

## Duke from page 33

of his size. A solid contributor on both ends, he provides Duke with a more physical presence they need when Williams is on the bench.

Tech knows it is going to get a solid guard performance every night. Often, the frontcourt determines how the team performs. In the match-up, the men in the middle could be even if Schenscher plays to the level of his capabilities; otherwise, Williams could dominate. As for the forward spots, Tech has better athletes even if they are undersized and should have an advantage.

### Edge: Tech

**Coach:** Paul Hewitt has revived a proud program in a short time with tenacious defense, big, fast guards and a running offense that often simply leaves defenders gasping for breath. He comes every night prepared, and the end results speak for themselves.

That being said, Coach Mike Krzyzewski of Duke has his name on their home court for a reason. A living legend in basketball, his program is one of the great dynasties of sports. Betting against him is never a wise choice.

It is a tough choice, because really the draw is fairly even. But Duke has a legend, while Tech has a legend in the making.

### Edge: Duke

**Bench:** Tech has a deep bench full of mercurial freshmen and several talented veterans; Theodis Tarver, Ra'Sean Dickey, Anthony Morrow and Mario West have all seen increased minutes recently and shown that they can contribute.

Duke has always lived and died by its starting five. Luckily for them, those five are usually all in the top 100 players in college basketball, so the strategy has fared well. Duke is thin once again this season.

### Edge: Tech

Of course, the unmentioned variable in all of this is Cameron Indoor Stadium. There are few more difficult places to play in the country, and Duke likes it that way. Of course, with a

**“Duke has always lived and died by its starting five. Luckily for them, those five are usually all in the top 100 players in college basketball...”**

recent loss to Maryland and some built up wishes for a revenge victory for the defeat Tech handed the Blue Devils last year, the Cameron crazies will be ready.

For the last few games, Tech has been struggling on the road in the ACC, shooting less than 18 percent from the three-point line. No team can win with that sort of shooting, especially in the ACC.

If Tech solves its shooting woes, this will be one of the best games of the year, win or lose. The odds have been steeper, and the situation more desperate for a victory, but Tech usually knows a statement win when it sees one.

**Prediction: Tech 77, Duke 68.**

# Divers spring Jackets to win



By Michael Kraus / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

**The swimming and diving teams have finished their dual-meet season and are preparing for the ACC Championships at Tech.**

**By Patrick Odneal**  
*Assistant Sports Editor*

Junior diver Laurissa Prystaj set new school records on the one- and three-meter springboards to lead the swimming and diving team to victories over North Florida and Emory this past Saturday. For her performance Prystaj was named ACC Female Performer of the Week.

The women beat North Florida 186-106 and Emory 184-111. On Sunday the men's team drowned

Emory 179-118, completing a sweep for the Aqua Jackets.

On the men's side, junior diver Tony Burkhardt broke a school record for the one-meter springboard with a score of 346.58. Burkhardt also finished first on the three-meter board with a score of 341.40.

Sophomore Ryan Bishop had a stellar performance, winning three events. He finished first in the 400-yard individual medley with a time of 3:59.40, first in the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 58.79 and first in the 200-yard breaststroke

with a time of 2:06.54. Bishop was named a Wendy's Student-Athlete of the Week for his performances against Emory.

Senior Jeremy Raines won the 100-yard backstroke with a time of 51.96. In the 50-yard free style, junior Jason Howard finished first with a time of 24.35.

For the women's team senior Michelle Maguire won the 400-yard individual medley with a time of 4:36.95. Senior Jaclyn Keys finished first in the 100-yard backstroke with a time of 1:00.22, and classmate Anna Saum was the runner-up with a time of 1:00.43.

Senior Moeko Wallis finished first with a time of 24.35 in the 50-yard freestyle.

“We're very pleased with how our seniors finished their dual meet careers with consecutive wins over Clemson, Emory and North Florida,” said Swimming and Diving Head Coach Seth Baron.

But not to be outdone, some underclassmen also experienced success. Freshman Elizabeth Stowe won both the 500- and 1000-yard freestyle events with times of 5:01.99 and 10:10.51 respectively. Sophomore Vesna Stojanovska won the 200-yard fly with a time of 2:09.24.

