



John Dewberry is the preseason all-conference selection at QB.

Curry, Yellow Jackets pressured to keep up with campus winners

By **MIKE BERARDINO**
Staff Writer

If coach Bill Curry and his Georgia Tech football squad give in to the kind of peer pressure that's floating around Atlanta these days, the 1985 season might be a little unpleasant for Tech's fellow Atlantic Coast Conference members.

Having captured ACC titles in basketball, baseball and golf this past spring, Curry's successful coaching colleagues at Tech have placed the "burden" of keeping up with the Creminses squarely on the shoulders of the Yellow Jackets' sixth-year mentor.

"We're constantly reminded that this is the greatest year in the history of Georgia Tech athletics," Curry said. "So why not get better?"

Unfortunately for their opponents, Curry's 1985 squad is a good bet to improve on last year's 6-4-1 mark. Sixteen starters, including 12 seniors, return from a team that knocked off Alabama, Clemson and Georgia, yet went winless in October and finished a disappointing fifth in the ACC.

Any improvement that the Rambling Wreck shows this season will come without the services of Robert Lavette, Tech's starting

tailback the past four seasons and all-time leader in scoring, rushing and receiving. Now with the Dallas Cowboys, Lavette will be sorely missed in Atlanta for his elusive running style and leadership qualities.

If the above paragraph prompted you to consider sending a sympathy card to Bill Curry, forget it. The Tech stable is amply stocked with yardage gobblers (a.k.a. running backs).

"You don't replace a Robert Lavette," Curry admitted. "But I would expect that Cory Collier would continue what we like to think is a tradition of superb tailbacks."

Collier, a 5-7, 182-pound junior, spent most of last season on the sidelines with a foot fracture after a strong freshman season in which he was named the ACC Rookie of the Year.

He will be joined in the backfield by sophomore fullback Malcolm King, a 5-9, 205-pound bowling ball who compiled a whopping 7.0 yards per carry average in 1984.

Providing depth will be junior

GEORGIA TECH

Coach: Bill Curry (17-36-2, 5 years)

1984 Record: 6-4-1; 3rd in conference, 3-2-1.

Offense: Multiple. **Defense:** Multiple.

Key Losses: Donnie Chisolm, NG; Keith Glanton, FB; Tony Kepano, OG; Robert Lavette, TB; Ken Whisenhunt, TE.

Starters Returning: **Offense (5):** Defense (9).

Key Returnees: David Bell, K, Jr.; Cory Collier, TB, Jr.; Chuck Easley, FB, Jr.; Darrell Gast, QB, Soph.(RS/knee); Bug Isom, SE, Soph.; Malcolm King, FB, Soph.; Gary Lee, FL, Jr.; Ivery Lee, NG, Jr.; Robert Massey, TE, Soph.; Toby Pearson, FL, Soph.; Mark Pike, DE, Sr.; Dean Weaver, OG/OT, Soph.; Daryl Wise, FL, Sr.

Prediction: Fifth in ACC.

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