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Sports

Women's cross country takes top three spots in Tech victory

By ADAM ROTHSCHILD
OLD GOLD AND BLACK REPORTER

The 13th-ranked Demon Deacon women's cross country team continued its march to national prominence Saturday, claiming six out of the top nine places en route to a lopsided victory over Texas A&M, East Carolina, Virginia Tech, Appalachian State and East Tennessee State, at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va.

The Demon Deacons scored 18 points, just three more than the minimum, in defeating the second-place Aggies by 50 points.

The Deacons won the meet despite the absence of senior superstar Nicole Stevenson, who did not run because of a bad cold. She has been recovering steadily this week and will compete Friday at the Notre Dame Invitational.

"We went in knowing we wouldn't be heavily challenged as a team. We were looking to put into play a crucial next step in our team's strategy, which is to run a pack effort."

Francie Goodridge
Head Coach

Head Coach Francie Goodridge said of Stevenson's absence, "It gave (senior) Cindy Moreshead an opportunity to run as the point runner. She was able to hold back and run with the pack, and bring up her teammates to a higher level of performance."

Moreshead finished first overall with a course-record time of 18:03. This achievement marks the third time in as many meets in which a Demon Deacon runner has broken a course record.

Junior Liz Cotter and sophomore Katie Brandy finished second and third overall, with times of 18:08 and 18:09, respectively. These were their fastest times of the year.

Junior Chrissy Person and freshmen Amy Wallace and Liz Moore completed the Deacons' top six. All six finished with times under 19:00. The first 11 Deacon runners all finished ahead of Texas A&M's fifth runner.

"We went in knowing we wouldn't be heavily challenged as a team," Goodridge said. "We were looking to put into play a crucial next step in our team's strategy, which is to run a pack effort."

The Deacons succeeded in running as a pack, with a mere 38 second split between their first and fifth runners.

"(It was) a very, very strong team performance," Goodridge said.

In setting three course records in three meets, Stevenson and Moreshead have established themselves as two of the best cross country athletes in the nation.

"Clearly, they're national contenders. They're certainly All-American," Goodridge said, referring to the title bestowed on the top-25 runners in the country. "This gives the team the high finishers you need to be national contenders."

Friday, the Demon Deacons travels to Notre Dame for the Notre Dame Invitational, featuring teams representing Districts 4 and 5, located in the Midwest, as well as the University of Alabama, a District 3 foe.



Seniors Nicole Stevenson and Cindy Moreshead lead the way for the Demon Deacons in a race two seasons ago.

Four top-10 finishes lead men's x-country at Tech

By ADAM ROTHSCHILD
OLD GOLD AND BLACK REPORTER

The Demon Deacon men's cross country team lost for the first time this season Saturday. However, in defeat the Deacons showed that they are still a force to be reckoned with on a national level.

The 16th-ranked Deacons placed second only to 10th-ranked Tennessee, 33-35, in the meet held at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va. The Deacons defeated East Tennessee State, Texas A&M and the home-standing Hokies by considerable margins.

All-American Tennessee seniors Tony Cosy and Stewart Ellington finished first and second overall, and the Vols' Chris Brown placed third, four seconds ahead of the Demon Deacons' first finisher, junior Jon Russell. Sophomores Eric Dunn and Nolan Swanson finished fifth and sixth overall, both with a time of 25:30.

Despite the loss to the Volunteers, Head Coach John Goodridge was still happy with the meet's outcome.

"I'm very optimistic and very pleased with our performance in this meet," Goodridge said. "We certainly didn't enjoy the loss, but in the context of what we're trying to accomplish this year, this was a very encouraging effort."

Goodridge pointed out that the comparison between this year's performance at Virginia Tech and that of last year's squad encouraged him immensely.

"We're making a conscious effort in

striving toward improvement," Goodridge said.

The Deacons averaged a one minute improvement on last year's time on the same Blacksburg course. In addition, the first six Deacon runners ran faster times than the team's No. 1 finisher ran last year. Clearly, these numbers demonstrate a vast improvement.

