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Deacon frontcourt absent in 60-46 loss to UMass

By STEVE WELGOSS
SPORTS COPY EDITOR

In a game with this much hype, when the opponents are so evenly matched, the winner is often determined not by talent but by desire. In this case, the Massachusetts Minutemen simply wanted it more and showed it with a 60-46 win over the Deacons in Amherst, Mass. last night. The much-ballyhooed matchup between junior centers Tim Duncan of

the Deacons (3-1) and Marcus Camby of Massachusetts (4-0) was a dud as both struggled mightily with their offensive games. The difference was that Camby's shots fell when crunch time rolled around while Duncan's were forced and off the mark.

Duncan finished with nine points on four-of-18 shooting, but this loss was primarily a team effort. The offense sputtered in pathetic fashion, looking like they did not know what to do without a dominant performance from their big man inside.

Without an incredible 9-0 spurt with three treys by senior Rusty LaRue to close the first half, it would not have even been a contest. The run cut a 12 point UMass lead to three at the intermission, but the Minutemen came right back out and reasserted themselves in the final 20 minutes.

Both teams looked terse and sloppy at the outset, indicating the intense nature of the contest. The Deacons had three turnovers while Mass ran out to a 7-2 lead early, but they eventually managed to settle down and work their way back into the flow.

Playing a slow and controlled half-court offense, the Deacons man-

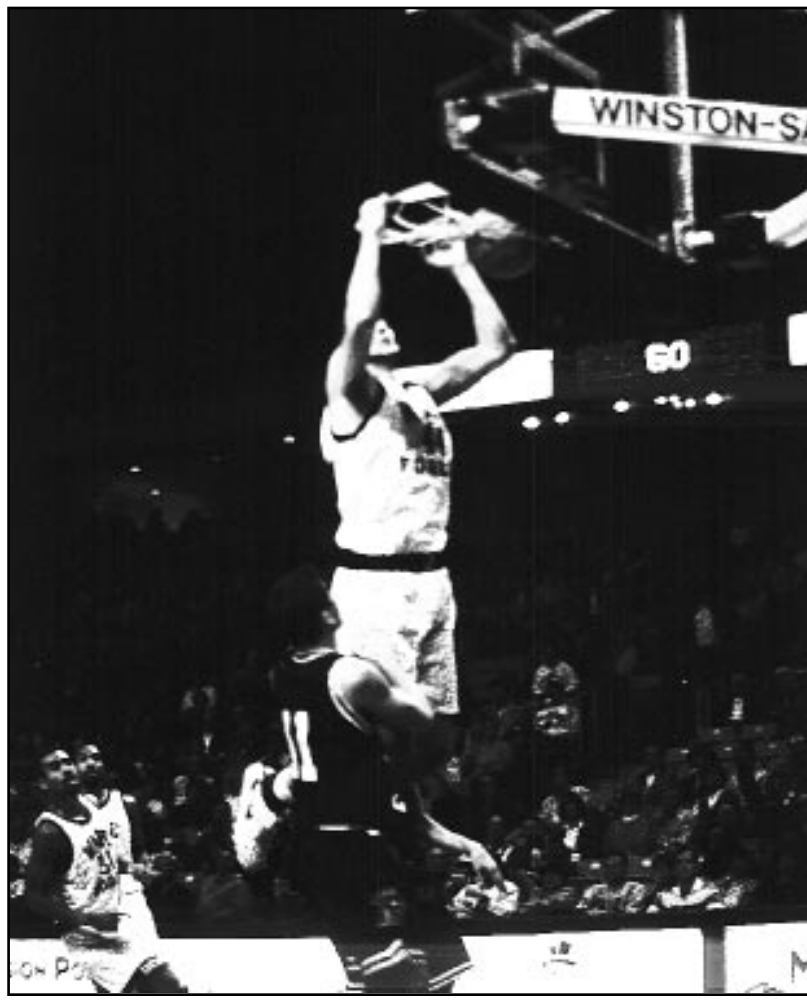
aged to chip away at the lead until taking a one-point edge at 17-16. However, it was the only margin the Deacons could muster as the explosive Minutemen ran off a 10-1 outburst to give themselves some breathing room.

Leading the way was the All-American Camby, who, despite hitting only six-of-19 shots, made all the big ones en route to a 17 point night. Despite the threatening inside presence of Duncan altering many of his shots, Duncan simply had no answer for Camby's sweet fall-away jump shots that always went in when they were most needed.

Early on it was the supporting cast doing all the scoring for both teams, with sophomore Tony Rutland knocking down the threes for the Deacons while UMass' Donta Bright chimed in with a flurry of big baskets of his own. Rutland had 12 points at the half and finished the night with 15, while Bright took the pressure off of Camby with a game-high 22 of his own.

The Deacons played their usual outstanding defense, limiting the Minutemen to just 36 percent shooting in the first half and 39.6 percent for the game. However, the Deacon offense just was not up to the challenge as they shot a miserable 25 percent in the second half and 30 percent for the game. The 46 points for the Deacons was their lowest total since a 59-45 loss to Virginia Feb. 25, 1987.

