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Heroic ACC showing puts Deacons in big dance

First-round ACC Tourney win over Devils earns Turner's squad first-ever NCAA Tournament showing

By PAUL GAETA
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

It has been a season of firsts for the Demon Deacon women's soccer team. The team started the season with an eight-game winning streak, a feat no past squad had come close to attaining. It earned its first national ranking in late September when it appeared 20th in the *Soccer America* polls. And it was the first year it ever captured three tournament titles, winning the Wake Forest Kickoff Classic, the Diadora Invitational in Maine, and the Rutgers Umbro Classic.

This past week, the Demon Deacons, in only their third year of play, continued this tradition of firsts with a highly successful showing at the ACC Tournament held at Clemson, and a subsequent first-ever invitation to the NCAA Tournament.

The team beat second-seeded Duke University, the 10th-ranked program in the nation Nov. 7, 3-2 in the first round of play. The triumph marked the first time a Deacon squad had upended a team ranked in the top 10 and the first time they earned a victory in the ACC Tournament.

The Deacons went on to face third-seeded Clemson in the next round. After taking a quick 1-0 lead, the booters surrendered two goals and finished on the short end of the stick with a 2-1 defeat.

"The Duke contest was the best win and best played game in the history of the program," Head Coach Chris Turner said. "And our next game, although we lost, was even better played."

The heartbreak of the loss, however, was short-lived. Monday, due to their strong late season finish, especially their success in the ACC Tournament, the NCAA Selection Committee picked the Demon Deacons as one of 32 teams to make the national tournament.

"We played so well this weekend because we are not necessarily the biggest or the fastest or the most skilled team, but we play

with emotion," said Turner. "That is what wins us games," he said. "We're unbelievably proud."

The rematch pits the Deacons in a key match against host Clemson Sunday at 1 p.m. in Death Valley.

Although the Deacons notched two goals in the first 25 minutes of the game, Duke battled back before the half and their freshman star Emily Feeney scored two goals to even the match.

It looked as if the game would continue downhill for the Demon Deacons as the Blue Devils began to gain more control and put on more of an attack as the second half continued. Duke had several strong opportunities to score, but the solid play of freshman Beth Klein in goal kept the score knotted at two.

"Beth Klein did a great job," Turner said. "She pulled us out of the fire when Duke was playing so tough."

With nine minutes remaining to determine the fate of the team's season, freshman Anne

Shropshire made a long run up the left flank and sent a pretty cross to junior Vanessa Slattery. Slattery received the ball and fired it at goal, but her shot was deflected by Duke goalkeeper Dana Piper. The deflection, however, was directed straight back to Slattery, and this time she made sure she put it home, scoring one of the most important goals in team history and giving her team a 3-2 victory.

"I saw the ball," Slattery said after the game. "I wanted it, I was going to get it, and I got it."

Although their game against the Tigers was less dramatic, it once again came down to the final minutes of play. The Deacons again took an early lead when at the 1:25 mark of the first half freshman Whitney Jackson scored off a corner kick for the fastest goal in ACC Tournament history.

The booters, helped by solid play on their back line, maintained the 1-0 lead until midway through the second half. Then, in a mere

two minutes, the Tigers scored two quick goals that sent them to the final.

So the Deacons have qualified for the NCAA year history. And how perfect of a story it is for them to be playing Clemson, a team who have beaten the booters twice this season, including a 5-2 overtime victory in October. The Deacons need to play with something extra in order for them to finally get over the top.

"We have to play consistent with a more composed intensity," Turner said. "We need to get them down early and keep them there. And we must take advantage of all opportunities," Turner said.

"I don't know how the team will come out because they're not a tournament-experienced team," he said. "But we were not an experienced ACC Tournament team either and we played great. I wouldn't be surprised with any outcome or performance. Everything right now is going just great."

Men's soccer prevails under lights at Spry

By VINTON BRUTON
OLD GOLD AND BLACK REPORTER

Senior Josh Timbers scored the winning goal and assisted on another in a 2-1 win over Clemson in his final home game.

In the final game of the regular season, the men's soccer team evened its conference record at 3-3-0, 11-6-1 overall. The win moved the Demon Deacons into a tie for second place in the ACC with Duke.

"It was just two good teams going at it," Head Coach Jay Vidovich said. "Clemson is a well organized team."

The Deacons will be the third seed in the ACC Tournament, which begins today in Charlottesville, Va.

