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Cross country teams place second at ACC Tourney

State men take top four spots, wipe away field

By ADAM ROTHSCHILD
OLD GOLD AND BLACK REPORTER

Fans lining the home stretch at Water Tower Field Saturday must have felt like they were at a N.C. State victory parade.

As the runners in the ACC Cross Country Championship meet began to exit the wooded trails and stride into the chute, an endless stream of red singlets emerged.

First one State runner, then another ... then another ... then another.

The Wolfpack claimed the first four overall positions on its way to its fifth conference title, establishing a championship record by scoring a mere 18 points. The Deacons finished second with 67 points, followed by UNC, Virginia, Duke, Clemson, Georgia Tech, Maryland and FSU.

Wolfpack sophomore Pat Joyce claimed the individual title with a time of 24:29 for the 8K course.

According to Head Coach John Goodridge, his team was in trouble from the start.

"We never got off the starting line," Goodridge said. "Our team was buried in the first 150 meters of the race, when N.C. State did execute proper strategy and immediately took an advantageous position. It allowed their team and their support to get a tactical and emotional advantage over us."

Goodridge explained that the Deacons' woes were mainly the result of poor strategy and mental toughness. "The second place finish, while disappointing, is not what is upsetting," Goodridge said. "We never put ourselves in a competitive position. That was inexcusable from the standpoint that we know the challenges that our home course presents."

"It was a nightmare for me watching the way they raced and the results that occurred. We were disgusted by the start, and we had the entire group give up hope late in the race."

Despite the team's disappointing showing, there were several individual highlights for the Deacons. Junior Jon Russell, sophomore Nolan Swanson and senior Paul Kinser each earned All-ACC honors by finishing sixth, seventh and ninth, respectively. Senior Steve Guerrini, who was not in the team's top seven this year, placed fourth for the Deacons and 19th overall.

Because of successes like these, Goodridge remains confident in his team. "I still think this team has the potential and the ability to qualify for nationals," Goodridge said. "This meet is either a gut check time for us or a test of character. I still believe that this team is fit enough and talented enough that they can qualify for the NCAAs."



Sophomore Nolan Swanson and junior Jon Russell sandwich the Wolfpack Saturday at the ACC Championships. The State runners broke away and took the first four spots.

Women turn in disappointing team effort for home crowd

By ADAM ROTHSCHILD
OLD GOLD AND BLACK REPORTER

Like the Cleveland Indians, the women's cross country team was the class of its league this season.

And like the Indians, they came in second when the title was on the line.

The Demon Deacons placed second to champion N.C. State at the ACC Cross Country Championships held Saturday at Water Tower Field.

North Carolina finished third, followed by Virginia, Georgia Tech, Clemson, Duke, Maryland and Florida State.

UNC junior Karen Godlock won her second consecutive ACC individual crown with a time of 17:23.

