Howard soars above competition at NCAAs

By Patrick Odranal
Assistant Sports Editor

Chasanti Howard won her second consecutive indoor national championship by clearing 6’3.5” in the high jump, which tied her own school record in the event. This jump gave Howard her fifth All-American honor. Four athletes represented Tech at the national meet held last weekend at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, Ark.

In addition to Howard, Ashlee Rogers ran in the 60-meter hurdles, and Montrell Person competed in the 60-meter hurdles as the sole representative of the men’s team.

After posting a time of 7.78 in the preliminaries, Person ran a 7.85 in the finals and finished seventh in the 60-meter hurdles. Person, who holds the school record with a time of 7.6, gained All-American honors for the first time in his career.

Rogers finished 12th in the women’s 60-meter hurdles with a time of 8.27. Kidd did not qualify because I believe that the 110-meter hurdles is really his forte.

In addition to the 110-meter hurdles, Person will also compete in the 400-meter hurdles in the outdoor season. He will also run the 400-meter hurdles in the outdoor season which begins this weekend with competition today and tomorrow at the Alabama Relays in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Howard enters the outdoor season with 20 consecutive victories in high jump events. She holds the school record in high jump for both the indoor and outdoor seasons. Her mark of 6’6” is the current outdoor high jump school record.

The Jackets will host two meets this season. The Yellow Jacket Invitational is scheduled for April 2.

The Georgia Tech Invitational will be May 13 and 14.

“Ultimate” from page 28

“Ultimate” is the team’s goal to finish in the top 25 at nationals,” said Women’s Head Coach Alan Drosky. “That being said, we would’ve still liked to finish higher, but three straight top-25 finishes is pretty solid.”

Montrell Person
Women’s track head coach

By the time February rolled around, Tribe was looking to continue its impressive run in the fall in the Queen City Tune-Up in Charlotte, N.C. where they were 2-2 in the round robin stage and took an early-round exit to Florida, a top-five team in the country, who is also in the same Atlantic Coast Region as Tech.

The real college season, though, starts in the spring, and we didn’t do as well as we had hoped [in the Queen City Tune-Up]. We lost some games where we were capable of winning and we ended up finishing No. 11,” Gajarawala said.

Over the weekend in late February, the team traveled to San Diego to prove the West Coast teams are among the over 380 college teams that play competitively.

“Wreck has already started to see the impact of Lori’s teachings on the team. Under her guidance, this season looks more promising than ever for Wreck Ultimate,” team member Alexis Hillock said.

Through two tournaments this spring, Mardi Gras in early February and Terminus last week, the women have learned a great deal about where they stand and what needs improving.

“Wreck saw a lot of improvement as a team between Mardi Gras and Terminus, and we expect to do even better in our next tournament, which is College Eastens, on April 2-3 in Wilmington, NC.”

After that, it’s on to the Ultimate Players Association College Championship series! Our sectional championship tournament will be April 16-17 in Athens, Ga.” Hillcock said.
**ramblin’**

By Edward Tamsberg

This year’s softball team has taken Tech to a new level, and among the team’s leaders is a fresh face at shortstop.

Christina Sheridan is a third-year transfer student from East Carolina University. This past Monday after finishing 3-for-9 and extending her hitting streak to 10 games with Tech’s 4-0 victory over UNC, the ACC named Sheridan its softball player of the week.

The ‘Nique sat down with this Pasadena, Md. native to talk about her joining up with Georgia’s finest softball team and her first impressions of life at Tech.

‘Nique: So you transferred here from East Carolina University. How did that come about?

Sheridan: I went to East Carolina for two years out of high school and then after two years I figured out that it wasn’t the place I wanted to be as far as academics and softball—it just wasn’t getting me where I wanted to be. So over the summer I decided to leave East Carolina. I got my release to transfer and started talking to some schools, most of which just happened to be in the ACC. Georgia Tech showed some interest, gave me some promise for what I could do to help out the team and that is where I made my decision.

‘Nique: Was it difficult adjusting to the team when you first got here?

Sheridan: No it wasn’t because I have always played with good teams in the past like in summer ball, and in high school we dominated our conference. So to come to a ranked school, it wasn’t a shock to me. This is what I expected it to be, and this is where I had hoped to be all four years of my softball career.

