

Despite loss of Neill, women's golf team aims high once again

By ANDY SISK
OLD GOLD AND BLACK REPORTER

With six of seven players returning from last year's ACC Championship squad that won five tournaments, women's golf Head Coach Dianne Dailey predicts another successful season for the team.

The squad finished the year with a third-place finish at the NCAA Championships in Wilmington, their best showing ever. The only player missing from last year's dominating team will be Stephanie Neill, '95, who gained All-American status for the fourth year.

In her absence, the team will look to junior Laura Philo and sophomore Alexandra Armas

for leadership. Philo came into her own last spring when she won her first individual title at the ACC Championships and placed sixth at the NCAA Championships.

Over the summer, Philo rode that hot streak to a victory at the prestigious North and South Championship, a runner-up finish at the Eastern Championship, and a quarterfinal loss at the U.S. Amateurs to the eventual champion. Dailey said that she would not be surprised if Philo won multiple tournaments this year.

Plagued by injuries much of last season, Armas underwent wrist surgery and should be back at full strength this season. Armas gained second-team All-American honors despite the injuries.

Dailey said that she thought this year's

Women's Golf

Sept. 12-14	The Topy Cup
Sept. 29-Oct 1	Lady Tar Heel Invitational
Oct. 20-22	Lady Paladin Invitational
Nov. 10-12	Golf World Invitational

team has the potential to challenge for the NCAA title again.

"We could be stronger," Dailey said. "It's not beyond the realm of possibilities that we could do better than last year."

Seniors Kim Marshall, Katy Becker and Victoria Boysen, as well as junior Sonia Bauer also return. Four freshmen, including Belgian junior champion Stephanie Schinkel, will challenge the upperclassmen for the starting positions.

The Deacons open their season with a bit of a road trip. For the first time in the program's history, the Deacons have been invited as one of two American teams to participate in the Topy Cup Championship in Fukushima, Japan. Dailey, who said that the team was very

excited when they heard about the invitation, will take only upperclassmen to the September event because she said that the freshmen need to concentrate on academics.

"It's a really big deal to get to go," Dailey said. "It's an honor." Team members going to Japan will miss a week of classes.

If the Deacons are to capture the NCAA title, they will have to defeat teams such as three-time defending NCAA Champion Arizona State. Dailey said that she expects teams from the University of Texas, San Jose State and the University of Florida to be the Deacons' toughest competitors.

After the Japan event, the Deacons will participate in fall tournaments at Chapel Hill, Furman and the Golf World Invitational.

Cross country teams begin fall vying for national prominence

Goodridge looks toward an ACC three-peat for men

By STEVE WELGOSS
SPORTS COPY EDITOR

If at first you don't succeed, try, try again.

That message could be the theme of the 1995 men's cross country program as it tries for a second time to break through the elusive barrier of a third consecutive ACC championship.

With four titles in the last six years, halted only by N.C. State's back-to-back wins in 1991-92, Head Coach John Goodridge has established a tradition of excellence unparalleled by any that came before him.

There are high expectations for this team as they are bringing back a solid core of runners from last season, in addition to a special advantage they will have this year.

"This is an exciting year for us from the standpoint that beyond defending the title we can defend it at home," Goodridge said. "After the way our distance runners performed at the outdoor championships last spring, which we hosted, I think it clearly demonstrated it is not an added pressure running at home, but it is an added boost."

The quest to win three straight trophies is a key motivational tool, as the three squads before them have all failed. Clemson's bid was snuffed out in 1989 by the Deacons, whose try for a third ended with the Wolfpack's pair of titles. Goodridge got revenge on State in 1993, and now is preparing for all challengers this season.

"In recent years it's been very difficult to three-peat, and there will be someone trying to stop us," he said. "That just gives us another edge of excitement. We like to view that as an opportunity we're excited about."

"We relish that, and I think it's a motivator. We have a chance to continue the Wake Forest tradition." In addition to hopes of capturing the conference crown, Goodridge has bigger and better visions for his team as well. After missing out of qualifying for the NCAA Championships last season by a mere 12 points to Appalachian State, Goodridge would like to see his team return to the big race.

The Demon Deacons have run at NAAs in five of the last seven years, including a third-place finish in 1990 that is the best performance ever by an ACC representative.

The Deacons placed three runners in the top-10 of the conference meet last year, and the only one of them not returning is Craig Longhurst, '95.

Junior Ben Boyd is coming off of an eighth-place ACC finish, and will team with sophomore Eric Dunn, who finished fifth, to create a powerful one-two punch at the top of the Deacon lineup.

