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Field hockey exits ACC Tourney in first-round loss to Duke

By KAREN HILLENBRAND
SPORTS EDITOR

The field hockey team ended its season in disappointing fashion this weekend with a first-round loss to Duke in the ACC Tournament. The loss was especially unexpected because the Deacons had bested Duke in their two previous meetings this season.

The Demon Deacons lost a 1-0 lead late in the second half of the game and lost in overtime, 2-1 on a goal by Blue Devil Tamara Gehris.

After such a successful season for the Deacons with a win over then top-ranked James Madison (Sept. 3) and a peak at No. 7 in the national rankings, the loss was a somewhat anticlimactic end to the season for the team.

"We were all expecting to go on against North Carolina (in the semi-finals)," junior back Kate McLane said. "We knew we could beat Duke."

The Deacons came out strong in the first half and scored their only goal with 8:57 remaining in the first half. Junior Amy Shenasky converted on a penalty corner to make the score 1-0.

However, the second half belonged to the Blue Devils, and the Deacons were back on their heels for the remainder of the game. But they held strong until 3:42 to go in the contest when Melissa Panasci beat junior Deacon goalkeeper on a penalty stroke to tie the game 1-1.

The Deacons had given up several defensive penalty corners before that, and one of them proved costly when Panasci drew a stroke when a Deacon player illegally stopped her drive from going into the cage.

"The minute the whistle blew at the beginning of the second half we sat back and let them dominate," McLane said. "Our team looked really tired in overtime, and Duke is strong. They got a breakaway two-on-one and scored."

That breakaway goal in sudden death seven-on-seven

overtime ended the Deacons' season. By losing to the No. 5 seed in the tournament, the Deacons (the No. 4 seed) were unable to secure one of 12 spots in the upcoming NCAA Tournament.

They finish the season 11-7, 2-6 ACC, and as the 14th-ranked team in the country. One more big win for the Demon Deacons most likely would have given them a tournament berth.

However, McLane felt that despite the disappointing end to the season, it was still a success.

"I think we lived up to our expectations," she said. "Ending up No. 14 proves that. I don't want our end of the season losses to ruin what we did earlier in the season."

"It was really disappointing, though, because we were so close to getting a bid."

Finishing the season ranked No. 14 is not bad, considering that the Deacons were ranked all season long. This was a definite improvement over last year, when the

Deacons' only appearance in the national rankings was on the last week of the season, at No. 20.

The Deacons also picked up some individual honors the end of this season. Junior Mary Moore was named to the ACC All-Tournament Team, and freshman forward Kelly Simon was the only Deacon to make this year's All-ACC team.

After beating the Deacons, Duke advanced to the semi-finals of the ACCs to face North Carolina. The Tar Heels won that matchup to advance to the finals, where they faced Maryland. The Terrapins defeated Virginia in the other semi-final game. In the championship the Tar Heels took the title 3-2 in overtime to remain undefeated on the season at 21-0.

This weekend the first two rounds of the national championships will take place. The four teams remaining after that will come to Winston-Salem Nov. 18-19 to decide the national title at Campus Stadium.

LaRue's 501 yards wasted in 24-23 loss

By MICKEY KRAYNYAK
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

The past two weeks, senior Rusty LaRue has developed into one of the premier passers in the NCAA.

Unfortunately for the quarterback, his recordbook-altering performances in the last two games have not been accompanied by Demon Deacon wins.

Saturday, LaRue again threw unbelievably, but again, for naught.

Against the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets, LaRue was the key to an effective no-huddle offense, as he completed 41-of-65 passes for 501 yards. However, when the dust had settled the Deacons were again dealt a conference loss as Tech left Winston-Salem with a 24-23 victory.

"It's tough," LaRue said after the game. "I think as a team, we're trying everything to win. Sometimes it seems like it's not in the cards."

In contrast to the Deacons' pass-happy ways, the Yellow Jackets achieved much of their success on the ground. The visiting team, in its first possession of the game, ran on 11 of the drive's 14 plays and was able to grind its way through the Deacon defense before quarterback Donnie Davis took the ball in for a 7-0 Tech lead. The visitors finished with 158 yards on the ground.