Junior Christina Sheridan makes a play at shortstop for the Jackets. Sheridan leads the team in batting average and home runs.

‘Nique: Was the whole transfer intimidating to you or was it just deceptively easy?

Sheridan: It definitely wasn’t easy because it is never easy to leave something you are comfortable with. I knew East Carolina. I had been there for two years. I had friends that I had for two years. So that was tough, but you know, that is part of life, making adjustments, moving on, got to do what you got to do. I am looking toward the future here. I can’t live in the past.

‘Nique: What did you think of classes when you got here? Were you at all surprised?

Sheridan: Surprised! No, because it is an engineering school, but they definitely were a lot harder. I would say. It was a challenge. If I could take softball classes I would be a 4.0, but you know that doesn’t happen.

‘Nique: What do you think about your season so far as a team?

Sheridan: We are doing well; we could be doing better. There have been some games where one play here or there or one hit here or there would have made a different outcome of the game. But it is a long season, a 70-game season, you can’t dwell on past games. We had a tough weekend at the Leadoff Classic where we lost, but we bounced right back. So that shows how tough we are, how strong we can come back from losses.

‘Nique: What do you think about your teamates, did anybody surprise you when you got here?

Sheridan: No, It wasn’t because I have a pitcher like Jessica, an All-American pitcher that dominates the game, where it is less than three hits in a game. I mean, it is kind of boring on defense, but you need a pitcher like that if you want to get to where we want to get and that is to the Regionals and the Super Regionals and hopefully the World Series.

‘Nique: What do you think about the freshmen?

Sheridan: The freshmen are really, really promising for our future because they are good now, and they are still babies. They haven’t seen a lot as far as college softball goes... It will be exciting to see how they will turnout in three years.

‘Nique: What do you think of classes or goals for the team by the end of the season?

Sheridan: I always put my uniform on in the same order, and it is always right to left. That is the big key. If I have my left shoe, I have to put my right shoe on before I can put on the left. I also don’t look at my stats. My freshman year I didn’t look at my stats and I was freshman of the year in Conference-USA. Sophomore year I was doing good, started looking at my stats and dropped. I still did well but I could have done a lot better. I just got superstitions. So this year I stopped looking at my stats.

‘Nique: Anybody you are looking forward to playing down the stretch?

Sheridan: Florida State. I can’t wait to play Florida State. They made it to the World Series last year and they are ranked lower than us right now, but they are still a good team. Any ranked team is there for a reason. I would say they are our biggest rivals just because they are the best competition in the conference. I am ready to play Florida State. Of course, I want to play Maryland because I am from there. My best friend plays second [base] and first on Maryland. So it will be interesting to play against her, and all of our families will be there and friends and they know both of us. So that will be cool but that is more of a personal thing.

‘Nique: What are your expectations or goals for the team by the end of the season?

Sheridan: Well team goals are to win the ACCs, go to Regionals and hopefully do well in the Regionals, move on to the Super Regionals and ultimately go to the World Series. I want to go to the World Series before I graduate. I am telling all the freshmen below me. I look we are going to the World Series. I don’t care what you have to do. You got three more years to do it. I only got two. So I want to go soon.

‘Nique: Finally, do you have any superstitions and, if so, what are they?

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Softball wins two of three over UNC

Last weekend the softball team played their first ACC games of the season and won two out of three in a home series against North Carolina. The team is now 23-6 overall and 2-1 in the ACC.

In the first game last Friday, Savannah Brown hit a grand slam in the first inning to lead the Jackets as they downed the Tar Heels 12-2. In the second game the Jackets lost 6-4 in eight innings.

In Sunday’s game senior Jessica Sallinger threw a complete-game shutout as the Jackets won 4-0.

The next ACC contest is a four-game tournament in Orlando hosted by the University of Central Florida. The next ACC contest is Friday, March 26 when the Florida Gators visit the Seminoles come to Atlanta for three games.

ACC reprimands Hewitt for remarks

ACC Commissioner John Swofford has issued a public reprimand to men’s basketball coach Paul Hewitt for his recent comments criticizing officiating.

Swofford said that any further violations of the ACC’s Sportsman-like Policy “may result in a coaching suspension for one game.” Hewitt has publicly apologized.