"We have a fine cast," Goodridge said. "Dunn and Boyd are returning All-ACC runners. (Junior) Jon Russell



Old Gold and Black photo

The team hopes to run to another ACC Championship this season.

was probably the most improved distance runner in the ACC last year. (Sophomore) Nolan Swanson is a very exciting runner who just gets better and better with experience. (Senior) Paul Kinsor has run at NAAs for us in the past, and he's had a real good summer."

Pushing the cast of veterans will be Brett Strahan, one of the most highly touted freshmen in the country. Strahan hails from Valencia, Calif., and was the jewel of many a coach's eye across the nation.

Goodridge also noted the hard work and contributions of junior Eric Pragle and sophomores Pat Fitzgerald, Matt Shady and Hunter Kemper. Along with the invaluable experience and dedication of senior Marc Davis, a top performer for the Deacons since his freshman year, the team looks solid from top to bottom.

"In most recent years we've had a very balanced team, and that will remain our approach in terms of team strategy," Goodridge said. "We have a lot of respect and confidence in our group."

The talented group has many of the key ingredients necessary for building a championship, including hard work, experience and confidence.

"We gained tremendous experience last year with this group," Goodridge said. "We have a very challenging schedule this year, and we face the three teams that beat us last year in the districts that kept us out of the national meet — Tennessee, Alabama and Appalachian State and we will see most everyone in the ACC throughout the schedule."

"We've just come off our preseason training, and without a doubt this was the best preseason training I've ever had in my 12 years here at Wake Forest. We're off to a good start. It has to start with the work ethic, and that's why I'm very excited about this year — they've shown a willingness and an eagerness to commit themselves to hard work."

With four awards as ACC Coach of the Year, Goodridge has a great shot at adding a fifth this season. With those credentials, the Deacons will be a formidable opponent in 1995.

Women's team runs fast toward NCAA title under Goodridge

By STEVE WELGOSS
SPORTS COPY EDITOR

The Demon Deacon women's cross country program, under the guidance of Head Coach Francie Goodridge, has undergone a complete transformation since she took over the reigns in 1984.

In her second year as head coach, she was unable to bring a single freshman recruit to the program and wondered about her future. Now, a decade later, she is poised to bring her squad to the elite status of national powerhouse.

With four of the team's top five runners from last season's 12th place effort in the NCAA Championships, Goodridge sees no limits to how well the Deacons can do in 1995.

"We're going as high and as far as we can go this year," Goodridge said. "We're after the ACC title this year, and we know we're a contender. Our primary goal is to win everything this year — there aren't many schools that we think are going to get in front of us."

The veteran leadership of seniors Nicole Stevenson and Cindy Moreshead, junior Chrissy Person and sophomore Katie Brandy should create a fearsome foursome that has the ability to dominate meets.

Goodridge is happy to have them back and all healthy from the start of the season.

"Nicole is in the best shape of her life and is ready to go, and of course

Cindy Moreshead as usual is running really well," Goodridge said. "Katie Brandy is now a sophomore and she has her feet on the ground and now knows exactly what she has to do. Chrissy Person is into our fifth position and is really into it now putting the miles in."

The present is not the only scary feature of this Deacon squad, the future is just as bright as Goodridge has brought in an outstanding crop of freshman to add both size and depth to an already talented mix.

Among the most highly touted newcomers to the Deacon squad are Becky Pollock from Hazel Park, N.Y., Liz Moore from New Jersey, Amy Wallace from Massachusetts and Katie Clarke.

Pollock's resume includes a top-15 finish in the national high school cross-country championships, Moore has run the fastest mile of the group, Wallace rewrote the course record at a difficult Boston course and Clarke, the cousin of former Deacon Kelly Clarke, has strong two-mile credentials.

"There are several good teams that we have to be concerned about in the

Cross Country

Sept. 2	Appalachian State /Navy/North Carolina
Sept. 16	WAKE FOREST CLASSIC
Sept. 30	Virginia Tech/Tennessee/Texas A&M
Oct. 6	Notre Dame Invitational (Women only)
Oct. 14	N.C. Intercollegiate
Oct. 28	ACC CHAMPIONSHIPS AT WAKE FOREST
Nov. 11	NCAA District Championship
Nov. 20	NCAA Championship



Old Gold and Black photo

Seniors Nicole Stevenson and Cynthia Moreshead compete in the ACC Championships last season.

region as well as the conference, but I feel very good about the team," Goodridge said. "It's not only the largest team we've ever had but it's got the most depth in terms of impact performers."

"We have a front group of veterans who are top-notch and are going to be hard to beat."

The valuable experience of the returnees should help the freshmen develop quickly, and together they can come together into one of the nation's finest squads.

Goodridge feels that their previous success should make them one of the teams to beat.

"They have performed already," she said. "That's what the impact will be as far as national rankings, but of course in the end it's what you do out there and I think this team clearly is a top-10 team nationally. There's no doubt in my mind."