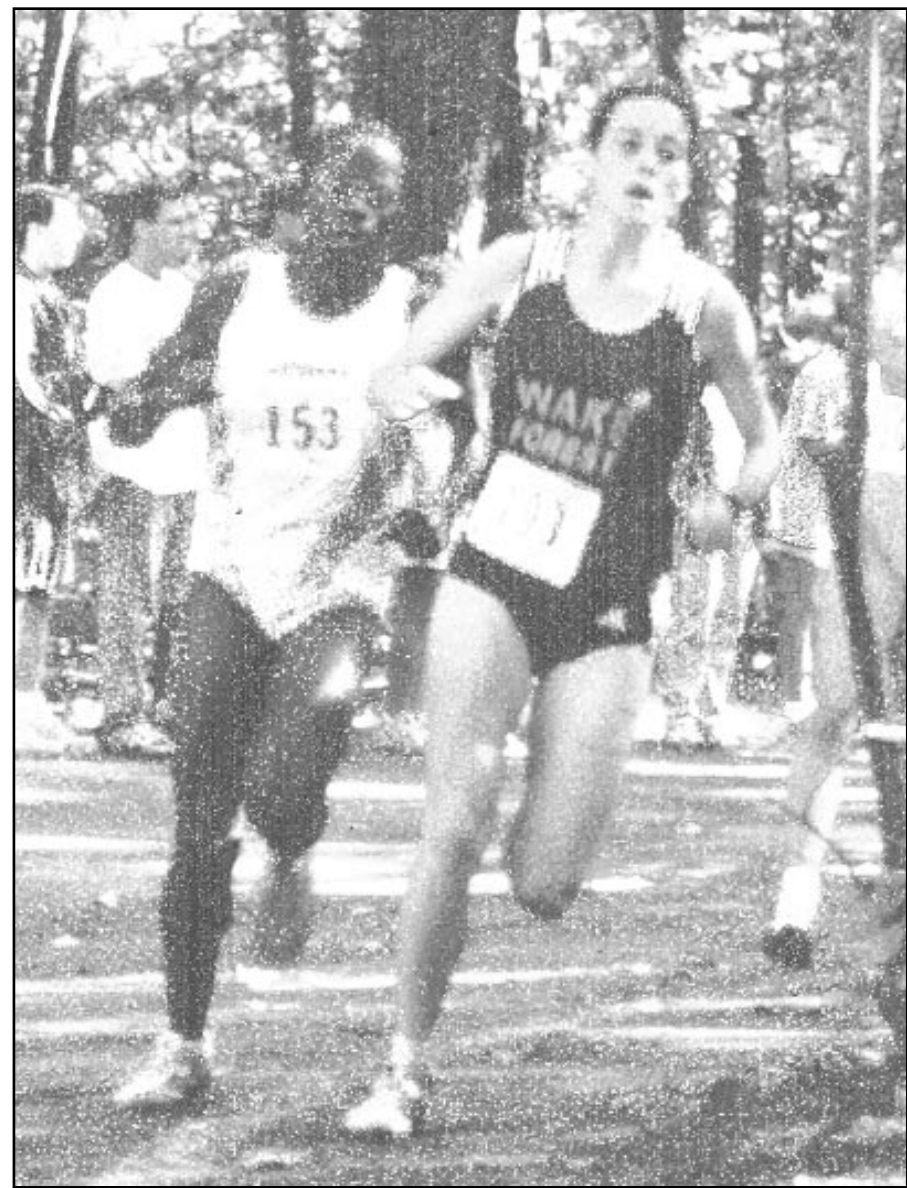
Expected to win their first championship in school history without much competition, the Deacons instead gave their worst showing of the season in front of their home fans.

The team's disappointment came in spite of another outstanding performance by the senior duo of Nicole Stevenson and Cindy Moreshead. Their second and third place finishes overall earned them All-ACC honors.

"Individually, Nicole Stevenson and Cindy Moreshead ran superb, put-it-on-the-line competitive races," Head Coach Francie Goodridge said. "Nicole and the 1994 defending champion from UNC, Karen Godlock, duelled for first for the entire race, while Cindy and the 1993 champion from N.C. State (junior Kristen Hall) duelled in the third spot."

Unfortunately for the Deacons, Stevenson and Moreshead did not receive the support from their teammates that they had enjoyed all season. N.C. State placed four runners between the home team's second and third runners, and three more between their third and fourth finishers.

"(Junior) Chrissy Person, normally running in our fourth or fifth positions, took over in the third position, placing 13th overall, when our usual number three runner and number four runner went out the back door, running far below the level they've achieved all season," Goodridge said. "Liz Moore, a freshman, then had to take up the fourth team position, placing 23rd."



Senior Nicole Stevenson duels with Carolina's Karen Godlock at the ACC Championships Saturday. Godlock passed Stevenson to take first in the race.

Goodridge was clearly demoralized by Saturday's debacle.

"The overall team performance, in spite of beating seven of the nine ACC teams, was far below the previous performances of the season. This was a crushing disappointment, because we could have won this championship. The team ended up defeating itself and handing it to N.C. State."