Football kicks off spring practice

The Jackets started their spring practice with two days of workouts at Rose Bowl Field last week. They will continue through this Saturday and then take a week off for spring break before resuming drills from March 29-April 16.

Tech crushed Syracuse 51-14 in the Champs Sports Bowl, the football team has started spring practice.

By Lokesh Padhye
Contributing Writer

The Jackets started their spring practice with two days of workouts at Rose Bowl Field last week. They will continue through this Saturday and then take a week off for spring break before resuming drills from March 29-April 16.

Tech crushed Syracuse 51-14 in the Champs Sports Bowl last December and posted an eighth consecutive winning season and an eighth straight year of at least seven victories. In the process Tech became one of just eight schools in the nation to play in a bowl game each of the last eight years.

This spring, most fan attention will be focused on the action behind quarterback, that’s understandable.

Reggie Ball is expected to be pushed by a pair of redshirt freshmen, Taylor Bennett and Kyle Manley.

Head Coach Chan Gailey wants more consistency out of the position, and Bennett and Manley will get a chance to supplant Ball as the starter. Ball threw 17 interceptions last fall.

The Jackets return former ACC rushing leader P. J. Daniels at tailback and sensational sophomore wide receiver Calvin Johnson, the 2004 ACC Rookie of the Year, to the offense.

Johnson showed how special of a player he is last fall, but he’ll need some help in the coming season. Second and third options Nate Curry and Levon Thomas exhausted their eligibility last fall, leaving a vacancy.

Damarius Bilbo gets his chance to be a go-to receiver opposite Johnson, while James Johnson, Xavier McGuire, Pat Clark and Chris Dunlap will also compete at the position.

But the Jackets’ most pressing issue this spring involves the offensive line that returns only two starters.

Tech must replace three starters up front for the second straight year.

Incumbent starters Brad Honc, Eric Henderson and Matt Rhodes returns on the offensive line, but Honeycutt, a two-year starter at right guard, will move to right tackle.

Nate McManus enters the spring as the starting center as Kevin Tuminello gets his chance to supplant Ball as the starting center last fall, but he never got to the field. He’ll see limited action during spring drills.

Three redshirt freshmen will vie for the all-important left tackle spot, while Manfred Wronn is expected to fill the other open line spot at right guard. Wronn spent his first two seasons at Tech at defensive tackle, but he was a star offensive lineman in high school.

The Jackets face very little turnover on defense as 10 starters return, led by All-ACC middle linebacker Gerris Wilkinson and two-time All-ACC defensive end Eric Henderson.

Tech’s defense was outstanding last fall, ranking 12th in the nation by allowing just 297.9 yards per game, the best figure by a Tech defense since 1991.

Tech welcomes back a pair of productive players in defensive end Travis Parker and safety Chris Reis, as well as two-year starters Reuben Houston at corner back and Dwan Landry at safety.

The only major move involves Chris Reis, who started outside linebacker last season. Reis, who moved from safety to linebacker last spring, must readjust to the defensive backfield and gain experience in pass coverage. He’ll play strong safety, with Dwan Landry moving from that spot to free safety to replace All-ACC player James Butler.

Phil Wheeler, who has drawn rave reviews, will get a chance to earn the outside linebacker spot to fill out the defense.
Baseball from page 28

in the ninth inning. “We just keep trying to get them out, and you are waiting to get that third out in the ninth,” Hall said. “They can swing the bats very well as well. The conditions were offensive with the wind blowing out.”

The Jackets were in for a milestone game on Sunday. Tech awarded a plaque to Hall before the game to commemorate his 700th career win as a collegiate manager.

The Jackets scored in double figures for a school record eighth consecutive game, including 15 or more in each of the past six.

The win also set the ACC record for most consecutive conference wins with 22. Wake Forest scored four runs in the ninth inning to take the early lead, but Blake Wood settled down and then pitched five scoreless innings. “We changed the way that we were pitching them,” Hall said. “That’s been one of the things that this team has done all year.”

Danny Hall
Baseball head coach

Preview from page 28

Today’s first round game in the NCAA Tournament against the Georgia Washington Colonials marks the second straight season the Jackets have made the NCAA Tournament and entered as a favorite. Tech is the No. 5 seed in the Albuquerque bracket and will face Wake Forest University in Nashville, Tenn.大约 9:45 p.m.