The swimming and diving teams now have their focus on winning the ACC Championships, which will be hosted at the Tech Aquatic Center. The women's championships are Feb. 16-19, and the men's championships are Feb. 23-26.

**Men** from page 36

and get three teams that gel. We have a young team. The freshmen really stepped up and played well mentally. I was pleased with the team's performance, but we have a long way to go because the ACC is one of the toughest conferences in the nation this year."

No. 25 Jose Luis Muguruza, the Jackets' sophomore star, tamed the Tigers Darius Craton by winning in straight sets (6-4, 6-4). The sophomore is now 11-4 in singles action on the year after going 9-6 as a freshman.

"He's going to have guys start to shoot at him now that he's getting his ranking up,"

Thorne said. "He was the underdog all of last year, and now he's had a few good wins as was can be expected. He's been more consistent this year, but he has a long way to go because it's still very early."

Sophomore Zachary Rath defeated Ashwat Sarohia in the closest contest of the event. Rath won in three sets (4-6, 6-3, 11-9), just squeaking by for the win. The sophomore teamed up with Scott Blackmon to chalk up a win in doubles competition as well.

"[Rath's] our team captain,"

**"We've got a deep team, but we can only play six through the dual matches, and we need to get other guys that can play throughout the year into the lineup."**

**Kenny Thorne**  
Men's tennis head coach

Thorne said. "He didn't play well, but he stayed in there mentally. He won on a bad day, and that's something I like more than someone going out there and playing great tennis and winning. Anybody can win when everything is going good, but he was a bit off and fought through it. That was the match that I probably enjoyed the most out of the whole team match."

Despite their youth the Jackets are finding players to pick up the slack and play like the veterans. Freshman David North went 2-0 on the day after defeating Sratha Saengsuwarn in straight sets. He also teamed up with junior Marko Rajevac to get one of the victories that the Jackets needed for the doubles point.

"We need to make sure that we get good doubles play," Thorne said. "We've got a deep team, but we can only play six during the dual matches, and we need to get some other guys that can play throughout the year into the lineup. We don't take any match for granted. Playing two matches in one day is good. We need as many matches as we can get to develop the guys."

The team will be hosting Wofford in the morning and Georgia Southern in the afternoon at the Bill Moore Tennis Center on Sunday.

**Women** from page 36

because the levels of expectations are a lot higher. I think that everyone is geared up for a great season. Baylor was a good test for us. They have a deep team as well. I thought that was a good win for our program."

Earlier in the day Miller and Alison Silverio, the No. 16 pair in doubles as ranked by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association, clinched the doubles point for the Jackets with an 8-4 win. They defeated the Bears' Zuzana Cerna and Daniela Covello, ranked No. 9 nationally, to give the Jackets the first point of the contest.

"Most freshmen take a while to make the transition from junior tennis to the collegiate level, but [Miller's] made that transition so quickly. She's adjusted in all facets of the college life, and she's playing some of the best tennis in the country. I thought it would take her some time. I knew that she was a great competitor in the junior ranks and also a very smart player. I thought it would take her a little while to see all of the other college players first and then she'd make some adjustments as she went along," Shelton said.

Miller, ranked No. 18 in singles play, defeated Baylor's No. 92 Zuzana Zemenova in straight sets. Miller won the first set easily, but she was unable to capitalize on the 5-2 lead in the second set. Zemenova fought back and tied up the match at 5-5 before the two foes traded sets to set up the tiebreaker. Miller finally won the match 8-6 and sealed the victory for the Jackets.

"[Miller] has really come out

fighting and has a veteran mentality out on the tennis court," Shelton said. "I think the road is going to get tougher, and she will find some stiff competition as we go farther into our season. It'll be interesting to see how she deals with the tougher competition."

Dasha Potapova turned the match decidedly in the Jackets favor by defeating Klara Zrustova (6-3, 6-2). The senior recorded 100 victories in

**"I think [Dasha] was pretty fired up. She didn't leave [Baylor] on the best of terms. I think she was excited to come here and have a new opportunity..."**

**Bryan Shelton**  
Women's head coach

three years for Baylor before transferring to Tech.

