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Last-second goal sends Blue Devils packing

Schilling drills winning shot as time expires to give women's soccer squad first win over ranked foe

By MICKEY KRAYNAK AND PAUL GAETA
SPORTS EDITOR AND ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

The women's soccer team bided its time for 89 minutes and 59 seconds last night before punching in the biggest goal in the program's brief history.

Karli Schilling burst upfield with the ball as the final five seconds ticked off the game clock and then blasted a shot into the right side of the net as time expired to give the Deacons a 1-0 win over the 16th-ranked Duke Blue Devils. The win was the Deacons' first ever over a ranked opponent.

The Devils refused to leave the field after the game concluded, and the visiting coach was issued a red card for refusing to leave the field and harassing the referee.

"This is the biggest win in the history of the program," Head Coach Chris Turner said. Turner credited his team's defensive prowess

as a major reason for their win.

The Deacons' goal came on what was their only serious offensive threat of the game's final 10 minutes. The home team played defensive soccer during the game's waning moments, and was bailed out several times by the stellar play of junior goalkeeper Jacki Ball.

"Our defenders have just played out of their minds the entire year," Turner said.

"It was great," Schilling said of the win. "This is big. Everyone was so confident," she said of her team's attitude heading into the contest.

And what of the goal, which seemed to cross the goal line just when time expired?

"I was surprised it counted," Schilling said through a broad grin. "(Turner) told me not to say anything."

The team, in only its third year of existence, has an undefeated record through eight games

and, prior to last night, had broken into the national polls for the first time with a ranking at No. 25.

"I think it's great," Turner said of the new ranking. "It is well-deserved at this point. We have been working very hard and playing well, and I'm happy we were rewarded by Soccer News with this spot in the polls."

The Demon Deacons' extraordinary string of early season success continued this weekend as the team captured the title of the second annual Rutgers/Umbro Classic held in Piscataway, N.J. It was the Deacons' third tournament championship in less than one month of play. This title, however, proved much more notable than the other two.

"Competition hadn't been as good as we had expected in our first two tournaments," Turner said. "This weekend was the first time all season we have really been tested, and our team responded well."

After a 5-1 thrashing of Villanova in the first round, the Deacons met tournament host Rutgers for the title. The game started off even-paced as both teams throughout the first half had good scoring opportunities. The Deacons were the first to take advantage of these chances when, at the 41:45 mark of the first half, freshman Liz Burnette scored off a rebound for her team-leading eighth goal of the year. That goal stood alone for the remainder of the half.

The Deacons added to their 1-0 lead early in the second half when Schilling scored her fifth goal of the year. Rutgers, however, harbored no intentions of backing down from a 2-0 deficit. Minutes later, the Scarlet Knights' Diane Vitunic put the ball into an open net, cutting the deficit to one.

Then, with only 5:20 remaining, the Scarlet Knights' Gina Ressa made the game even more interesting as she headed home a beau-

tiful cross from teammate Robin Erthal.

Once again, however, Burnette was able to find the net as she scored the goal that clinched the title for the Deacons with just over two minutes left.

Sophomore Julie Scott added some insurance one minute later as she scored the final goal of a 4-2 Demon Deacon win.

After the tournament, Turner had nothing but praise for his players. Burnette, who scored three goals overall in the tourney, became the first ever Deacon women's soccer player to be named ACC Player of the Week.

"If there's one thing she does well and loves to do, it is to score goals," Turner said of his prized rookie. "The play of freshmen midfielders Anne Shropshire and Schilling has also been tremendously solid."

Sunday, the fifth-ranked Maryland Terrapins will journey to Winston-Salem for another key ACC clash.

Deacons beat Cavaliers to begin ACC season

By ADAM ROTHSCHILD
SPORTS COPY EDITOR

The Demon Deacon women's cross country team continues to find out just how good it is.

In their first meet of the season, the Deacons discovered that their legion of young talent, combined with its senior leadership, could defeat some solid teams in the area. Saturday, they secured the notion that they may be a legitimate threat in the ACC.

Head Coach Francie Goodridge's team went into Saturday's dual meet with Virginia knowing that the two teams were similarly composed and evenly matched.

After the two teams ran 5,000 meters on the trails on campus, the Deacons stood tall with a 22-33 victory and a renewed belief in their position among the conference elite.

Senior Liz Cotter won her second-consecutive race, finishing in 18:09. The Valley Stream, N.Y., product has proven that she can lead this Deacon team. "She's just taken the leadership role drastically," Goodridge said.