While Duncan's offense took the night off, he showed why he will be National Defensive Player of the Year



Jordan Wong

Peral could not find the net last night like he did against Lehigh Saturday.

blocked with 12 rebounds and four blocked shots. Duncan is now averaging 13.3 rebounds and 4.0 blocks per game.

The lack of depth for both these squads showed in the final statistics, with the Minutemen getting zero points in 22 minutes from their bench

while the Demon Deacons received just two points in 36 minutes from theirs.

This proved to be particularly painful for the Deacons as junior Ricky Peral shut down early and often with a zero-point, two-turnover, two-rebound and four-foul night. Peral looked lost on the floor, as did junior Sean Allen at times. Defensively, Allen was strong once again but was unable to score a single point in his 25 minutes of action.

The UMass starting frontcourt simply outthusted and outplayed their Demon Deacon counterparts, outscoring them as well to the tune of a 44-9 whipping. LaRue and Rutland helped to pick up the slack with their scoring, with LaRue finally finding his groove.

He hit seven of his 10 shots for a team-high and career-high 20 points, while indicating that he has finally relocated his touch from downtown. Four of his six threes found their mark, keeping the Deacons in the game until the final minutes.

One other aspect of the Deacons' game that is usually steady was their free throw shooting, but this, too, abandoned them. Hitting a paltry eight of 15 free throw shots, their woes at the charity stripe prevented them from getting close repeatedly throughout the game.

Losing a road game to the third-ranked team in the country should not devastate the Deacons, and they can look to rebound against a shaky Florida squad Saturday, before taking a week off for finals.



Jordan Wong

Duncan fends off three Lehigh defenders.

Women light it up against UNC-G, score 97 points in victory

By MICKEY KRAYNAK
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

The Demon Deacon women's basketball team traveled Interstate 40 last night and promptly did their best to blow out the Greensboro Coliseum scoreboard, as they shot 56.8 percent from the floor in beating UNC-Greensboro 97-55.

All five Demon Deacon starters finished the game in double figures, led by junior center Tracy Connor's 18 points on nine-for-12 shooting. Eleven Deacons notched baskets in the contest.

The visiting team did not waste much time in assuming command of the game, as the Deacons shot an impressive 23-for-34 in the game's first 20 minutes.

While the Spartans shot a respectable 41.7 percent from the floor in the first half (on 10-for-24 shooting), they were unable to answer the Deacons' offensive barrage and went to the locker room trailing their guests 50-27.

The only drama in the second half was provided by the Deacons' spirited drive toward the century mark on the scoreboard. After torching the Spartans from the floor in the first half, the Deacons' inside shooting cooled off substantially, as they shot 19-for-40 in the second half (47.5 percent).



Connor

However, UNC-G was unable to gain ground after halftime thanks largely to the Deacons' torrid shooting from behind the three point line. The visiting team connected on an incredible six-of-seven treys in the game's final 20 minutes.

In a floundering attempt to keep pace with their guests, the Spartans tossed up five three-point attempts in the second half but connected on none of them.

Things did not get much better for the Spartans under the basket, as Connor (who finished with two blocks and five rebounds in 25 minutes) and company held the Spartans to a lifeless nine-for-27 (33.3 percent) shooting from the floor in the second half.

None of the Spartans was able to notch as many points as any of the Deacons' starting

five. The home team was paced by forward Julie Moore and guard Samantha Ferguson, who both finished with 10 points.

The Deacons, meanwhile, did their best to divide the game's spoils evenly on the stat sheet. In addition to Connor's 18 points, starting guard freshman Heidi Coleman finished with 17 tallies, thanks largely to four-for-five shooting from behind the arc.

Coleman was not the only Deacon shooting flamboyantly from three point range, however, as her backcourt mate senior Gretchen

Hollifield buried four-of-seven treys and finished with 16 points. Hollifield also led everyone with 12 assists.

The Deacons received solid play from both of their starting forwards as well, as juniors Lindsay Seawright and RaeAnna Mulholland finished with 12 points apiece on a combined 12-for-23 shooting.

Mulholland also pulled down 10 rebounds in the game, while Seawright tallied five boards for the Deacons. Overall, the Demon Deacons out-rebounded UNC-Greensboro 45 to 28.

The win moved the Deacons' record to 3-3 on the season and dropped UNC-Greensboro to 1-3. The Deacons are off for finals week and will next see action against UNC-Asheville Dec. 19.



Coleman

Demon Deacons split contests at Copper Bowl tournament

By KAREN HILLENBRAND
SPORTS EDITOR

After a one point overtime win against San Francisco Friday, the women's basketball team lost in the finals of the Copper Bowl Classic to Arizona, 63-47.

In a story that has become customary for the Deacons so far in the early season, the team lost a big lead in the second half in the championship game of the Tucson, Ariz. tournament Sunday. The Deacons were up 30-18 at the break after playing an aggressive and confident half. The Deacon defense held the Wildcats to only eight points in the first 15 minutes.

