

"The South's Liveliest College Newspaper"

TECHNIQUE

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Opinions

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Tech football cheapened by match

I am a proud Tech alum, avid sports fan, and supporter for all seasons. However, I was extremely perturbed when I read in a Connecticut newspaper (The Hartford Courant) that Tech had signed to play a three-season series with UConn (sic) in football. I am steeped in Tech tradition (Football Letterman 1972; maintained (tuned) the Wreck in the mid-80s) and was disgusted at the prospect of Tech tradition being used as "payback" for ol' time buddies!

The Hartford paper reported that Tech A.D. Dave Braine (non-Tech alum) and UConn football coach Randy Edsall (non-Tech alum) were friends, having once coached together. Now Braine is rewarding the UConn football program and their Coach Edsall by scheduling Tech. UConn has been Division I for two years, a fledgling program looking for credibility. In fact, UConn will not be allowed into the Big East until 2005, ostensibly to demonstrate its worth. So Braine, using the Tech name, is helping to elevate the program. Are we now the farm team for the Big East?

It's embarrassing and insulting to have

Tech walk onto the playing field of such a dinky program, an indignant affront to our long history of winning football. How can this be allowed to happen?

Why not schedule Auburn or Alabama? The Tech-Auburn match had been one of the oldest and longest running rivalries in the country until former A.D. Homer Rice (non-Tech alum) dropped the series. So instead of re-igniting one of the old rivalries, Braine gladhands Tech tradition to a friend. Is that now the lot of Tech tradition?

Tradition means being proud of our heritage. Why has the Athletic Board been allowed to prostitute the rich Tech past? It may sound snobbish, but we are talking about national pride, with a provincial opponent! Many high school football stadiums in Georgia are larger than the UConn "stadium" (seating capacity: 16,000) in which Tech will compete Saturday.

Will Tech come to Connecticut and run up the score by 50 or 60 points (I hope!)? Or is there another deal under the table where Edsall is not made to look too bad against a

national power? A few years ago the UConn Women's basketball program gave an injured player a free lay-up at the start of a Villanova game to allow her to set a record. A free lay-up! That's Big East sports at its best.

Is this the type of silly competition that Tech is now looking for under Braine? I prefer that he be given his walking papers before allowing him to pimp anymore Tech tradition.

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