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Women's tennis works out kinks in Rolex event

By MICKEY KRAYNAK
SPORTS EDITOR

The women's tennis team subjected itself to its annual fall semester litmus test this past weekend in Chapel Hill, and the results are encouraging for a squad which graduated its two best singles players last spring.

Terry Ann Zawacki, '96, and Patti Murren, '96, both finished their Deacon careers last spring, and both had spent much of their careers in the national singles rankings. With both players now gone, the Deacons must now look to retool their singles draw and attempt to maintain the national stature they have attained in recent years.

"A couple of them have to step up and take their place," Head Coach Lew Gerrard said of his current team.

Several quality showings from the Deacons at the Rolex Southeast Region Intercollegiate Championships this past weekend, however, persuade that the Deacons are well on their way to maintaining their imposing stature.

"They are stepping up," Gerrard said. "I'm encouraged about this coming year."

Chief among the Deacons' bright spots were senior Maggie Harris and sophomore Nicola Kaiwai, both of whom made generous progress through the singles draw in the weekend event.

Harris, who entered the competition seeded sixth, thoroughly masticated the first four opponents she faced in Chapel Hill before bowing in the event's semifinals. Kaiwai came close to meeting Harris in an all-Deacon semifinal, reeling off three wins before falling in the quarterfinals of the draw.

Harris opened her play in the tournament with a 6-1, 6-0 near-double-bagel of Charleston's Carrie Minton Friday morning. The lopsided win propelled Harris into a second round matchup with Davidson's Amber Bradford, who was similarly unable to find an answer to Harris' arsenal.

The Demon Deacon dispatched Bradford with a 6-3, 6-2 which launched her into a third-round match with Louisville's Manisha Patel. Patel, who advanced to meet Harris with a three-set win in the second round, joined the weekend's list of Deacon victims after falling to Harris by a 6-1, 6-1 score.

Though her competition seemed to stiffen somewhat in the quarterfinals, Harris proved equal to the task. The Deacon put down a challenge from Kentucky's Massoumeh Emami (seeded 12th) in her fourth contest of the event, moving into the semifinals with a 6-3, 6-2 win.

Harris' run came to a close in the semifinals, where she fell to Tennessee's Manisha Malhotra 6-2, 6-3. Malhotra was seeded second and did not drop a set in her march to the finals.

While Harris was making her way through the quarterfinals, she was being mirrored by teammate Kaiwai, who similarly rattled off a string of straight-set victories in the draw. Kaiwai, seeded eighth in the event, opened with a 6-3, 6-2 win over Charleston's Siri Mittel, and followed up her debut with an encores besting of Vanderbilt's Kristy Blumberg, 7-5, 6-4.

The sophomore maintained her momentum in her third-round matchup, tallying an impressive 7-5, 7-5 win over conference rival Wendy Fix of Duke. Kaiwai's winning streak came to an end in the quarterfinals, however, where she fell to Malhorta 6-4, 6-3.

Junior Lule Aydin also managed some success in Chapel Hill, as the Demon Deacon put down challenges from two opponents before bowing in her third-round matchup. Aydin tallied a 6-0, 6-1 win in her first

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Harris



Kaiwai

Swanson takes ACC Championship

Deacons finish second to State in conference title meet in College Park, Md.

By ADAM ROTHCHILD
SPORTS COPY EDITOR

Junior Nolan Swanson edged out North Carolina State's Chan Pons by .6 seconds to win the individual ACC cross country championship Saturday at College Park, Md., becoming the first Demon Deacon ever to do so.

Swanson's performance, along with three other All-ACC honorees, led the Deacons to their second straight second-place finish in the ACC, behind conference champion North Carolina State.

Swanson, a Sherman, N.Y. product, has been a star for Head Coach John Goodridge's squad since the very beginning of his career. After an illustrious high school career, culminating with his victory at the New York state championships, Swanson placed in the top 10 in his first two collegiate meets. He maintained his position among the top Deacons throughout his freshman year, and continued to improve in his sophomore campaign, winning All-ACC honors. By the end of last season, Swanson was consistently among the Deacons' top three.

This season, however, Swanson has become a force for the Deacons. His outstanding effort at the Arizona Invitational thrust him onto the national cross country scene, and his victory at Maryland is sure to enhance his reputation.

Swanson was not the only Deacon who shone Saturday. Juniors Eric Dunn and Ben Boyd and senior Jon Russell joined Swanson on the All-ACC squad based on their outstanding finishes in Saturday's meet. Dunn placed fifth overall, Boyd crossed the line in seventh and Russell finished ninth. All four of the Deacons' All-ACC runners earned the distinction for the second time.

Senior Eric Pragle was the Deacons' first finisher, at 18th overall.



Carlton Ward

Junior Nolan Swanson, seen here with his teammates after a meet earlier this fall (third from right), captured the first-ever ACC individual championship by a Demon Deacon runner this weekend in Maryland.

North Carolina State won the conference crown for the second consecutive year. In every season since 1989, the Deacons and the Wolfpack have comprised the top two teams in the conference. The Deacons won titles in 1989, 1990, 1993 and 1994.

After the Deacons, North Carolina, Duke, Clemson, Virginia, Florida State, Georgia Tech and Maryland rounded out the ACC standings.

The Deacons' next challenge will be Monday at the NCAA Regional Championships in Greenville, S.C.

Two wins have Deacons thinking NCAAs

By PAUL GAETA
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Maybe the soccer gods are on the side of the Deacon women's soccer team after all.

