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Volleyball rallies for UNC-G win after ACC losses

By JOSHUA HOFFMAN
OLD GOLD AND BLACK REPORTER

The women's volleyball team opened its season impressively, compiling a 9-5 record out of the gate.

However, the tougher ACC play which followed took its toll on the young team. Eleven ACC losses and nine straight defeats later, the Deacons were still looking for win number 10.

"It's frustrating," freshman Katie Horne said, "but the wins will come."

The Deacons visited top-flight ACC opponents Maryland and Virginia this past week, and played extremely well against two of the top teams in the country. Although the Demon Deacons were unable to take a game from either team, the Deacons proved they could play with the best.

Tuesday evening, the Deacons ended their losing skid with a hard-fought five set win over UNC-Greensboro. Against Maryland, who has yet to lose in ACC competition, the Deacons had a tough time getting started offensively. The usually solid Deacon offense



Harmsworth

was not able to get on track against the Terps' tenacious defense. The Deacon defense was befuddled by the relentless Maryland attack. Freshman Sharon Harmsworth was the team's biggest bright spot with her seven kills and eight digs while her frontcourt mate Horne added seven kills and three digs.

"I don't think we're intimidated against them (ACC opponents)," Horne said. "We need to just concentrate on our game and not worry about who's on the other side of the net."

The team was more in gear at Charlottesville to face Virginia. The Deacons played the Cavaliers tough throughout the match, and led by freshman Julie Cowley's 26 assists and nine digs, the Deacons played right alongside 19-6 Virginia.

Unfortunately, the squad was not able to take any games from the Cavaliers.

"We dig ourselves into a hole," Horne said. "We start out slow, and then all of the sudden, we realize we have to start playing. The momentum slides our way, then the other team gets the momentum back, and we lose it towards the end."

Four Deacons are in the top 10 of six ACC statistical categories. Horne is ninth in the ACC in kills and eighth in digs. Cowley is fifth in digs and eighth in assists. Co-captain Carrie Walker is currently sixth in the ACC in aces and seventh in blocks. Jessica Sammis is eighth with her .253 attack percentage.

"We definitely don't want to go out with this," Horne said. "It's so frustrating. We are looking to win. We haven't given up on the season. We'll get there."

The Deacons took a stride in the right direction Tuesday evening, stealing a hard-fought fifth set from UNC-Greensboro in Reynolds Gymnasium.

Deacons triumph in Spry debut

Bachmeier illuminates new scoreboard with pair of first-half goals

By VINTON BRUTON
OLD GOLD AND BLACK REPORTER

The men's soccer team opened the Spry Soccer Stadium complex with a bang Wednesday night, knocking off South Carolina by a 2-1 score. The win ended a two game skid in which the Deacons lost to No. 9 Duke and No. 10 Furman on the road by 1-0 scores.

Sophomore Kyle Bachmeier broke free for two goals against the Gamecocks Wednesday night, as the Deacons overcame the loss of four starters.

Freshman defender Chad Evans, freshman midfielder David Kaweesi-Mukooza, sophomore Serge Daniv, and senior marking back Jeff Crane were all in street clothes for the match. Kaweesi-Mukooza, Daniv, and Crane were penalized for exceeding the five yellow card limit while Evans nursed an injury.

"We were missing four people and two others had the flu," Head Coach Jay Vidovich said. "But I was happy with those who helped us get the result."

Bachmeier's second goal came at the 20:11 mark when he corralled a short header from a USC defender in the box and banged it into the lower right corner of the net.

Kristinn Larusson headed in a cornerkick to cut the Deacon lead to one, but the Gamecocks could not even the score. Both teams squandered several breakaway goal chances in the second half.

"Kyle (Bachmeier) showed the ability to find the gap," Vidovich said. "He did a great job initiating counters and was able to finish off on his own."

The win ended a two game scoreless drought. Both Duke and Furman blanked the Deacons in 1-0 losses last week. Those games continued a frustrating pattern in which the 16th-ranked Deacons have shown the ability to compete with the nation's elite teams, only to fall just shy of a major upset.

Four of the team's five losses have come at the hands of Top 10 teams, and none of the losses was by more than a two-goal margin. In conference play, only Virginia and Duke have been able to beat the Deacons.

Only a penalty kick allowed Furman to avoid a Deacon upset.

Ryan Higginbotham converted a penalty kick in the 30th minute after being fouled in the box for the game's lone goal.



Tripp Harrington

Freshman David Kaweesi-Mukooza moves upfield with the ball in the Demon Deacons' recent match with the Maryland Terrapins. The Deacons beat Sout Carolina Wednesday night to improve their season record to a robust 10-5-1.

The Deacons outshot Furman 17-11 and had nine corner kicks, but were unable to convert on scoring opportunities.

Of the Demon Deacons' narrow defeats to Duke and Furman, Vidovich said "The last two games we dominated our

opponents and lost."

The Deacons (10-5-1, 2-2-0) have two regular season games remaining, both against ACC foes. The team travels to Chapel Hill Sunday to battle the Tar Heels, then returns home Nov. 9 to face the

Clemson Tigers in the regular season finale.

The team must finish the regular season with a bang in order to obtain favorable seedings in the ACC and NCAA Tournaments.

Women's soccer drops heartbreaker to UNC-Asheville

By PAUL GAETA
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

A season which started with 10 straight victories and great expectations for the post-season turned decidedly sour this past week for the women's soccer team. With four games remaining, it was do or die time for the club, as they needed wins in all four games to assure a berth in the NCAA Tournament. After a 3-1 overtime victory at home against the College of Charleston Saturday, the Deacons erased all hopes of a bid when they were upset by UNC-Asheville Tuesday 2-0.

