

Men's tennis sends trio to event

By Scott Plumridge
Old Gold and Black Reporter

Each year, the Rolex Region 2 Qualifier concludes the men's tennis fall season. The tournament, held in Chapel Hill, is a prestigious event which gathers together the top players from throughout the region.

The Demon Deacon men's tennis team sent three representatives to the tournament this year. Due to strong performances in the fall season, freshman Daniel Merkert, junior Josh Osswald and senior Michael Stump were invited to participate. Each of the Deacons played in singles competition, and Merkert and Stump combined to form a doubles pair.

For the second tournament in a row, the best performance came from the duo of Merkert and Stump. In advancing to the finals of the doubles bracket, the combination established themselves as legitimate doubles contenders.

Along the way, Merkert and Stump defeated DeWing and Rowe of James Madison as well as Britt and Tedesco of North Carolina. Their greatest triumph came against the tournament's No. 1 seed and No. 2 nationally ranked combo from Duke, Ayers and Chess. Merkert and Stump edged the highly-ranked duo, 7-6, 7-6.

The finals demanded more of the Demon Deacon duo than they could muster. "Both Daniel and Michael had a long day going into the match," Head Coach Ian Crookenden said. "We were just lacking a bit of adrenaline." As

a result, Merkert and Stump faltered, 6-4, 7-6, to Li and Springlemayer of Clemson.

Individually, Merkert and Stump both made it to the quarterfinals of the singles competition. Merkert was the No. 2 seed in his bracket. In evaluating the singles performances, Crookenden was impressed by the parity within the region.

"It is indicative of the strength of our region that both the No. 1 and 3 seeds were gone after the first day," he said.

Also a victim to the regional parity was Osswald, who lost in the first round. Playing against Duke's highly-touted freshman Wayne Goetz, Osswald did not manage to advance to the next round.

Crookenden also commented on Merkert's outstanding fall season and his future as a Demon Deacon. "Undoubtedly, he is going to become one of the highest-ranked players in Wake Forest history," he said. Crookenden said he believes that Merkert will achieve a national ranking in the upcoming poll.

The men's tennis team has shown vast improvement this fall season. The emergence of Merkert, in addition to the strong nucleus of players like Osswald and Stump, should make the Demon Deacons a competitive team this coming spring season.

Crookenden is especially optimistic about the Deacons' prospects for the regular season. "We are looking to have an outstanding spring," he said.

Field hockey championships arrive

Karen Hillenbrand
From The Pressbox

I'm sure many of you are not aware that an NCAA National Championship is being held at Wake Forest this weekend. In fact, Campus Stadium will be the site of the NCAA field hockey Final Four.

This is a great opportunity for all Demon Deacon sports fans to see the best competition in collegiate field hockey. I might be biased, but I enjoy watching a field hockey game any day of the year over a Demon Deacon football game.

I want to urge you to come out and watch the semifinals Saturday and the Championship game Sunday.

Two ACC teams will be competing in the event, along with last year's national champion, James Madison. Incidentally, the Demon Deacon field hockey team defeated James Madison earlier this year in overtime.

The fourth-ranked Dukes will take on the undefeated and No. 1 ranked North Carolina Tar Heels in the first semi-final Saturday at noon, followed by the other semi-final matchup between No. 3 Maryland and No. 5 Northeastern at 2:45 p.m. The winners of each game will meet at 1 p.m. Sunday to decide the NCAA championship.

You can purchase tickets at Campus Stadium Saturday and Sunday or contact the Wake Forest Ticket Office at Ext. 5614 for advance tickets.

Right about now, most of you are say-

ing, "Why should I care about field hockey? I don't understand that game anyway. There's too many whistles."

Well, let me attempt to explain some of



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WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA

the basic rules of the game, so that your enjoyment as a fan can be increased.

■ Players can only touch the ball with the flat side of their sticks.

■ Players are not allowed to kick the ball, or touch it with any other part of their bodies.

■ The ball is not allowed to be raised off

the ground on a drive hit. On a scoop or a flick hit, the ball can only be raised in the air if no player near the play is in danger of being hit with it.

■ Obstruction is the most difficult rule to understand. The gist of it is that no player can impede an opposing player's progress toward the ball by being physically in her way.

■ When these penalties occur, the opposing team is awarded a free hit.

■ When these penalties occur against the defense inside the opponents' offensive scoring circle, the opposing team is awarded a penalty corner.

■ When these penalties occur against the offensive team inside their own offensive scoring circle, the defense is awarded a free hit going out of the circle.

■ Unlike ice hockey, the goalie in field hockey is not allowed to stop the ball dead or cover it up with her body. If she does this, a penalty stroke is awarded. A player on the opposing team gets an unimpeded free chance to score on the goalie from 10 yards out.

I hope that you will take some time out of your weekend to come see the field hockey championships.

This is a great opportunity for our university to be showcased, and if there is a low turnout, we might never see a national championship at our university again.