After a dismal mid-season drought which left the team pondering who they would play in the ACC playoffs instead of preparing for a first-ever bid to the 32-team NCAA Tournament, the booters finally salvaged some meaning in an otherwise lost second half of the season with two key victories at Jacksonville and Florida State.

The wins were vital, as they left the Demon Deacons with a first-round match in the ACC Tournament against North Carolina, instead of top-seeded North Carolina, the second-ranked team in America. The Deacons beat the then-13th-ranked Blue Devils for one of their two conference victories earlier in the year. They were defeated handily by the Tar Heels, 4-0, in a home game two weeks ago. A win over



Tripp Harrington

Freshman Anne Shropshire moves the ball upfield in the Sept. 25 Terp game.

Duke could mean a possible birth in the big dance after all.

"Those wins were huge because now we don't have to play North Carolina in the first round," Head Coach Chris Turner said. "I have to believe that the girls know they have a shot against the Blue Devils whereas, playing against Chapel Hill, I'm not sure anyone thinks they have a shot."

"If we win this game, we're getting in the tournament. Right now, we're on a roll."

In last Friday's game at Jacksonville, the booters re-sparked their scoring knack with 10 goals over the 2-16 Dolphins. In the Deacons' first seven games of the year, they had accumulated 34 goals, but in the last nine (prior to their match with Jacksonville) they had scored only eight.

The potent Deacon offense wasted little time getting started as junior Vanessa Slattery, off a pass from junior Cheryl Zimmermann, put one home at the 1:15 mark of the first half. The Deacons continued scoring and when the whistle sounded for the end of the first-half they already held an 8-0 lead. Freshman Liz Burnette led the way with two goals, while sophomore Susie Nettelback and Andrea Pelletier, and freshmen Karli Schilling, Anne Shropshire, and Alison McPheely each added one.

Although the Deacon scoring attack was tamed somewhat in the second half, they still managed to hit double digits in scoring for the second time this year. At 59:10, Zimmermann punched home an unassisted goal, and then at 75:56, Burnette netted the second hat trick of her college career with her third goal off an assist from McPheely.

"We played extremely well even though it was not against a very good team," Turner explained. "We had to hold them



Tripp Harrington

Junior Cheryl Zimmermann shoots in the Demon Deacons' recent game against the Maryland Terrapins. The Deacons play Duke in today's ACC tourney game.

back from scoring a little, but it definitely put us in a more offensive mindset."

As important as the Deacons' victory over Jacksonville was in raising the team's spirits and play, the win at Florida State was equally significant as it gave the Deacons a better seed heading into the ACC Tournament. The game, the last one of the regular season for both squads, was a closely contested match that ended with the Deacons on top, 1-0.

Unlike many other games this season where the Demon Deacons outshot the opposition but still managed to come out on the short end of the stick, the Seminoles held the advantage in shots this time 18-8. The Deacons, however, scored the lone goal early in the first half when sophomore Norine Fernbach knocked in

a deflection from a shot by junior Rachel Thomas past Seminole goalkeeper Melissa Juhl. The 'Noles had ample opportunity with shots on freshman goalie Beth Klein but were unable to seize the chance.

Turner expects to see a very different game with Duke than the one that saw Schilling score the lone goal with no time left to upset the Devils in late September.

"They are going to come out and play extremely motivated because of that loss," Turner said. "We're going to have to weather the storm and hopefully take advantage of their over-aggressiveness by scoring some goals. It's going to be an intense match."

The Deacons now see themselves one very big win away from a first-ever showing in the NCAA's.

Volleyball drops games to Florida State, Devils

By JOSHUA HOFFMAN
OLD GOLD AND BLACK REPORTER

Going into last week's ACC games, the volleyball team was primed to put the first mark in the win column against a conference opponent. With matches that pitted the Demon Deacons against the ACC's weaker volleyball squads, the Deacons had a bona fide opportunity to chalk up their first conference win.

Unfortunately, the Deacons were unable to translate that excitement and anticipation into that elusive first conference win.

"We have the lead and we go for the win, but we can't pull it out," freshman Katie Horne said. "The other teams pick up their level and we don't respond. We have to work through that, but it'll come."

As has been the case all season, the squad broke out with a solid first game, but was unable to keep that pace and win the game. The team has not won a game in any of its past six conference matches. The inexperience of finishing games lends itself a great deal to the team's recent hardships.



Ivana Anderson

The Deacons adjust their positions relative to the ball against Florida State Friday.

"We're getting more consistent, but so are the other teams," Horne said.

Against Florida State, freshman Amber

Grahn stepped up huge for the Deacons, finishing the match with a team-high 11 kills and a match-high 16 digs. The team once

again found leadership behind junior co-captain Carri Walker and her eight kills and six digs. Freshman Julie Cowley continued her domination of the assist, setting up 29 kills for her teammates. Horne had 10 kills and nine digs.

"That was our intensity against FSU," Horne said.

"That was a disappointing game. We're still working hard; the season's not over."

Duke's visit to Winston-Salem was very similar to the Florida State match. The Demon Deacons hung right with the Blue Devils in the first game, but were unable to grasp victory.

The Deacons played inspired team volleyball, but once again, the inexperience of closing out games proved to be the Demon Deacons' worst enemy.

"We don't play thinking we're going to lose the match," Horne said. "We play good in the first game, and then we just fade. We have to put everything together."

"We see the future," Horne said. "But we're hoping that it comes before the end of the season."



Carlton Ward

Fore! Senior Kristin Proud prepares to tee off during her recent golf class.