"I think she was pretty fired up," Shelton said. "She didn't leave there on the best of terms. I think she was excited to come here to have the new opportunity with the new program, teammates and coaches. She's embraced every bit of it here at Georgia Tech. To see her go out there against her old team as hard as she did wasn't a big surprise. But to see how well she played under the circumstances, I think she definitely wanted to win the doubles and the singles, and she

got the job done."

The week before, the Jackets opened up the season with a victory over rival Georgia State 7-0.

"I felt like we played well," Shelton said. "Last year they swept us in the doubles, but this year we aren't taking anyone lightly. I felt like we were ready for the challenge and played well."

Lyndsay Shosho and Kacie Anson won 8-6 in their doubles match with the Lady Panthers while the other doubles matches were won with decisive victories. Georgia State's Birte Kowling forced Shosho into three sets, but the junior closed out the contest with a win (6-3, 1-6, 6-4).

"Sometimes it comes that way," Shelton said. "The girls that were going up against her were ready to play."

In the other singles matches of the afternoon, all five other Jackets managed to record straight-set victories for the Jackets over the Panthers.

The Jackets will be taking the week off before traveling to Columbus, Ohio on Feb. 13 to take on the Ohio State Buckeyes.

"[Ohio State] is a good, solid Big Ten program," Shelton said. "We know that's going to be a good one. We are approaching the next couple of matches like a tournament. In a tournament you play each match one at a time, and we are looking at Ohio State being the first round of the tournament. The season gets gradually tougher as the season goes on before we get into ACC season. I'm looking forward to getting on the road and having our first road test."

## Softball from page 36

son ranked in both polls and ended the year with a third-place finish in NCAA Athens Regional.

Tech finished with an overall record of 47-19 and is ranked in the preseason for only the second time in school history.

Florida State is the other ranked team from the ACC at No. 11. The preseason rankings are once again dominated by Pac-10 powerhouses, who hold four of the top five spots in the poll.

"When softball first started at the collegiate level, California was the hotbed for talent and the Pac-10 schools gained early momentum. When you get that momentum

and reputation, all the blue chip kids want to go there for the recognition. You kind of create a monster and then it just keeps feeding itself. But fortunately parity has taken over and there is more talent across the country, and now some other teams are gaining momentum," Earleywine said.

That momentum has shown in Tech's recruiting of another solid class.

"Recruiting is the by-product of these seasons that we had the last couple of years. It has gotten a bit easier and that has made it more enjoyable for coaches to go on the road and have Georgia Tech on our chests. Ideally I would like to keep in-state kids here, at least good ones. Georgia talent is definitely in the top 10 in the nation in terms of softball, and hence our first priority is to keep our local kids here. But make no bones about it, we are in the business of winning and

if I have to go to some other state to get the right kid, I will do that," Earleywine said.

Sallinger was Tech's most decorated and honored player last season. She set new school records in wins (31), shutouts (15), ERA (0.82), no-hitters (3) and strikeouts (351). Sallinger became the second ACC pitcher ever to rack up more than 1000 strikeouts in a career. She needs just 13 strikeouts to become the ACC's all-time strikeout leader.

For her remarkable achievements she was named to the All-ACC team and the All-Southeast Region team for the second straight year. She was honored nationally for the first time as she was named to the All-American team, becoming the third Tech player and first Tech pitcher to earn All-American honors.

"I am never satisfied. I always think I can do better," Sallinger said.

Asked about the top players to watch for this season, both Earleywine and Sallinger were unanimous in selecting Christine Sheridan, a transfer from East Carolina. "She will definitely be a foundational core, impact type of kid. She and Caitlin Lever will be two big names to watch. They will do some special things this season," Earleywine said.

Jessica Sallinger notes that even with the success, she was unimpressed by the crowd support last year. "When we play Georgia, we get a good crowd, but there is no one for other home games. We are a very good team this year. It will be great to have some fans to get pumped up," Sallinger said.

**"When you get that momentum [from winning] and reputation, all the blue chip kids want to go [to your school] for the recognition."**

**Ehren Earleywine**  
Softball head coach

# B-ball travels to play Devils

By Andy Holt  
Contributing Writer

With so much going on Saturday at Cameron Indoor Stadium, it's easiest to break things down and look at the smaller parts that could be the key to a victory.