Junior Ilija Zlatar scored the first goal of the contest at the 18:53 mark. Timbers crossed the ball across the mouth of the Clemson goal to a streaking freshman David Kaweesi-Mukooza, who passed to Zlatar directly in front of the goal for the score.

Clemson seized the momentum after the Deacon strike, dominating the final minutes of the opening half. The Deacons endured several close calls to preserve a 1-0 halftime lead.

With about eight minutes to go in the half, senior defender Jeff Crane single-handedly saved a certain goal. A Clemson attacker snuck behind the Deacon defense and controlled a long pass about 20 yards from the goal. Crane caught the Tiger, and slid goalie-style to the ground, smothering the shot attempt only a few feet from the goal. Crane then regained his footing, intercepted a short pass that could have easily resulted in a Clemson goal, and cleared the ball safely away.

Moments later, Clemson's Paul

Stalter narrowly missed a rocket of a shot from the top of the box, banging it off the crossbar and out of bounds.

The Tigers' luck in the second half, when Demon Deacon junior Kevin Rice was whistled for a hand ball in the box. Clemson's Daniel Care banged home the penalty kick at the 51:26 mark to tie the game at a goal apiece.

But the Deacons responded with a surge of their own, capped by a header goal by Timbers at 74:23.

Junior sweeper Ihor Dotsenko managed to get his head on a corner kick by sophomore Kyle Bachmeier, but the ball ricocheted off the crossbar. Timbers controlled the rebound and headed it in for the winning goal, 2-1.

Timbers celebrated the go-ahead goal with the first back-flip in the history of W. Dennie Spry Stadium.

The Tigers refused to go quietly, though, and the game was not over until Bachmeier cleared a shot off the goal line in the final seconds.

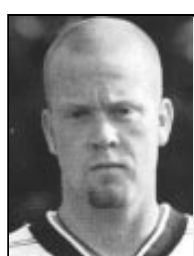
Clemson was awarded two corner kicks in the final 30 seconds of the match, and even pulled their goalie into the Demon Deacon box to aid the attack.

The two goals equaled the team's output in the last three contests, and the win may have sealed the Deacons' invitation to the NCAA Tournament.

"It was nice to get two goals against an ACC opponent," Vidovich said. "We need to start off with intensity, it is so important to get the first goal."

"Starting off well is the key for us." The game marked the official dedication of Spry Stadium. The complex is named for W. Dennie Spry.

Spry was on hand, and was honored at half-time by President Thomas K. Hearn and Director of Athletics Ron Wellman.



Timbers



Zlatar

Hockey campaign meets bizarre end

By GREG WILSON
OLD GOLD AND BLACK REPORTER

Realizing that a strong performance in the ACC tournament could improve its slim chances of making the NCAA tournament, the Demon Deacon field hockey team prepared diligently for last Friday's game against Duke. However, nothing could have prepared them for the events that took place Friday evening.

After reaching Duke's stadium and warming up, the players took the field and the game got under way. After 30 seconds though, the game was stopped because of the threat of lightning. After the threat was over, the players again went back onto the field. Following another 30 seconds of play, lightning again forced the game to be halted. After the second delay, play continued, although it was interrupted twice more in the first half because in two different incidents players were hit with balls.

The delays resulted in a four-hour game and led to the Blue Devils' defeat of the Demon Deacons, who finished their season with a record of 7-12.

"We worked well together during the game," senior Mary Moore said. "Despite the circumstances we played well, but Duke was more aggressive. We were beaten by a very good team."

One reason for the Deacons' losing record was an extremely difficult schedule. Of their 19 games, 13 came against top 20 opponents. Their conference schedule was also difficult with all of the teams in the ACC ranked in the top 10 in the country by the end of the season. However, the players were able to take the good away from their season.

"In the long run, playing such a difficult schedule will be a very positive thing," Moore said. "We were very lucky to be able to play all of those teams. The experience from the games can do nothing but help everyone learn more."

Not only did the Demon Deacons face a treacherous schedule, they had several injuries which felled key players throughout the season. Eight of the 18 players on the Deacons' roster went down with injuries during the season. This often left few reserves on the bench during the middle part of the season.

"At times it was a little discouraging," Moore said. "We would look over at the bench and only see two reserves, including the backup goalie, and for a second or two it was really disappointing. We just had to adopt the attitude that we could do it without them."

A strong group of seniors led the team through-



Photos by Carlton Ward

A member of the Demon Deacon field hockey squad moves the ball upfield in a game earlier this season against the Maryland Terrapins. At right, Lisa Andries prepares to hit the ball into play on a corner.



out the year. Perhaps most prominent throughout the year was Susan Bowman. She became the ACC's all-time leader in assists this year, breaking the previous record by three, and she is the only player in school history to record 10 or more assists four times in a career. Bowman also led the team in scoring for the second time in her career.