The Yellow Jacket lead lasted until the 10:42 mark of the second quarter, when LaRue connected with sophomore wideout Darrell Braswell on a 14-yard touchdown pass that evened the game at 7-7.

The touchdown pass to Braswell was possible because of a big catch-and-run two plays earlier by freshman receiver Desmond Clark, which exposed what proved to be a Yellow Jacket weakness the entire game. After making a catch underneath, Clark embarrassed several Tech linebackers as he ran for a gain of 39 yards to the Yellow Jacket 14.

Head Coach Jim Caldwell noted the extra yardage his receivers were able to rack up against the Yellow Jackets.

"The kids did a nice job of fighting with extra effort all game long," Caldwell said.

On their next possession, the Demon Deacons took their first lead of the contest when LaRue, on his 14th consecutive pass, hit junior running back John Lewis out of the backfield, and, again thanks to shoddy tackling by the middle of the Georgia Tech defense, Lewis went for 63 yards down the right sideline for a Demon Deacon touchdown.

The Deacons failed on their subsequent attempt for a two-point conversion, and after a later Deacon field goal, the teams went to the locker room with the home team leading 16-7.



Nicholas Zachos

Sophomore running back Herman Lewis runs up the open field, untouched by the Yellow Jacket defense, Saturday.

Upon returning to the field for the second half, the teams wasted little time lighting up the scoreboard, as they combined to score on three of the first four possessions of the third quarter.

After the Yellow Jackets cut the Demon Deacon lead to two points with a touchdown on their opening drive and then took a 17-16 lead with a 21-yard field goal, the Demon Deacons roared back.

On the arm of LaRue, who captained a drive consisting of eight straight pass completions and no rushing plays, the Demon Deacons marched from their own 36 yard-line to score on a 22-yard pass to sophomore running back Herman Lewis.

The touchdown was the Deacons' third on the day, and, characteristic of the balanced receiving effort, was tallied by the third of three different players.

In all, LaRue's performance was a study in pass distribution, as the Demon Deacon signal-caller connected with 10 different receivers during his record-setting afternoon.

However, despite their quarterback's prolific performance, the Demon Deacons were unable to preserve their lead in the contest because LaRue was intercepted in his own territory by Yellow Jacket Nick Ferguson.

Ferguson returned the ball to the Demon Deacon 23 yard-line. The turnover was converted into a Yellow Jacket touchdown,

and the visitors took a 24-23 lead.

Though the Demon Deacons were subsequently able on the final drive of the game to move the ball from their own 22 yard-line to the Georgia Tech 30, junior kicker Bill Hollows was unable to convert on a fourth-and-one, 47-yard field goal with 32 seconds remaining in the game, and the Demon Deacons fell to 1-9 on the season and winless in the ACC.

"It's tough," Caldwell said of the loss.

"The kids played well."

"They played hard," he said. "We almost played a complete game. For us, that's progress."

The Deacons have this week off before closing out their season Nov. 18 against N.C. State.

Women's soccer bows out early in ACC Tourney

By ANDREW TASKA
OLD GOLD AND BLACK REPORTER

The women's soccer team watched its second season come to a conclusion last Thursday as it was knocked out of the ACC Tournament in the first round by No. 2 seed N.C. State, 3-1.

The Demon Deacons jogged onto the soggy astro-turf hoping to pick up their first post-season win in program history Thursday afternoon in College Park, Md. And, after a phenomenal first half, it seemed like the Deacons just might pull it off.

Both teams got off to a quick start during the opening minutes, each making several legitimate strikes on goal. The Deacon defense looked tough throughout the half, holding the Wolfpack to only four shots, none of which escaped the clutches of sophomore Deacon goalie Sari Rose. However, with just two minutes left in the half, Wolfpack forward Jane Watson managed to send a header between the posts to put the Wolfpack in front 1-0.