"Success breeds success, and that's how we finally have a shot at winning the championship."

The Demon Deacons will get on their way to earning an ACC crown this weekend when they head to Blowing Rock for a meet against the Appalachian State Mountaineers, the Navy Midshipmen, and the North Carolina Tar Heels.

First matchup against ASU should set tone for football season

By MICKEY KRAYNYAK
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

When Head Coach Jim Caldwell's 1995 Demon Deacon football team trots out onto the Groves Stadium sod this evening to play their first contest of the year against Appalachian State, the squad will do so amidst the typical early-season deluge of questions about what they can hope to accomplish this year in the ACC.

Given the results of the past two gridiron seasons, the tenor of most of the questions arising from the student section will undoubtedly tend toward the disdainful and sardonic. On a more serious level, the Deacons of 1995, coming off of two consecutive years during which they played to identical 1-7 conference marks, find themselves at something of a crossroads.

Two conference wins in two years have effectively established the Deacons near the foot of the ACC door. Thus, Caldwell's third season as coach raises an interesting question. Will the Deacons finally begin to creep toward respectability in the ACC, or will they continue to tread water at the bottom of the conference well?

"We were not satisfied with being 3-8 by any means," Caldwell said, "but I do think that we improved."

Not helping the Deacons' cause is their dearth of experienced talent. Caldwell's starting team will include just seven seniors, and the entire roster contains only 12. This ties the Deacons with N.C. State for the fewest number of senior players in the conference.

In all, the Deacons will return six starters on both sides of the ball, a fact that will further complicate their hopes for improvement on last season. Gone are the team's top three ground gainers from last season, and three of the top four receivers.



Courtesy of Sports Information

Ndoma-Ogar is one of the Deacons' premier talents.

Defensively, the Deacons are faced with an acute problem at linebacker, where they lost both inside backer Kevin Giles, who was the team's leading tackler the past three seasons (and who finished as the third-leading tackler in school history) and fellow-starter Mike

Neubeiser. The team will look to senior Tucker Grace, the third leading stopper on the squad a year ago, to partially cover for the absence of Giles and Neubeiser.

One area that holds promise for the Deacons is the defensive backfield, where the team will return seven lettermen, though last year's second-team All-ACC safety Richard Goodpasture will not be among them.

Offensively, an interesting area for the Deacons will be behind center, where it is expected that senior quarterback Rusty LaRue will be challenged for the starting role by sophomore Brian Kuklick, should LaRue falter early. LaRue started the first 10 games for the Deacons last year before being injured, whereupon Kuklick entered and guided the team to its only ACC win of the year.

The Deacons' premier talent this year looks to be 6-3, 289 pound senior tackle Elton Ndoma-Ogar, who is on the way to his fourth letter, and looks to finish the season as an all-ACC performer. The team also returns three other offensive linemen to help protect either LaRue or Kuklick.

Helping to plug up offensive holes will be sophomore running back Herman Lewis, who was a kickoff returner for most of last year, and junior John Lewis, who was slated to be the starting back last year before breaking an ankle in the team's first game.

Junior wide receiver Dan Ballou, last year's second leading pass-catcher, is the only one of 1994's top four receivers returning. He will be joined by sophomores Thabiti Davis, Darrell Braswell and Brandon Perry.

Caldwell, noting that, "our morale is excellent," sees improvement in the team's near future.

"Our off-season conditioning and practice sessions gave us the opportunity to build on the positive finish to last season, and I think we did that," Caldwell said. "We emphasized playing with more precision on both the

Football

Aug. 31	APP. STATE	7:30 p.m.
Sept. 9	at Tulane	8:00 p.m.
Sept. 16	CLEMSON	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 23	at Navy	7:00 p.m.
Sept. 30	at Virginia	12:00 p.m.
Oct. 7	MARYLAND	6:30 p.m.
Oct. 14	at Florida State	TBA
Oct. 21	at UNC	TBA
Oct. 28	at Duke	TBA
Nov. 4	G.A. TECH	TBA
Nov. 18	N.C. STATE	TBA

offensive and defensive sides, while placing particular attention to developing a more effective running game as well as bolstering our defense versus the run.

"Overall, it was a good spring and I'm very encouraged by our progress," Caldwell said.

Enter into this unclear scenario ASU. A perennial check in the Deacons' "W" column, ASU should help to illustrate in what direction the Deacons are headed. Caldwell is 2-0 against ASU, including last year's 12-10 squeaker.

Generally, for teams in positions similar to that of the Deacons, large turnovers of talent can either infuse a previously lackluster team with ability, or severely disrupt a squad's gradual improvement.

The Mountaineers' visit tonight should partially reveal just which course the Deacons will take this season.