"There's no chance whatsoever," Head Coach Chris Turner said when asked how his team stood in the tournament selection process. "We lost to a team we never should have lost to and as a result, we have dropped far out

of the polls. The only way we can win is by capturing the title at the ACC Tournament."

The Deacons now stand at 10-6 overall with a 1-5 record in the all-powerful ACC. Their two games remaining pit them at both Jacksonville and Florida State.

The Deacons game against the College of Charleston was a much more even battle than they expected. Although the booters dominated offensively, outshooting Charleston 20-12 and holding a 10-0 advantage in corner kicks, the Deacons were still forced to play the role of comeback kids.

Charleston got on the board just before the conclusion of the first half. Allison McCurry sent a pretty pass to teammate Amy Burns who received the ball and fired in a shot from ten yards out. Her shot went over the outstretched arms of freshman goalkeeper Beth

Klein, nicking the crossbar, and giving the visitors a 1-0 lead.

The Cougars kept their 1-0 lead through much of the second half. Then with a little over five minutes remaining the Deacons scored a goal that kept their postseason hopes alive. Junior star Cheryl Zimmerman crossed a pretty ball to sophomore defender Rachel Thomas. Thomas headed the ball in from the far post tying up the game.

The Deacons continued their dominance from regular play into overtime. In the extra periods, however, they were able to take the lead and keep it for good. Just over three minutes in, sophomore Norine Fernbach volleyed in a centering pass from freshman Anne Shropshire for a 2-1 lead. Then, in the second period of overtime, the Demon Deacons added some insurance when Deacon junior Vanessa

Slattery headed in the ball.

Despite the victory, Turner felt the game should never have been as close as it was.

"We thought we were going to beat them much more than we did," Turner said. "Therein lied the problem. We just went through the motions and almost got beat."

The next game for the Deacons against UNC-Asheville contained the same plot as that against Charleston but with a much more sour ending. The Deacons out-shot them 19-7 and holding a 15-2 advantage in corner kicks, but their inability to get the ball in the net was a great contributor to their downfall.

Bad luck also played an integral part as the Deacons hit the post four times, and a goal by freshman Liz Burnette was disallowed when the linesman ruled the ball went off her arm. The Bulldogs tandem of Alison Gehringer

and Mackenzie Miller produced all of UNC-Asheville's scoring threats. They opened up their scoring two minutes before halftime when Gehringer hit Miller with a long pass through the Deacon defense. Miller received the ball and broke in from 20 yards out, shooting past Klein for a 1-0 lead.

Fifteen minutes later, the teammates struck again. Gehringer found Miller in front of the Deacon cage, and she slammed the ball home for a 2-0 lead. The Deacons could not rebound from the two goal deficit.

"They wanted the game more and they scored," Turner explained. "We didn't come out with the intensity we needed to beat an inferior team with. We lost to a terrible opponent."

The win was UNC-Asheville's first ever over an ACC team.

Deacons torpedoed by Navy's not-so-secret option weapon

By SCOTT PLUMRIDGE
OLD GOLD AND BLACK REPORTER

Despite its close proximity to celebration and festivity, this year's Homecoming game was anything but jubilant for the Demon Deacon football team.

With a 47-18 thrashing at the hands of the Navy Midshipmen, the Deacons collected their sixth consecutive loss, and their third straight setback at home.

Against the Deacons, Navy's weapon of choice was the spread offense. A derivative of the popular option offense, the spread attack focuses heavily on the mobility of the quarterback and running backs. Throughout the game, Midshipmen quarterback Chris McCoy had his wheels turning with his backfield mates Omar Nelson and Corey Schemm close behind.

When McCoy encountered trouble, he flipped the ball to either of his equally-dangerous relief options, giving the Deacon defense fits all day long.

"They probably do as good of a job at running that option as anybody that you will find," Head Coach Jim Caldwell said.

The Demon Deacon defense was rarely successful at stopping the disciplined Midshipmen offensive attack. Rather than sticking with their primary defensive



Carlton Ward

Freshman Morgan Kane bursts upfield Saturday.

responsibilities, Demon Deacon defenders were apt to stray, leaving gaping holes for the Midshipmen.

"We didn't do a very good job," Caldwell said. "We

didn't play any defense," Caldwell said.

On the day, the opposition racked up a whopping 570 yards, 470 of which were rushing yards.

Four turnovers on the offensive side of the ball ruined any chance of a Demon Deacon victory. With 422 total yards of their own, however, the Deacon offense was certainly no pushover.

"There were opportunities for us to get some more points on the board, but we gave them away," Caldwell said. "We should have had 40 points on the board."

Deacon sophomore quarterback Brian Kuklick posted some impressive numbers with 298 yards in the air on 22-34 passing. As in weeks past, his performance was marred by a pair of interceptions that contributed to the Deacon's scoring woes.

Kuklick's primary target was junior Thabiti Davis. Davis made six catches for 107 yards, including a 38-yard touchdown reception. Freshman running back Morgan Kane also showed flashes of brilliance with 91 yards rushing and a touchdown.

Hampered by the turnovers on offense and a sputtering defense, the Deacons were overwhelmed.

"You can't make mistakes against a football team that's as efficient as the Navy team and expect to win," Caldwell said.



Carlton Ward

Junior Miles Savage returns a kickoff in Saturday's game.