"Now it is up to this team to regroup, put it on the line, and attack the regional championship in two weeks with everything they've got."

The NCAA District 3 meet will be held Nov. 11 at Furman University in Greenville, S.C. The top three teams in the district will qualify for the NCAA National Championship meet, held Nov. 20 in Ames, Iowa.

Men's tennis takes two titles at South Carolina

By SCOTT PLUMRIDGE
OLD GOLD AND BLACK REPORTER

The men's tennis team continued its winning ways this weekend at the South Carolina Invitational. Following their previous successes this fall, the team claimed yet another pair of titles.

Instrumental components to this year's resurgence have been freshman Daniel Merkert and senior Michael Stump. In singles, Merkert has surfaced as a dominant force for the Deacons, while Stump has delivered solid play in both singles and doubles.

Both players participated in singles competition this weekend before teaming up in doubles. After winning his flight at the Carolina Classic, it appeared that Merkert was on a roll. Contrary to suggestion, Merkert was unable to repeat the performance from his last tournament.

The first two rounds of play posed little challenge to Merkert as he disposed of both opponents in straight sets. However, heat and fatigue plagued the freshman in his match against Jonas

Elmblad of VCU, forcing Merkert to cede the match by default. Stump struggled in his A-1 singles flight as well. Despite a first-round win, Stump advanced no further.

Lackluster singles results did not seem to impede on Merkert and Stump's doubles performance. The duo, comprised of arguably the two most talented players on the squad, is unique in that both members hail from Germany. The rich wealth of talent in addition to the native bond seem to be the framework for a dominant duo.

Merkert and Stump gave us a taste of their play as a unit by dominating in their first tournament together. Essentially, the Deutschland duo was challenged only once in its A-1 doubles bracket. In a tight match against Parker and Hudson of the College of Charleston, the combo had to win a tie-breaker to get the win, 9-8 (1).

Head Coach Ian Crookenden was pleased and reassured by the performance. "Playing against tough regional opponents, it shows that everybody is right on track," Crookenden said.

Not to be out-done by the doubles champion-

ship, freshman Kunal Premnarayer was spectacular in winning the C singles flight. In just his first tournament as a Deacon, Premnarayer bolted through the field with virtually no challenge.

Before his finals match, Premnarayer won his five matches, yielding few games and no sets to his opponents. In the finals, Premnarayer followed suit by slamming Matt Czurchy from the College of Charleston, 6-2, 6-2. "Kunal played some good, solid tennis," Crookenden said.

Also impressive for the Deacons was junior Josh Osswald. Osswald, who competed in the A-2 singles flight, won his first two matches in straight sets. His progress was slowed a bit in his third match by Sven Kohler of Duke. Osswald yielded the first set to Kohler before winning the second set. The third set belonged to Osswald as he clinched the match, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2. Osswald ran out of steam in his next match, losing 6-0, 6-2.

In sum, the squad's strong showing signifies a promising spring season. "Undoubtedly, we are pleased," Crookenden said. "It is a good indicator that everybody is right on track."

LaRue breaks records in football loss to Duke

By KAREN HILLENBRAND
SPORTS EDITOR

DURHAM — The Demon Deacon football team laid claim to the ACC cellar Saturday with a 42-26 loss to the Duke Blue Devils.

The only savior to the dismal game was a record-setting performance by senior quarterback Rusty LaRue. He set five new NCAA records, three ACC records and five team records.

Four of the NCAA records came solely in the second half. He also set a NCAA record for passing completions (55) and an ACC record for attempts (78). LaRue passed for 478 yards and four touchdowns, while being intercepted three times.

"I think I played well, but obviously the three interceptions hurt," LaRue said. "(The records are) great, it's my senior year, and you always

like to leave your mark. But I wish it could've been a game we'd won. Obviously I'd trade any of them for a win. It's just a thrill for me to be in the record book."