The Deacons were a little tentative to start the second half, giving up their second goal during the first three minutes. Sophomore team-leader Cheryl Zimmermann helped to build her teammates confidence a few minutes later by rocketing in a direct kick from the 18-yard line. To the dismay of Head Coach Chris Turner, the Demon Deacons just could not seem to convert for the remainder of the half, missing on four excellent goal attempts.

The Wolfpack offense, on the other hand, did not waste any time, as Stephanie Sanders drove in the insurance winning goal, her second of the game, only minutes later.

Thursday's loss to N.C. State marked the end of a ground-breaking season for the women's soccer program. The Deacons finished up with a sound 9-9-3 overall record while playing a rigorous schedule. This year's squad passed a number of milestones, including its first win over a nationally ranked opponent by beating No. 19 Rutgers Oct. 6, and it posted its first ever ACC victory over FSU Oct. 30. Additionally, the Demon Deacons were ranked No. 10 in the Southeast Region by Soccer America for two consecutive weeks during the regular season.

The future looks bright for the Deacons next year, as they will lose only one senior from the roster, Maura Carney, and will return a host of freshmen. Among next year's most promising players are freshmen Julie Scott, who led the team in scoring this season with eight goals and five assists, Norine Fernbach, Lisa Olinyk and veteran sophomore Cheryl Zimmermann. The Deacons' arsenal will make them a force to be reckoned with, and if all goes well next year promises to be filled with other milestones for the women's soccer program.

Men's soccer edged by Clemson Tigers in final regular season contest, 1-0

By ROBERT NEELY
OLD GOLD AND BLACK REPORTER

The men's soccer team closed out the regular season with a 1-0 loss at Clemson Saturday.

Clemson's Imad Baba scored 6:16 into the second half to give the Tigers the win.

"It was the first goal in a while that the other team earned," Demon Deacon Head Coach Jay Vidovich said. "It was a good game from every aspect. Both head coaches were satisfied with the play. It was a very organized game."

The Demon Deacons finish the regular season with an 11-7-1 record and a 2-4 mark in the ACC.

The Demon Deacons now advance to the ACC Tournament, where they will face the host Duke Blue Devils at 8 p.m. Thursday night in Durham.

"It's a must-win game every which way," Vidovich said. "It's a great opportunity for Wake Forest. We feel confident we can beat Duke."

The Deacons fell to the Blue Devils 4-0 Oct. 25 at Polo Field, but were hobbled in the game by injuries. Duke led 1-0 with 13 minutes remaining before striking for two goals in the next minute.

"The guys could be scared of Duke because they beat us 4-0, or they could be ticked off, or they might not even be thinking about it," Vidovich said. "But walking off the field after that game, there was not one guy on the team that didn't feel that they had given away an opportunity to win a game."

The Deacons, ranked No. 8 in the South Region, must win to have any chance at advancing to the NCAA Tournament. Traditionally, two to six teams have been taken out of the South Region.

"When they do the tournament seeding, I believe we will come up ahead of some of the teams above us," Vidovich said.

Perhaps the most daunting foe for the Demon Deacons recently has been injuries. Against Clemson, two key players returned. Junior Josh Timbers started the game after being held to more limited action in the pre-

vious game against North Carolina.

Freshman Trent Lind, the Deacons' leading scorer with six goals, returned to see action from a sprained ankle suffered against the Tar Heels.

Also, junior John Michael Hayes, who missed the Tar Heel match due to a concussion, returned in a reserve role against the Tigers.

Vidovich said he believes that sophomore Iljia Zlatar, who has missed the last six matches due to a severely sprained ankle, will return for the ACC Tournament.

Freshman Serge Daniv, the Deacons' second-leading scorer with five goals and leading assist man with seven, is still highly questionable for weekend action.

If the Deacons beat the Blue Devils, they will face four-time defending national champion Virginia in the semifinals Friday night. Virginia has a first-round bye due to their regular season league title.

The semifinals and finals of the tournament will be televised on HTS. The championship



Thomas Young

Sophomore midfielder Raymond Soriano leaps for the ball against Duke Oct. 25.