**Guards:** Tech is known nationwide for the dynamic duo of Will Bynum and Jarrett Jack. Combining for an average of almost 30 points a game, the pair has been on a hot streak of late. Quick, athletic and very strong for the position, there are few teams for whom Tech's guards do not present matchup problems.

Duke puts J.J. Reddick and Daniel Ewing on the wings, and either are a threat from anywhere on the court. Reddick is arguably the best shooter in college basketball, shooting 93 percent from the foul line and displaying deep range.

Ewing is a versatile guard, adept at slashing to the basket and dishing to the open man, and he averages just over 16 points per game. He has taken over point guard duties for the Blue Devils this year.

Of course, a player some may have heard a little about, B.J. Elder, could shake up the evening as well. Assuming he doesn't make an appearance, then the match-up is a toss-up.

### Edge: Even

**Frontcourt:** Luke Schenscher is due for a breakout game, and he has been for some time. In fact, most of this season's pundits and fans alike have been patient with the big Aussie, waiting for more of the brilliance he showed in last year's NCAA tournament. He can rebound and block shots, and he is capable of being a force on the inside.

Shelden Williams is a dominant presence in the paint on both ends of the floor. While he will lose about four inches to Schenscher when they meet Saturday, he has handled bigger men all year. He pulls down almost



By Christopher Gooley / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

**The Jackets defeated Florida State 64-61, gaining momentum going into the Duke game on Saturday.**

12 rebounds a game while putting up an average of 16 points a night.

Tech fields an impressive array of frontcourt mates to Luke; starters Isma'il Muhammad and Anthony McHenry are the glue of the team. Capable of defending four positions, the 6'7" McHenry is a versatile and talented defender, and he is the man that will do all the little things that help a team win. Muhammad's acrobatics on both ends of the floor,

as a clamp-down defender with startling quickness and athleticism and of course as Tech's aerial specialist, make him a fan favorite. Nothing demoralizes an opponent more than his thunderous dunks, but nothing gives them more hope than seeing him come to the foul line.

At 6'10" Shavlik Randolph poses a problem for any defender because

See Hoops, page 31

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# Sion excels as track prepares for ACC Championships



By Bill Allen / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

The track team is preparing for the ACC Indoor Championships. Today they travel to South Bend, IN for their final regular season meet.

By Patrick Odneal  
Assistant Sports Editor

Zeb Sion and Chaunte Howard won their events again to lead the men's and women's track teams at the Clemson Invitational last weekend.

Sion again surpassed his school record in the shot by throwing 59'0.75".

"This was not only an improvement of Zeb's indoor record but an improvement for his NCAA standing," said Men's Head Coach Grover Hinsdale. "I feel very confident that Zeb will be in the 61-to-63 foot range by the end of the season."

Chaunte Howard won both the high jump and the long jump at Clemson by leaping 6'0" and 19'0.75" respectively.

"Coach Nat Page recruited Chaunte out of high school and definitely saw the potential in her to be a success at the highest levels. She's a very talented and versatile individual with great competitive desire. Coach Page works with Chaunte day in and day out to not only to continue her successes but to reach even greater heights," said Women's Head Coach Alan Drosky.

The women's team as a whole had another strong performance. "We took a limited squad to Clemson because we had two meets in the previous weekends and wanted to rest some people. Overall, we competed very well though," Drosky said.

In the women's triple jump, junior Brandy Depland finished with an NCAA provisional mark of 42'1.50". Dana Rogers and Fatmata Fofanah finished first and second respectively in the 60-meter hurdles. Fofanah ran a personal-best time of 8.47 in the preliminaries. Junior Kira Barcus cleared 10'11.75" on the pole vault, a season-best for her.

The women's 4x400 relay team of Ashlee Kidd, Antoinetta McKay, Rogers and Lindsey Vincent won first place with a time of 3:56.06.

The men's team was also very successful. "I am pleased with our effort and performances at the Clemson meet. It is common that there will be a fatigue factor around the third indoor meet of the year. We seemed

to fight through that and got some positive things accomplished," Hinsdale said.