For the second-straight race, freshman Janelle Kraus claimed the second spot for the Deacons. Her 18:19 time was two seconds better than that of Virginia's Frances Warner, who placed third. Then, sophomore Liz Moore edged out Virginia's Trecey Freyre for fourth place. Moore secured her position in the final 100 meters of the course to ice the Deacon victory. Goodridge sounded somewhat surprised by the Deacon's dominance in this meet.

"It was definitely a larger victory margin than we had expected," Goodridge said. "They clearly had an advantage on paper over us. In the pack, they had an advantage."

Goodridge's claims are not without supporting statistical evidence. Earlier this season, the Deacons' fifth runner beat Duke's first runner by

one second at the Appalachian State meet. However, Virginia's fifth runner defeated Duke's No. 1 by 10 seconds at another meet this season. Goodridge thus needed to respect Virginia's pack.

"We've had good strategy sessions with the team," Goodridge said. "They've responded as well as any team I've ever seen."

Goodridge also said that the Deacons' inside-out knowledge of their home course was also a key to the victory.

"They executed that part very well as well," Goodridge said.

Goodridge was quick to point out the improvement of freshman Jill Snyder. Two weeks prior to the Virginia meet, Snyder finished sixth on the team, one full minute behind the leader. Saturday, Snyder placed fourth on the Deacons and sixth overall, only 25 seconds behind Cotter, an improvement of more than 50 percent.

That was one of the biggest jumps we were looking for," Goodridge said.

The Demon Deacon coach also praised the efforts of Alison Guiney, a sophomore walk-on. Guiney was the Deacons' seventh finisher Saturday. Her time of 19:08 was over a minute faster than her best time from last year on the Water Tower course.

The Demon Deacons succeeded this week with two of their runners under the weather. Freshman Emily Selvidio still finished ninth overall despite her ailment. Sophomore Amy Wallace placed 24th.

Saturday will be a big day for the Deacons as they continue to find their identity in the ACC. They will travel to College Park, Md., the site of the 1996 ACC Championships, for the Maryland Invitational.

There, the Deacons will test their skills against two of the best teams in the ACC, Georgia Tech and defending conference champion North Carolina.



Goodridge

Soccer bows to Cavs in ACC opener

By VINTON BRUTON
OLD GOLD AND BLACK REPORTER

The men's soccer team battled fourth-ranked Virginia tooth and nail Sunday, but surrendered two second half goals in a 2-0 loss.

The team bounced back with a 2-0 win over outgunned Belmont-Abbey Tuesday night.

The win improved the Deacons' record to 4-2-1 overall, 0-1-0 in the ACC.

Sunday the team matched favored Virginia pass for pass and play until the Cavaliers' Michael Slivinski knocked in a pretty through-pass from his All-American teammate Mike Fisher with 22:38 remaining in the game.

Deacon senior goalie Tim Woods seemed to hesitate for a moment to decide whether to attack Slivinski or try to stop the shot. The ball was in the net before Woods could decide.

Still, the home team had a chance to tie the game just a few minutes later. Senior co-captain Josh Timbers split the Virginia defense to get his head on a well-placed Deacon cornerkick. Timbers' shot flew past the outstretched arms of Cavalier goalkeeper Yuri Sagatov, but UVa's Matt Chulis headed the ball safely out of the goal to deny the Deacons.

At the 81:03 mark, Virginia put the match out of reach with its second goal of the half. Virginia's Ben Olsen turned a Deacon free kick into a scoring opportunity with a diving header from about three feet off the ground. Olsen's dive deflected Deacon senior Jeff Crane's kick to a Virginia teammate.

Virginia's Slavinski carried the ball from midfield to inside the Deacon penalty box before passing to a wide-open Tim Prisco for the score.

The match was notable for several near-scores that could have turned the game into either a Virginia rout or a Deacon victory.

The Deacons turned away two seemingly certain Virginia goals. In the first half, sophomore Kyle Bachmeier headed away a shot that had



Sophomore midfielder Kyle Bachmeier dodges a Virginia opponent in the Sunday game.



Junior midfielder Ihor Dotsenko, above and right, maneuvers against Virginia Sunday.

eluded Woods. Freshman defender Chad Evans leaped to boot away yet another sure score in the second half.

On the other end of the field, the Deacons narrowly missed on two shots. With 9:46 remaining in the first half, freshman midfielder David Kaweesi-Mukooza got behind the Virginia defense and sent a ground-hugging missile of a shot just a few inches wide left.

With only one minute remaining in the game, Timbers tapped the ball away from the Cavalier goalie and got off a hurried shot on goal. Again, the ball missed just inches to the left, ending hopes of a Deacon rally.

"There's no doubt the effort was there, but you can't afford the mental lapses," Deacon Head Coach Jay Vidovich said. "The two goals were on two crucial mistakes."