SCOREBOARD

Men's Soccer

ACC Standings

Team	Conf.			Overall		
	W	L	T	W	L	T
Virginia	4	0	2	18	0	2
Maryland	4	1	1	12	6	1
Clemson	4	2	0	15	5	1
Duke	3	2	1	12	6	1
Wake Forest	2	4	0	11	8	1
N.C. State	1	4	1	8	7	3
North Carolina	0	5	1	11	8	1

Football

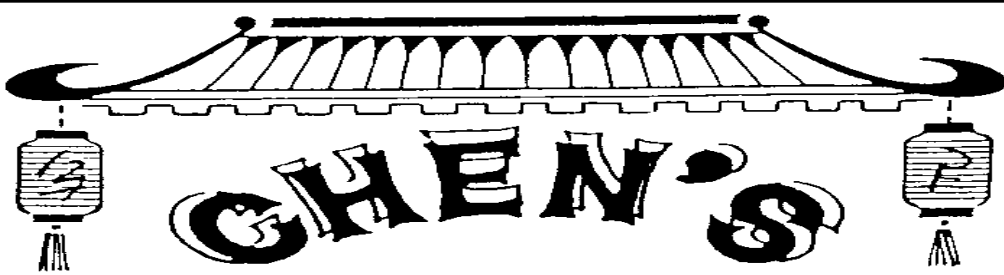
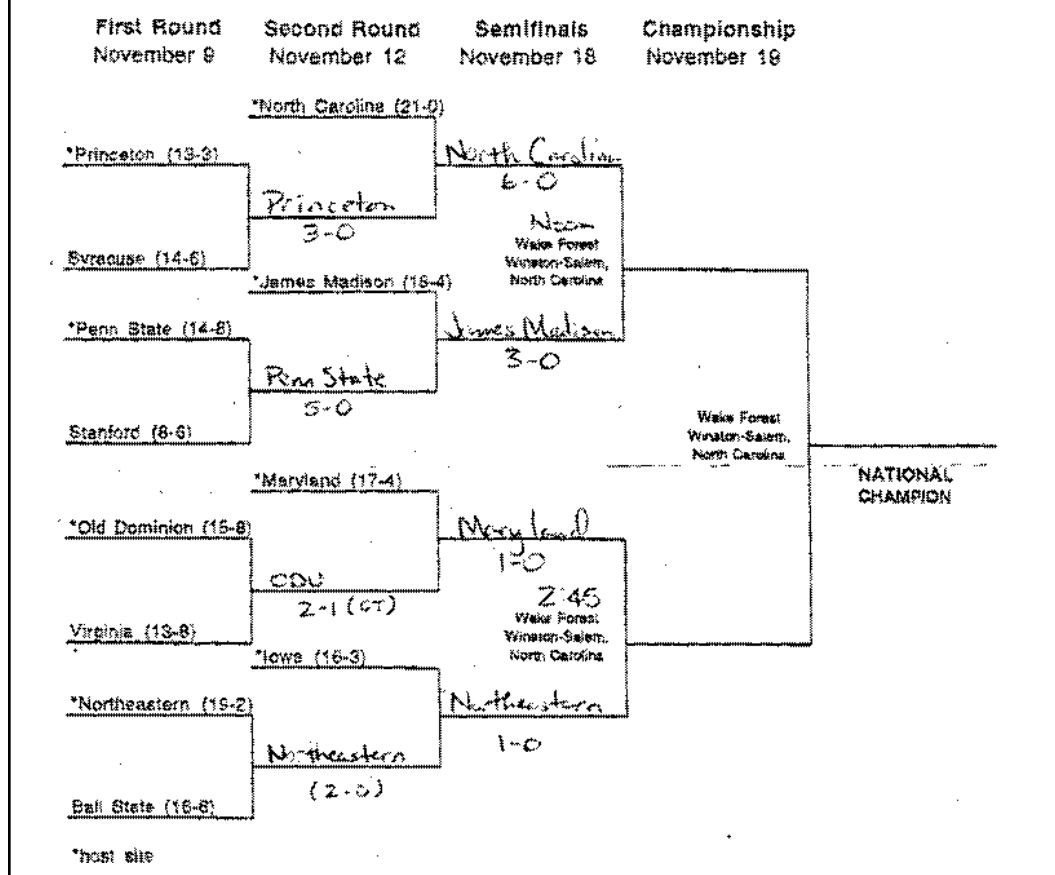
ACC Standings

Team	Conf.			Overall		
	W	L	T	W	L	T
Virginia	7	1	0	8	3	0

Florida State	6	1	0	8	1	0
Clemson	6	2	0	7	3	0
Georgia Tech	5	3	0	6	4	0
Maryland	4	3	0	6	4	0
North Carolina	2	4	0	4	5	0
N.C. State	1	5	0	2	7	0
Duke	1	6	0	3	7	0
Wake Forest	0	7	0	1	9	0

This Week

Saturday: Football vs. N.C. State, 1 p.m., Groves Stadium
Men's Basketball vs. Charlotte Royals (exhibition), after football game, Joel Coliseum
Sunday: Women's Basketball vs. Hungarian Team (exhibition), 2 p.m., Joel Coliseum
Monday: Men's Cross Country at NCAA Championships, Ames, Iowa



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