On the men's side, freshman David Sanders and sophomore Josh Hammel finished first and second in the 800 meters, running 1:59.28 and 2:00.71 respectively. Those were season-best times for both athletes.

Look for Sanders to be a contender for the rest of the season as he improves his time. "I have every

**"Jerome Miller seems to be getting a good handle on the technique and approach..."**

**Grover Hinsdale**  
Men's track head coach

expectation that he will make great strides in the next several weeks," Hinsdale said.

Two other men's athletes set season-best times in their events. In the 60-meter dash, senior Dennis Davis ran a 7.03, and freshman Jerome Miller cleared 6'9.75" in the high jump.

"Jerome Miller seems to be get-

ting a good handle on the technique and approach that he has been working on with Coach Page," Hinsdale said.

The men's and women's track and field teams compete in the Meyo Invitational today and tomorrow in South Bend, Indiana. Hinsdale mentioned that it is always a competitive meet, and the team looks to improve once again as the indoor season starts to come to a close.

"It is our last competition prior to the ACC Championships in two weeks. Our goal is to line up, compete hard, put up some good numbers, and come out healthy and ready for the final preparations for the ACC [Championships]," Hinsdale said.

"We are looking forward to competing at the ACC meet and challenging for the team title as well as many individual titles. Also, we hope to continue qualifying individuals for the NCAA Championships in March, where we look to improve upon last year's 21st place effort," Drosky said.

The ACC Indoor Championships are Feb. 17-19 in Chapel Hill, N.C. The USATF Indoor Championships are March 4-5 in Boston, and the NCAA Indoor Championships are March 11-12 in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

The outdoor season kicks off March 19 at the Alabama Relays in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Comments? Suggestions? Complaints?  
Email the editor: [nique@gatech.edu](mailto:nique@gatech.edu)

# Freshman Nnamaka already making mark

By Vishal Patel  
Contributing Writer

Continuing the trend of impressive Swedish players who have taken their games to Tech, freshman Chioma Nnamaka feels right at home in Atlanta despite the lack of fjords and the absence of the cold weather of her native Sweden.

Softspoken off the court, Nnamaka is anything but quiet on the court. She has spoken volumes with her impressive game, which has been even better during ACC play.

Averaging a cool 15 points a game in the ACC, her scoring has pulled the Lady Jackets to a multitude of ACC wins this season, such as their ACC opener at Tallahassee against Florida State where Nnamaka shot 63 percent from the floor on her way to scoring 30 points and adding seven rebounds in the tough road test.

She points out that particular game as her best individual performance of the season. "That game I was really calm and relaxed, and I didn't rush anything like I always do, like I am always so crunked," Nnamaka said.

Pronounced SHOW-muh NAH-mah-kah, the Swedish star grew up in the small suburban town of Uppsala, which is only a 40-minute drive from the capital city of Stockholm. A city known for its plethora of gothic cathedrals and bicycles as the primary means of transportation, Uppsala also housed one of the Sweden's most talented female basketball players in Nnamaka, the youngest of four siblings in a basketball-oriented family.

Nnamaka was born to a Swedish mom and a Nigerian dad, who Nnamaka said was set up to meet her mom. "A Swedish man in Nigeria, a professor of some kind I think, brought my dad up from Nigeria to Sweden to meet my mom. And yeah,

our family has been in Sweden since then," Nnamaka said. Nnamaka's favorite thing to eat is Nigerian food prepared by her father.

Nnamaka started playing basketball at an early age. She first started playing after attending a sister's practice in which the coach wished for her to practice along with the team. Afterwards, Nnamaka never turned back.

Nicknamed the "Scania Queen,"

**"The [FSU] game I was really calm and relaxed and I didn't rush anything like I always do, like I am always so crunked."**

**Chioma Nnamaka**  
Freshman guard

Nnamaka progressed and played against Sweden's most elite competition, the Damligan League, by the age of 15. Despite being a freshman, she was one of the top players on the team, garnering major playing time. Before leaving Sweden, Nnamaka played in the Nordic Championship in 2003, a tournament that features the very best male and female amateurs around Scandinavia. It was there that she earned the reputation that elevated her to basketball royalty.