Tuesday, the Belmont-Abbey Crusaders felt the backlash from the narrow defeat. The Deacons struggled to get going early, but found their rhythm in the second half.

Junior sweeper Ihor Dotsenko headed in a cornerkick from sophomore Serge Daniv seven minutes into the second half. Despite the narrow 1-0 lead, the Crusaders rarely mounted scoring threats, allowing the Deacons to substitute liberally.



Photos by LeeAnn Hodges

At the 74:24 mark, sophomore Andrew Laskowski took a pass from junior Ilija Zlatar, knifed through the defense and found the back of the net. Laskowski's goal gave Vidovich the opportunity to empty his bench.

"I was really happy with the way we played," Vidovich said. "Against a weaker opponent there's the tendency to showboat, but the team stayed together."

Vidovich said he was especially pleased with the play of two freshmen, midfielder Burr Williams and goalkeeper Sean Conner.

The play of both highly-touted freshmen showed that they may be pushing for playing time in the near future.

The Demon Deacons take their show on the road this week, with a game at James Madison Saturday.

Volleyball runs headlong into conference schedule reality check

By JOSHUA HOFFMAN
OLD GOLD AND BLACK REPORTER

With a strong showing in the season opening tournaments in which the women's volleyball team played, the team had the confidence that they could play at that same high level when conference play began.

Behind the offensive firepower of last week's ACC Rookie of the Week, freshman Jessica Sammis, the solid setting of her fellow freshman teammate, Julie Cowley and a tenacious defense that shut down opposing teams in last week's Davidson tournament, the team had compiled an impressive 7-4 record.

But something got lost in the translation from tournament to conference play. In two conference losses to interstate rivals North Carolina and N.C. State, the Demon Deacon squad did not bear quite enough of a resemblance to the team that had experienced so much early-season success.

The problems for the Demon Deacons started on offense. Aside from the third game of the match, which the Deacons won, the



Freshman Sarah Kryder spikes Friday.

squad only put up scores of three, three and four respectively against N.C. State. The offense suffered a similar fate against UNC,

posting scores of six in the first game before breaking out of their offensive slump and forcing the match to five games.

"The level of play is so much better than what we have seen," freshman Katie Horne said. "Going into (ACC play) we were intimidated, and it showed on the court. For a first-year team to play as well as we did against a team like UNC, I'm so proud of the team. Every time we play, we keep getting better and we keep gaining confidence."

In the middle of the UNC match, the squad decided to stop being so overwhelmed mentally by the Tar Heels.

They evidently decided it was time to show the ability and heart that the team has evinced so much of in the early part of the season. The last three games of the five-set match were some of the most tenacious and all-around team efforts the Deacons have displayed all season, refusing to just lie down to UNC.

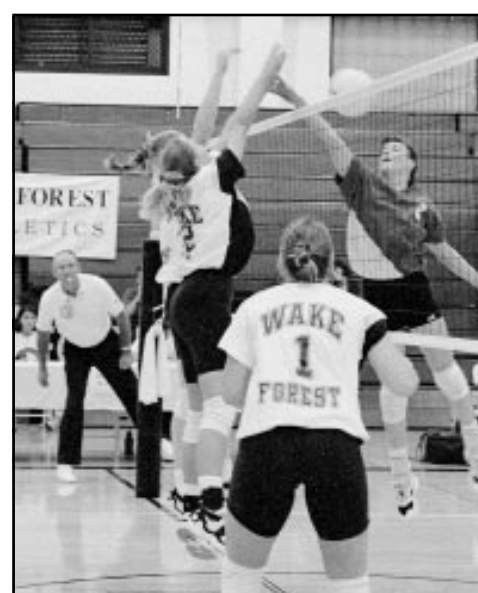
Defense, the aspect of the game Head Coach Mary Jones stresses most and what had been keeping the vast majority of Demon Deacon opponents in check in past matches, was not the impenetrable wall it had been earlier in the season. In fact, the opposing teams' defenses held the Demon Deacon offense to lower attack percentages than their own.

The Demon Deacons had many players who performed strongly in the two matches. Sammis was, as usual, one of the team's best performers. Horne had a team-high 17 digs against UNC while teammate freshman Sharon Harnsworth also came up big in that match, showing a team-high 405 hitting percentage. Cowley made good things happen by providing nearly 70 assists during the two matches.

"I think in the beginning of the season, we were looking towards the future," Sammis said. "But we've played so well, I think we should concentrate on winning this year."



Horne



A pair of Deacons snuffs out an N.C. State opponent's shot during the Friday game.