretherton
Contributing Writer

Silence. That was the sound of more than 80,000 Auburn fans as they poured out of Jordan-Hare Stadium last Saturday. For the second time in a row, the Jackets claimed the upset victory over the Tigers.

A solid offensive performance for the Jackets and key interceptions for the defense helped propel Tech to the 23-14 victory.

“It’s very satisfying, especially everybody pulling together against us and these guys having a 15-game winning streak... So it’s great to come in here on the opening game and beat them on their field,” sophomore receiver Calvin Johnson said after the game.

Going into Tech’s Saturday match up with Auburn, attention was focused squarely on the two teams’ quarterbacks. One was Reggie Ball, whose potential was obvious, but whose inconsistency has been a major source of frustration.

The other was Auburn’s Brandon Cox, a talented but inexperienced player who was facing his first start of his career.

It took just a few series of the game to see which quarterback would come out on top.

“We just came out here and executed, stuck with the game plan. We knew what we wanted to do. We got the job up front and outside with the passing game, and good things happened when you got that done,” Ball said.

The Jackets scored on each of their first two possessions. Ball keyed the attack, completing eight of 10 passes for 101 yards, plus 17 yards rushing in the first quarter.

Just two and a half minutes into the game, Ball capped off an efficient first drive by lobbing a high, 35-yard pass into the outstretched arms of Calvin Johnson, who managed to stay inside the pylon for a touchdown.

“He [Ball] put the ball in a great spot, where the DB couldn’t get to it,” Johnson said.

So only 1 could get to it. I caught it and got six for it,” Johnson said.

The next time Tech had the ball, they marched 64 yards on 12 plays before stalling 15 yards shy of the end zone.

Cross country looks to become ACC contender, opens season tomorrow

By William Bretherton
Contributing Writer

The Tech cross country teams open the season tomorrow at the Mercer Atlanta Cross Country meet after rebounding from a tough, injury-filled season a year ago.

The men’s team looks to improve on their No. 8 finish at the ACC Championships, while the women’s team will try to improve on their No. 10 finish at that meet.

The men’s cross country team lost two valuable runners last year’s team in Kyle Rabbitt and Neil McDonough. Rabbitt was an All-ACC runner last year. McDonough was the top runner at the NCAA South Regional with a time of 31:16 in the 10 km.

This year’s men’s team will be lead by seniors Rob Kuhn and Adam Jones, as well as junior David Herren. The women’s team is anchored by juniors Mary Chind, Ann Armbsy and Kirby Cross.

Cross is returning this year after sitting out last year due to injury. The women face a change this year as they will be racing at a distance of 6 km, a change from last year’s 5 km distance.

By Melissa Gegenheimer
Contributing Writer

The men’s and women’s teams look to improve their rankings in the ACC, a conference which will be even tougher with the addition of Boston College, a perennial top-25 team.

“We want to be in the top half of the conference,” said cross country coach Alan Drosky.

Despite sustaining a broken pinkie finger during pre-season practice, sophomore middle hitter Nikki Kaminskas still saw action Saturday.

Tech dropped their first match in three games to the Northwestern Wildcats 34-32, 30-28, 30-23.

“We had individual bright spots today, but as a team we need to come together and compete a little harder. We would make strong pushes, but then not respond when Northwestern competed,” Head Coach Bond Shymansky said, as reported by ramblinwreck.com.

“Callie Miller was impressive in her freshman debut and we know that she’s going to be a great middle for us in the future and Tailsa Kellogg and Laura DeMichells, as our two outside hitters produced pretty well,” Shymansky said.

“They’ve each had some pressure to respond to, but are showing signs of what we can expect out of those positions.”

Miller recorded 11 kills with a .179 attack average. Kellogg was the match leader with 14 kills.

DeMichells played in two games of the first match and recorded eight kills and had three digs.

The second match saw the Jackets face No. 17 Arizona. The Jackets fell in three games 30-21, 30-24, 30-24.

“This was a tough match for us tonight and Arizona played awfully well,” Shymansky said. “In game two, we did a much better job of running our offense and staying in system and I was pleased with the way that Jennifer Randall anchored our defense. We are playing well, but really need to cut down on our errors to become a good team.”

Sophomore Ulrike Stegmann led the Jackets with 10 kills, and Kellogg recorded nine.

After their two previous losses, the team was able to unite against Auburn with red crosses, and will be collecting donations of cash or checks made out to the American Red Cross from 2 p.m. to just before the 5:30 p.m. kickoff. The athletes will be wearing gold t-shirts with red crosses, and will be collecting only at the entrance gates.

Eveland becomes first retired jersey

Former Tech setter Kele Eveland will be the first female athlete at Tech to have her jersey retired and just the ninth Jacket in any sport to receive the honor.

The 2003 All-American honoree was also the ACC Rookie of the Year in 2000.

In her senior year two seasons ago, Eveland led the nation in assists per game with 18.26.

“Kele’s skills on the court have already been matched by her leadership and character,” said Kele’s mother, Robin Eveland. “We are so proud of the choices Kele has made since leaving Tech.”

With the Jackets leading 17-14 and Auburn driving for a touchdown, senior safety Dawan Landry intercepted the Brandon Cox pass on the Tech three yard line to prevent the Tigers from scoring.

By Jassy Howard / Student Publications

Tech student athletes will be stationed at the entrances to Bobby Dodd Stadium before tomorrow’s game collecting money for the Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

They will be accepting donations of cash or checks made out to the American Red Cross from 2 p.m. to just before the 5:30 p.m. kickoff. The athletes will be wearing gold t-shirts with red crosses, and will be collecting only at the entrance gates.

Young players shine in Arizona

By William Bretherton
Contributing Writer

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