Nnamaka was not done making her impact on the courts in Sweden. From her hometown of Uppsala to Stockholm, she led three different teams, all different age groups, to capture the Swedish Championship three years in a row.

Toward the end of her short career in the Damligan, she was voted the

MVP of the Swedish Championship game the same year that she was nominated to the all-star game in the Damligan League for the first time.

"From losing every game, we started winning because they were one of the top teams in the league already," Nnamaka said. "They won the Swedish Championship two years before. From losing to winning, it felt great."

Nnamaka now laughs looking back to winning the Swedish Championship as she recalls a specific moment.

"I played against my sister, who was in the league as well, and beat her and it felt great. I felt sorry for her because she was crying, but she won it the year before so I guess it was my turn," Nnamaka said.

The Swedes were not the only ones who saw the potential of young Nnamaka. Before deciding to take her skills to the friendly confines of Tech, Nnamaka was recruited by Minnesota, Miami, Pittsburgh and Southern University. One of the primary reasons she chose Tech was because of Coach MaChelle Joseph.

"Coach Jo came to Sweden, and Minnesota came, too, but it wasn't the head coach. I loved Coach Jo when I met her, I connected with her and Tech, and it felt good," Nnamaka said.

Nnamaka is not the first Swedish player to compete for the Jackets. In fact, Tech's previous Swedish stars had an impact in her decision.

"There are two Swedish players here, Nina Barlin and Jasmina Pacariz, and when Jasmina was about to graduate they were joking about how they were not going to have any Swedish players left anymore. I know Jasmina and she was also a friend of my sister's and Jasmina told them about me and they started recruiting



By Jamie Howell / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

**Freshman Chioma Nnamaka, a native of Sweden, was recruited by several schools but chose Tech primarily because of Coach Joseph.**

me," Nnamaka said.

At Tech, Nnamaka looks up to Jessica Williams and the role she plays for the Jackets. "She leads the team; she takes a lot of responsibility, and she teaches how to be [a leader]," Nnamaka said.

Tech basketball looks to be in good shape with Nnamaka in the backcourt. She is the team's leading scorer as a freshman and also rebounds exceptionally well for a guard.

Nnamaka has started to look towards the future, where she says

that her first goal is to keep playing basketball after graduation. She wishes to play in the WNBA, the pinnacle of women's basketball. If that cannot happen, she will move back with her sisters in Sweden and play there.

Majoring in International Affairs, Nnamaka has dreamed of being part of the police force one day since her childhood.

"After my basketball career, I want to be part of the police. I don't know why, but I would like to be a detective," Nnamaka said.

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## SPORTS

Technique • Friday, February 4, 2005

## TRACK HEADS TO INDIANA

After a successful weekend in Clemson, track is off to South Bend for their final regular season indoor meet. **Page 34**

## JUST A BIT BURNT

The Toasters recently played a show in Atlanta and have released a new album that combines their best music. **Page 19**



## sports shorts

## Tech ice hockey beats Clemson 7-3

Tech's ice hockey team downed the Clemson Tigers 7-3 this past Tuesday at the Marietta Ice Center. Drew Baker had a hat trick, and Amos Fernandez, Nathan Kirby, Mike Zaucha and Drew Myers all scored one goal each.

The Jackets had 49 shots on goal, and Tech goalie Nick Rice made 16 saves as the Jackets skated past Clemson. The hockey team faces Kennesaw St. tomorrow at 9:30 p.m. at the Marietta Ice Center.

## Football program signs 19 recruits

A group of 19 prospective football players signed national letters of intent with the Jackets on Wednesday.

Tech gained five offensive linemen, Trey Dunmon (6'4", 275), Randall Cox (6'3", 287), Cord Howard (6'5", 260), Will Miller (6'5", 275) and Dan Voss (6'4", 290). The Jackets also signed two strong tight ends in Michael Johnson (6'7", 215) and Colin Peek (6'6", 250).

The lone quarterback recruit is left-handed Jonathan Garner (6'4", 206) who led his high school team to two consecutive state championships in Florida.