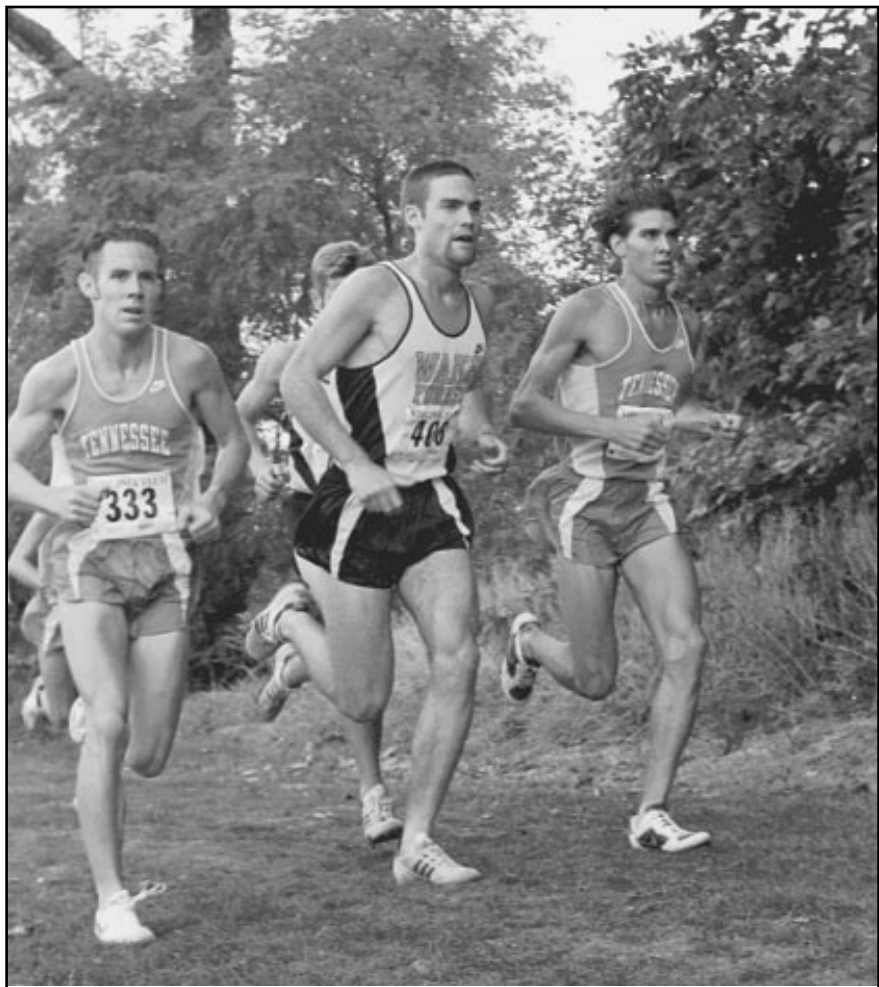
"I'm very confident that this year's team is making progress and benefiting from all the improved work they've been doing," Goodridge said.

The Deacons also enjoyed its best team time split of the season. The difference between the time of its first finisher and its fifth was 26 seconds, approximately half of what it has been in previous races.

"That type of closeness between our top five, and our No. 1 being so close to their top runners, shows we have excellent potential," Goodridge said.

Goodridge specifically hailed the continued excellence of Russell, Dunn, and Swanson, and also heaped praise on sophomore Matt Shady. Shady's outstanding time of 25:39 earned him an eighth-place finish overall. He placed fourth for the Deacons, vaulting from his customary seventh position on the squad. Goodridge also mentioned freshman Brett Strahan, who crossed the line 12th overall and fifth for the Deacons, with a time of 25:43.

"(Strahan gave a) very consistent effort," Goodridge said. "He's certainly profiting from each competitive outing he gets."



Sophomore Eric Dunn keeps up with two Tennessee All-Americans last weekend at the Virginia Tech Invitational.

Women's golf breaks record in Chapel Hill

By ANDY SISK
OLD GOLD AND BLACK REPORTER

Fresh off a victory in Japan in their first event of the season, the women's golf team cruised to a 14 stroke victory at the Lady Tar Heel Invitational in Chapel Hill last weekend, setting a school record in the process.

Ranked fourth in the country, the Deacons displayed the same strong swings that won them the title in Chapel Hill the past two years. What is different for the Deacons is the lack of a dominant go-to player like the graduated All-American Stephanie Neill, '95. According to Head Coach Dianne Dailey, though, the team realizes that every player has to step up if they are going to have another dominating season. So far every player has responded.

In Chapel Hill, two players carried the team to victory. Tying each other for second place in the 96 player field were junior Laura Philo and sophomore Alexandra Armas. Both finished the tournament with a three-under par 216. In the second round, Philo fired a 69, the low round of the event. Armas, with three rounds of one-under 72, was the only player in the event to shoot under par each round. According to Dailey, Armas' wrist, for which Armas underwent surgery over the summer, continues to get stronger.