The Colonials are coming off their first Atlantic 10 championship in school history and tonight’s game against Tech marks the first appearance Head Coach Karl Hobbs will make in the NCAA Tournament and is the first since 1999 for the school itself. GW is 3-7 all-time in the NCAA Tournament.

“Basically, I’ve watched them play a couple of times. I know they like to run and I know they like to press. So that’s basically all I know right now,” Elder said. Ironically, Tech practiced in George Washington’s gym to prepare for the ACC Tournament in Washington, D.C. Tech walked-through an ancient arena that night to become more familiar with their personnel and gameplay.

This is Tech’s first trip to Nashville in over four decades; at that time Tech was still part of the Southeastern Conference. The Jackets have managed to see George Washington a little more often as tonight marks the third meeting between the two colleges. Tech won both meetings in 1988.

The Tournament game against an Atlantic 10 opponent is only the second under Paul Hewitt in post season play. The first encounter with the conference came at the hands of St. Joseph’s in 2001, which ended in a close four-point loss.

“[George Washington is] a team that is very similar to ours in that we will both get up and down [the court], and we both can score in the 80s and 90s—they are a very athletic team, and they pressure; they are going to throw different pressures at you,” Hewitt said going through a mental list of observations of George Washington.

“They won the A-10. For people that are familiar with the A-10, that is a pretty significant accomplishment, but if you’re not familiar with the A-10, just know that they beat Maryland and Michigan State. That pretty much says it all. It will be a big challenge,” Hewitt said.

“Basically, I’ve watched [George Washington] play a couple of times. I know they like to run and I know they like to press. So that’s basically all I know right now.”

B.J. Elder
Senior guard

After the conclusion of the NCAA Tournament in 2004 and Tech’s amazing run to the championship game last year, Will Bynum let Hewitt know that the best preparation the team got for their season to end, and I think that’s when he got his career shoulder.

Hewitt said that Jack rested the second straight season the Jackets have made the NCAA Tournament and entered as a favorite. Tech is the No. 5 seed in the Albuquerque bracket and will face Wake Forest University in Nashville, Tenn.

The win also set the ACC record for most consecutive conference wins with 22. Wake Forest scored four runs in the ninth inning to take the early lead, but Blake Wood settled down and then pitched five scoreless innings. “We changed the way that we were pitching them,” Hall said. “That’s been one of the things that this team has done all year.”

“Anytime you give up runs early, you hope you can answer the call. That’s been one of the things this team has done all year.”

Danny Hall
Baseball head coach

Pick up a copy of the Technique every Friday
The number of wins that Baseball Head Coach Danny Hall has in his career with the Jackets. Last weekend Tech swept Wake Forest in a three-game home stand to give Hall a career record of 500-213 (701). With five more wins Hall will become the winningest coach in school history.

The Jackets have won 22 straight ACC games which is a new conference record. The team looks to continue their streak this weekend with a three-game home stand against N.C. State. Tonight’s game begins at 7 p.m.

The Richmond Times-Dispatch.

The No. 16 women’s tennis team is shining this spring, the most important period of its year-long season.

Team President Parag Gajarawala said this may be the best squad he’s played with in the four years he’s been with Tribe, the name given to the men and women who have been against top-10 teams this past Wednesday and dropped to No. 7-4 on the season. Earlier in the week the Jackets downed the Miami Hurricanes 6-1 for their first conference win this season.

Senior Staff Writer

Tennis teams split matches with UGA

The No. 16 men’s tennis team beat No. 2 UGA 4-3 Wednesday. Kristi Miller, Dasha Potapova, Alison Silverio and Lyndsay Shosho all won their singles matches to give Tech the upset victory. Miller, ranked No. 24 in the nation, beat No. 4 Shadisah Robinson 6-2, 6-2, 7-6. The men’s tennis team lost to the No. 6 ranked UGA team 5-2.

B-ball dons new shoes for tourney

Nike has designed customized kicks for some of the teams in this year’s NCAA tournament. Tech players, if they choose, will wear the custom-designed shoes in today’s game against George Washington. The shoes are also available for sale to the general public.