## Softball starts season tomorrow

The softball team starts their 2005 season tomorrow with a home double-header against the Univ. of Tennessee-Chattanooga.

The first game starts at 1 p.m. at Glenn Field, located just off of the intersection of 14th Street and Mecaslin Street. The second game is scheduled for 3 p.m.

Tech softball has been picked to finish second in the ACC behind Florida St., which the Jackets lost to last year for the ACC championship. The Jackets are ranked No. 21 in the nation according to the ESPN/USA Softball poll.

## Women's b-ball loses to Tar Heels

The women's basketball team lost 55-41 to the Tar Heels this past Sunday. No. 12-ranked UNC jumped to an early 17-2 lead and never looked back.

Freshman forward Janie Mitchell led Tech with 14 points, and freshman guard Chioma Nnamakas scored 10 points. It was Nnamaka's fourth consecutive game scoring in double figures.

The women are in the middle of their tough ACC schedule. They play at Wake Forest this Sunday, Feb. 6 and then return home to face N.C. State on Thursday, Feb. 10.

## Superstar Sallinger leads softball



By Christopher Gooley / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Senior pitcher Jessica Sallinger returns to lead the Jackets coming off a 31-10 record last year and after earning All-America honors.

By Lokesh Padhye  
Contributing Writer

The Tech softball team starts the 2005 season with a head of steam and a positive attitude. With five starters returning to the lineup, including NFCA All-American pitcher Jessica Sallinger, the team will blend successful veterans with a new cast of players. The Jackets open their 2005 season at home against Chattanooga on Feb. 5.

The tough schedule includes ranked opponents such as Michigan and Southern Illinois in The Leadoff Classic, Florida State and rival Georgia. Postseason success was the main goal for second year head coach Ehren Earleywine when he planned the schedule.

"[This schedule] will provide us with experience against those better teams, against better pitching, against better hitting. This will prepare us for the postseason," Earleywine said.

Despite starting the season as one of only two ranked teams from the ACC in the preseason ESPN/USA Softball Collegiate Poll at No. 21, coach Earleywine remains cautious about the team's chances of making it to the World Series.

"It would be safe to say that we would go to regional and we would finish in the top tier of our conference. It would be a stretch and more of a goal to get to the World Series."

Ehren Earleywine  
Softball head coach

"It would be safe to say that we would go to regional and we would finish in the top tier of our conference. It would be a stretch and more of a goal to get to the World Series" he said.

Sallinger was more optimistic; "Last year we had a really good season but until we get to the World Series, I don't think

anyone will be satisfied. We have been so close every year, it's kind of disheartening. We are a better team this year."

Sallinger's optimism is fueled by the strong showing of the team in the last three seasons. The Jackets made three straight NCAA tournament appearances and finished the last sea-

See Softball, page 33

## Tennis teams serve notice with wins



By Darren Sabino / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Sophomore Jose Muguruza won in straight sets against Princeton and is currently ranked No. 25 in the country.

By Michael Clarke  
Senior Staff Writer

The men's tennis team won their dual-meet opener against the Princeton Tigers 7-0. With the win, the No. 35 Jackets are 7-1 in season openers under Head Coach Kenny Thorne.

"Princeton was a tough first

match to start with," Thorne said. "Our guys came out and were excited to play. We didn't play great doubles, but we won the doubles point. One of the keys that we've been talking about was winning when you aren't playing well. I think we are going to switch the doubles teams, to try

See Men, page 32



By Jamie Howell / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Freshman Kristi Miller is 25-3 in singles and 16-5 in doubles matches, and she was named ACC Women's Tennis Performer of the Week.

By Michael Clarke  
Senior Staff Writer

The No. 34 Tech women's tennis team improved to 2-0 after defeating No. 41 Baylor 5-2 on Saturday. The Jackets were led by yet another strong performance by the standout freshman Kristi Miller, who improved to 25-3 on the season and moved into

sixth place for wins in a single season at Tech. For her efforts Miller was named the ACC Women's Tennis Performer of the Week.

"I thought we played extremely well," said Head Coach Bryan Shelton. "I think that this year's team is a little bit different than in years past

See Women, page 32