"(Alexandra) is getting stronger every day. She could have done even better," Dailey said. "With more time to practice, she'll play better."

Another player, junior Sonia Bauer, continued her solid play for the team, finishing in 10th place at two-over 221. Bauer missed most of last spring's action because of a bout with mononucleosis. Her renewed commitment to helping the team garnered praise from Dailey.

"Sonia's playing very solidly," she said. "Now (that she's healthy), she's really coming back strong."

Senior Torie Boyesen's play also drew raves from Dailey. Boyesen, mired in a slump for much of the spring, closed the tournament on a high note with a one-under par 72.

"I'm glad to see her playing well," Dailey said. "She had a nice round that last day."

Rounding out the scoring for the Deacons was senior Kim Marshall, who tied for 42nd place. Fresh off her first collegiate individual title in Japan two weeks ago, Marshall could have felt the effects of a letdown. Dailey said she thought the greens at the Chapel Hill course, which she described as not nearly as good as the greens at the Japanese course, could have caused Marshall problems.

The Deacons won the event by 14 shots over ACC rival Duke and by 16 shots over host UNC. Auburn's unheralded Marci Clemens won the individual title by one over Armas and Philo.

Men's soccer almost upsets second-ranked Maryland

By ROBERT NEELY
OLD GOLD AND BLACK REPORTER

The men's soccer team lost its second conference match of the season in heartbreaking fashion, falling 4-3 to Maryland Sunday in overtime. The team rebounded Wednesday with a 3-2 win over Belmont Abbey.

The Deacons scored the game-winning goal against Belmont Abbey with about 20 minutes to play in the second half. Junior Sabastian Mandart also scored a goal for the Deacons.

The Demon Deacons (7-4 overall, 0-2 ACC) rallied from a 2-1 deficit to send the HTS nationally televised match with the Terrapins into an overtime period when senior Ryan Scott scored on an assist from freshman

Serge Daniv with 6:04 remaining in regulation.

The Deacons then took a 3-2 lead on junior Josh Timbers' penalty kick less than three minutes into the extra session, holding it until the 116th minute of the match.

"I'm happy with the way the team was playing," Deacon Head Coach Jay Vidovich said. "To come back from being down and go ahead, we were doing just about everything right."

"It's a big step to be able to do that. The next step is being able to sustain our effort and get the result."

The key moment in the match came when Daniv, who assisted on both Scott's goal and the goal scored by sophomore Ihor Dotsenko in the first minute of the second half, received his second yellow card with 10

minutes remaining in overtime.

The Terrapins took advantage of the man advantage brought about by the ejection, scoring two goals in the final four minutes to claim the win.

Leo Cullen scored his first goal of the season for the Terrapins, ranked No. 2 nationally, and then assisted on the game winner by Tod Hershkovitz with 41 seconds remaining to claim the victory.

"For about 90 percent of the time, we did exactly what we needed to do," Vidovich said. "We demonstrated we would attack against one of the best teams in the country, and we showed people that Wake Forest is going to play attacking soccer."

The Deacons have two vital games this week in their

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Football overmatched by tough Cavalier squad, plays well in 35-17 defeat

By MICKEY KRAYNYAK
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

One down and two to go. When the Demon Deacons wrapped up their shellacking of Navy two weeks ago to secure their first win of the season, they were left with the gut-check portion of their schedule directly ahead of them.

In their next three games, the 1-3 Deacons would have to face three nationally-ranked conference opponents.

The out-of-conference gravy train had rolled to a stop. No more squeaker games against Appalachian State, no more laughers over military academies. The only games the Deacons had left to play were against No. 9 Virginia, Maryland (then No. 17), top-ranked Florida State and the remainder of the ACC.

Now, in the aftermath of a 35-17 loss to the Cavaliers, it appears as though the Deacons have begun making generous-sized strides toward respectability. At one point early in the fourth quarter, the Demon Deacons were within a touchdown of their hosts.

"We did some very good things and I was proud of our effort against one of the top teams in our conference and the country," Head Coach Jim Caldwell said. "However, we are definitely not pleased with our overall performance or the outcome of the game."

Virginia lit up the Scott Stadium skies early in the contest, as quarterback Mike Groh connected with wideout Derick Byrd on a 65-yard touchdown pass with 7:47 left in the opening quarter. Groh struck again minutes later, when he tagged Germane Crowell with an 18-yard touchdown toss to run the Cavalier lead to 14-0.