Also leaving this year will be the versatile Moore. Throughout her career, she played nearly every position and this season finished her career in second place on the all-time assists chart behind Bowman. Also graduating this year will be Kate McLane, a defensive stopper who played in 77 games throughout her career and keyed 24 shutouts in her four years.

Basketball squad lays claim to title of true "Court Authority"

By MICKEY KRAYNYAK
SPORTS EDITOR

The Demon Deacon men's basketball squad played through its first 40 minutes of competitive basketball in 7 1/2 months Saturday night in Joel Coliseum, and shook off their cobwebs to the tune of a 54.2 percent field goal shooting performance.

The Deacons overwhelmed a visiting Court Authority squad in the paint and on the perimeter in their first exhibition game of the season, dispatching their guests with an "authoritative" 86-74 win in front of 6,794 stargazers in Joel Coliseum.

"I think it was a good night for us," Head Coach Dave Odom said. "I think we got tired on the perimeter, and our defensive transition was not good. Still, it was a good game for us."

Some of the problems the Deacon experienced may have resulted from the thinned lineup with which they were forced to face their foes. Both sophomore forward William Stringfellow (broken hand) and junior guard/

forward Steven Goolsby (arthroscopic knee surgery) were out of commission for the evening.

The game began somewhat evenly, until senior Tim Duncan and freshman Loren Woods saw their first time together early in the first half. Woods rotated onto the floor to spell senior Sean Allen with the game tied at six.

The "Twin Towers" arrangement swiftly proved effective for the Deacons, who promptly rattled off a 13-2 scoring run to move their advantage to 19-9 with 12:38 remaining in the first half. Duncan and Woods both chipped in two baskets during the run, and a trey from sophomore Joseph Amonett moved the Deacon advantage to 10 points.

The Deacons proved to have another first-half run in them, however, as the home team dumped 12 quick points on the Authorities several minutes later to push their lead to 32-18 with just under six minutes to go in the half.

Duncan and junior guard Tony Rutland both chimed in with treys during the scoring spree. Odom was pleased with Rutland's play on

the evening. The guard, who is recovering from knee surgery, posted nine points on the night on three-of-seven shooting.

"I thought he played a good game," Odom said of Rutland's play. "He was a step or two

"I think it was a good game for us. I think we got tired on the perimeter, and our defensive transition was not good. Still, it was a good game for us."

Dave Odom
Head Coach

behind defensively."

Court Authority made a late run in the first half to keep the game close, as the Deacons allowed their guests to outscore them 15-5 in the final minutes of the first frame. The visiting

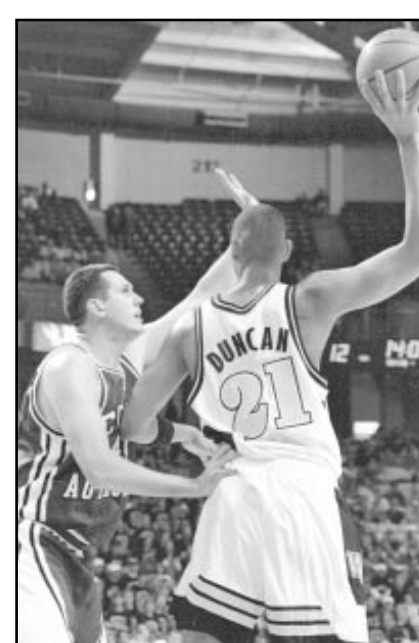
team tallied the final six points of the half to go to the locker room trailing only 37-33.

Duncan led the Deacons in first-half scoring with nine points, followed by seven from the soft-shooting Amonett, who finished the game with 11 tallies. Authority center Dan Plondke was able to put up seven points against the Deacons before halftime, a fact which drew comment from Odom after the contest.

"We obviously made more mistakes than we would have liked," Odom said. "They got inside on us too often."

The Deacons allowed their guests to assume a 52-46 lead several minutes into the second half, whereupon the home team rattled off two scoring runs to close the book on the contest. The first spree, a 17-4 stretch during which six different Deacons contributed baskets, was punctuated by a Duncan jam and put the hosts in front 63-54.

The Demon Deacons subsequently put together another quick run to move their lead to an insurmountable 78-63 disparity late in the contest.



Kristin Thompson

Tim Duncan looks to pass Saturday.