However, it was a completely different game in the second half, as Arizona allowed the Deacons to score just 17 points. The Deacons shot only 25 percent from the field in the second half and 32 percent for the game. The team was also 0-for-10 from three-point range in the final period.

The Deacons looked like the team of last year with their short bench in the tournament. The Deacons made only three substitutions in the Arizona game, and senior Gretchen Hollifield played all 40 minutes of the game. This was partly due to the absence of senior Val Hodge, who suffered a sprained ankle in the San Francisco game. Hodge is expected to be back in action later this month.

Redshirt-freshman Heidi Coleman got her first start of the season against the Wildcats and scored 12 points. Junior RaeAnna Mulholland led the Deacons with 13 points, while junior Tracy Connor added nine points and 13 rebounds.

The Deacons won an exciting contest Friday in a 76-75 overtime game against San Francisco in the first round. Connor set a tournament record for points when she led all scorers with 32 while adding 13 rebounds and seven assists. Again, Hollifield played in all possible minutes of the game (45), and she scored 18 points, handed out five assists and had three steals.



Jordan Wong

Junior RaeAnna Mulholland battles for a basket against Florida International Nov. 29.

The Deacons shot 46 percent from the field and held San Francisco to 40 percent shooting.

The teams were tied at halftime 34-34, and the Deacons were down nine points in the second half before battling back to tie the score at 67-67 going into overtime. The extra period was all Connor as she scored six of the Deacons' nine points, including the game winner. Connor's final basket along with a foul shot conversion made up the difference in the game.

The Deacons, 2-3 on the season, have already played three games against 1995 NCAA Tournament teams, with two wins and a loss as a result. Hollifield and Connor were named to the Copper Bowl Classic All-Tournament Team for their performances this weekend.

Men survive late run by Lehigh, 68-53

By KAREN HILLENBRAND
SPORTS EDITOR

The Demon Deacon men's basketball team let Lehigh come within six points late in the second half before recovering to take a 68-53 win Saturday night.

Although it looked like the Deacons might let the game against the Engineers slip away, Head Coach Dave Odom said that this was never the case.

"It was an important game for us," Odom said. "We saw a lot of combinations that I've been wanting to see under game fire. Score means absolutely nothing to me as long as we win."

"I'm not into beating people as bad as I can beat them."

In fact, the Deacons were in control the entire way. This game was Odom's chance to take a look at reserve players in game situations and figure out what their roles will be on the team. Sophomores Steven Goolsby and Antonio Jackson and freshmen Joseph Ammonett and William Stringfellow each had significant playing time in the game.

Goolsby finished with eight points and two assists, Ammonett had three points, Jackson had two blocks, and Stringfellow was most impressive with five points, five rebounds and two blocks in 12 minutes of play. All of the bench players accounted for 19 of the Deacons' points.

"We don't play with different combinations that much, and being unfamiliar with the combinations we had in there made us look a little lethargic," Odom said. "But I can assure you we worked very hard to get ourselves ready for this game."

Odom was especially impressed with Stringfellow's game. "When he learns to exert himself and be productive at the same time, he's going to be a handful," Odom said. "I think he's going to be really good in time."

Junior Tim Duncan had another typical day at the office, scoring 21 points on seven-of-seven shooting, while pulling down 14 rebounds, blocking six shots and

handing out three assists in 31 minutes of play. Junior Ricky Peral added 11 points in the contest.

Sophomore Tony Rutland continued to improve, as he scored 13 points and had four assists to only three turnovers. Odom said, "I thought Tony Rutland played very well. I thought Duncan obviously played very well."

"The turnovers that (Rutland) is making are aggressive turnovers, yet they're not foolish turnovers," Odom said.

The Deacons took the lead for good in the game with 6:35 to go in the first half. Down 16-14, a three pointer by Peral sparked the Deacons to a 16-2 run to end the half and put the Deacons ahead 30-18.

The Deacons built their lead to 21 points when Ammonett converted all three of his foul shots with 9:40 to go in the game. However, Lehigh went on a 13-0 run immediately following Ammonett's foul shots and closed the Deacon lead to 55-49 with just 4:23 remaining.

Odom attributed the Lehigh run to the bench players being out on the court longer than they ever had this season. "In the second half the run that they made was as much due to our fatigue as anything," Odom said. He said that players such as Goolsby, Jackson and Ammonett were not used to playing as much as they did, and conditioning is something that each of them needs to work on.

Lehigh never got closer than six points, as the Deacons went on a 13-4 run to end the game. Stringfellow scored all of his



Jordan Wong

Freshman Armond Wilson leane the lane for a layup Saturday against Lehigh.

five points during this run in the last four minutes of the game.

After the game, much of the talk was about the matchup between Duncan and Marcus Camby of Massachusetts last night. As usual, Duncan was a man of modest words.

"I'm not concentrating on the matchup between me and Camby," Duncan said. "He's a great player, but I'm going to have to worry about four other players along with him."