However, despite their inauspicious beginning, the Deacons ultimately managed to keep from being blown out of Charlottesville. After surrendering another touchdown to the Cavaliers to go down 21-0 at the half, the black and gold returned to play the second half with their competitive integrity intact.

Less than five minutes into the third quarter, senior Deacon signal-caller Rusty LaRue hit junior running back John Lewis with a 15-yard touch-

down heave to cut the Cavaliers' lead to two touchdowns. The Demon Deacons were then able to hold the Cavs scoreless until Lewis notched his second score of the day on a five yard scamper with 13:34 left in the fourth quarter.

Lewis' two touchdowns Saturday were the fourth and fifth of his Demon Deacon career and came the week after he had scored his first three against the Midshipmen. The running back's nose for the end zone has been a big factor in his team's recent success.

However, the miracle upset bid ended with Lewis' score, as the Cavaliers answered with rushing touchdowns 20 seconds and two minutes later to restore their lead to 21 points. The margin remained at 21 points until junior Deacon place-kicker Bill Hollows notched the only three-pointer of the day to close out the scoring in the game with 8:21 left in the contest.

The game was understandably encouraging for a Deacon squad that had earlier lost to Division I-AA ASU and been trounced by unranked Tulane. It now also raises intriguing

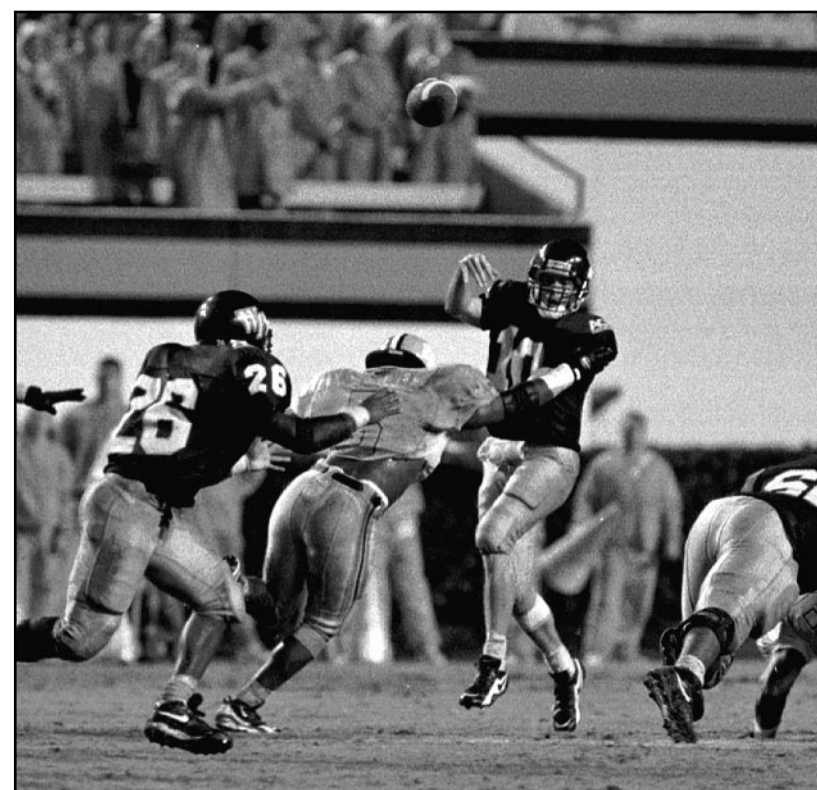
questions about the Deacons' potential this Saturday against the Terrapins at Groves Stadium.

"The Maryland offense has always been able to put points on the board," Caldwell said. "Now this year they have added a defense that is playing very well and been one of the best in the nation at taking the ball away from the opposition."

Having been within a touchdown of a top-10 team on the road with less than a quarter to play, the Deacons now return home to test their mettle against a Maryland team that had its bubble burst by Georgia Tech last weekend.

The Terrapins, after knocking off Tulane, North Carolina, West Virginia and Duke, traveled to the Peach State and were promptly dismissed from the Associated Press Top 25, as the Yellow Jackets treated their guests to a 31-3 win to display their Georgia hospitality.

The Deacons will host a team Saturday that at the very least has been proven vulnerable. They had best savor the feeling, as their destiny guides them to Tallahassee Oct. 14 to meet the top-ranked Seminoles.



Senior quarterback Rusty LaRue attempts to complete a pass against Clemson earlier this season.