"It was just an excellent performance," Head Coach Jim Caldwell said.

Unfortunately, LaRue's performance was unable to overshadow the Deacons' performance as a team. In the first three and a half minutes of the game there were three turnovers (two by the Deacons) between both teams.

However, the Blue Devils woke up, and with seven minutes remaining in the first quarter, Duke's Laymar Marshall completed a 68-yard drive with a one-yard touchdown run to put the Devils on the board. The touchdown was one of three for Marshall on the day.

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Women's soccer wins first ACC contest ever over Florida State

By ANDREW TASKA
OLD GOLD AND BLACK REPORTER

The women's soccer team put the finishing touches on its regular season by chalking up three well-deserved victories during the week, including the first ACC victory in the program's short two-year history.

The Demon Deacons, who were ranked 10th in Soccer America's Southeast Regional Rankings for the second straight week, took South Carolina by storm this weekend, seizing back-to-back victories over Wofford 6-0 and Furman 1-0. Monday, the Deacons capped off regular season play with their first ever ACC win, defeating Florida State, 3-1.

The Demon Deacons made mincemeat of the Wofford Terriers early in the first half of the contest, nabbing an early two goal lead. Led by sophomore Cheryl Zimmermann and freshman Julie Scott, the Demon Deacon offense was more aggressive than ever, and it made quick work of Wofford's somewhat lackadaisical defenders. Zimmermann and Scott picked up two goals apiece during the contest, and Scott dished out two assists as

well before the day was over.

Freshmen Andrea Pelletier and Norine Fernbach added second-half goals for the Deacons. Fernbach has made herself the squad's top goal-scoring threat during the second half of the season. Fernbach tallied up a goal and an assist during the matchup and guided her team to an impressive six goal shut-out victory.

Fernbach was at the top of her game again Saturday as she helped the Deacons topple Furman 1-0. With the help of sophomore Kate Crowley, Fernbach drove in the victors' only goal late in the first half.

As with a number of the team's games this season, the final score was not representative of how well the Deacons really played. They controlled the ball from the very beginning, outshooting Furman 20-6. Thanks to the phenomenal skills of Furman goalie Sarah Kesler, the Paladins managed to keep the score relatively close.

However, the most rewarding victory of



Freshman Julie Scott fires off a pass against FSU.

the season was unquestionably Monday's win over Florida State. The Deacons reached yet

another milestone in their short history. To sophomore Alli Costa, the win was extraordinarily meaningful. Costa has been a leader on the field for the Deacons ever since the program first kicked off last year and had been hoping for a conference victory for quite some time.

"The win over Florida State was a big step for our team and it meant a great deal, especially to the sophomores who have been waiting for an ACC win since last year," Costa said.

Costa started for the Deacons against FSU and helped her team get off to an early lead during the first half. Freshman Rachel Thomas headed in the first goal for the Deacons at the 6:23 mark off a corner kick from Zimmerman. Thomas added another goal during the second half, as did freshmen Lisa Olinyk and Scott.

Florida State drove in its only goal with just three minutes left in the game when Lauren Lynch beat sophomore Deacon goalkeeper Sari Rose to the ball and then

scored on an empty goal.

The Demon Deacons will head off to Maryland this weekend where they will be the No. 7 seed in this year's ACC Tournament. Monday's win over FSU means that the Deacons will square off against No. 2 seed N.C. State.

Costa said that she is very optimistic about how her team will fare in the upcoming tournament.

"We match up really well with N.C. State," she said. "The score of our last game against them doesn't say anything about how close the game really was. If we play hard, I definitely think we can win."

Inconsistency has been a big problem for the Demon Deacons so far this year, which is only to be expected from such an inexperienced team. With the ACC Tournament close at hand, the roles of veteran leaders like Costa and Zimmerman have become essential to the team's success.

While the women's soccer program may have already passed several milestones this season, its biggest challenge is still ahead, lurking in College Park, Md.