

Deacons finish ninth in district meet

Injuries to key runners result in a disappointing finish for Women's cross country

By ADAM ROTHSCHILD
SPORTS COPY EDITOR

Women's cross country Head Coach Francie Goodridge knew going into this weekend's NCAA District III Championships at Greenville, S.C., that the odds were stacked against her team.

Missing two of their top five runners, the Demon Deacons limped to a ninth-place finish out of 46 teams from the Southeast, thus eliminating them from national championship consideration and ending their season.

Freshmen Emily Selvidio and Jill Snyder suffered leg injuries prior to the Nov. 2 ACC Championships and were not available for the District meet.

Their absence left the Demon Deacons with little depth and no chance of running their way into the top three places which would have resulted in an automatic national championship bid.

"The loss of two of our top five proved to be insurmountable odds," Goodridge said.

According to Goodridge, the Demon Deacons were doomed from the start.

"What I saw was a team that did not

get off the line," Goodridge said. "We did not have the packability we saw at the ACCs. After the start, we struggled and struggled to pull ourselves back together."

The large number of runners at the start broke up the Demon Deacon pack, and resulted in a 43-second split between the team's first and fifth finishers, compared to the 23-second split the team achieved at the ACC meet.

Those 43 seconds accounted for 69 places, which, according to Goodridge, could have changed the Demon Deacons' fate from one of ninth place to a fourth or fifth-place finish.

Senior Liz Cotter, the Deacons' leader all season long, struggled, placing second on the team and 39th overall after a ninth-place showing at the ACC meet.

On the bright side for the Demon Deacons was the performance of freshman Janelle Kraus. The No. 2 runner for the squad all season, Kraus led the Deacons with a 23rd-place finish Saturday and a time of 18:01.

"Our brightest note in this last competition was freshman Janelle Kraus," Goodridge said. "She improved dramatically from the ACCs, closing the gap by 14 seconds from the front

runners. We certainly feel very proud of Janelle."

Kraus also beat four runners who had out-run her at the ACC Championships, and established herself as the second-best freshman in the conference.

Senior Chrissy Person placed 51st overall and third for the Deacons. Sophomores Amy Wallace and Liz Moore rounded out the team's scoring.

With a team laden with freshmen and sophomores, Goodridge is looking forward to next season as an opportunity to get the Demon Deacons back to the National Championship meet.

Kraus should emerge as the leader of the pack, and Selvidio and Snyder should recover from their injuries and regain their top-five form.

Sophomore Becky Pollack, who has suffered from mononucleosis and has not run since the first meet of the season, is the highest national high school finisher ever for the Demon Deacons and should contribute mightily next year. And a host of sophomores, led by Wallace and Moore, will provide depth.

"After two years out of the money," Goodridge concluded, "we feel that next year's crucial."

Volleyball team suffers tough losses as ACC tourney looms

By JOSHUA HOFFMAN
OLD GOLD AND BLACK REPORTER

A second season has begun for the women's volleyball team. The squad will play North Carolina State Friday in the first round of the ACC playoffs. The winner goes on to play the top seed Maryland.

"I'm happy with the season," freshman Sharon Harmsworth said. "I think we played really well, as long as we go out showing a lot of effort."

The team was up for the final match of the season in Atlanta against the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets. The squad's last chance at an ACC victory came against one of the conference's top teams.

Unfortunately, injuries to several key players proved that it was not meant to be. Showing the heart that this team has displayed all season, freshmen Julie Cowley and Harmsworth played through the pain, and tried to keep them in the game as long as they could. In the end, the injuries and the skill level of the Yellow Jackets overcame the Deacons.

"We stuck with it, we hung in there, played hard, and had a lot of fun," Harmsworth said of the Georgia Tech match. "We really wanted to win. We want to get them next year."

Against Clemson, the Deacons continued the aggressive play they have displayed throughout the season. That aggressiveness paid off when the Demon Deacons took a game from the Tigers. It was the first game the squad had won in several matches against

ACC teams. Unfortunately, they were unable to play off of that game and take their first conference match win of the season. The Deacons lost in four games.

"We wanted to win so bad, we lost track," Harmsworth said. "It felt really good to win that game — it gives you confidence. We were thinking too long term. We wanted to win the match and we didn't concentrate on winning the game."

The squad once again got the most out of its top players. Harmsworth continued her outstanding play, finishing the match with 10 kills and 12 digs, both team highs. Horne was solid, contributing nine kills, and junior co-captain Carrie Walker finished with seven kills and five digs. The team's anchor, Cowley, set everything up with her 29 assists and eight digs.

"We really wanted to win that match," Harmsworth said. "It returned some confidence that we were lacking for going such a long time without a win. We're getting back to how we used to play, starting to get back on track."

Even though this was the first year the Deacons sported a varsity team in a decade, this year's team set several personal records. Cowley owns the school record for single-season assists and assists per game. She also established the single-season record for digs. Horne holds the season attack mark and is setting her sights on the single-season kill mark as well. Walker is the proud owner of the new season block record, and should finish the year as the holder of the blocks per game mark also.

SCOREBOARD

Men's Soccer

| Team | Conf. | | Overall | |
|----------------|-------|---|---------|---|
| | W | L | W | L |
| Florida State | 7 | 0 | 9 | 0 |
| Clemson | 6 | 2 | 7 | 3 |
| North Carolina | 5 | 2 | 8 | 2 |
| Virginia | 5 | 3 | 7 | 3 |
| Georgia Tech | 4 | 4 | 5 | 4 |
| Maryland | 3 | 4 | 5 | 5 |
| N.C. State | 2 | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| Wake Forest | 1 | 6 | 3 | 7 |
| Duke | 0 | 7 | 0 | 9 |

ACC Statistics

Receiving Leaders

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Harvey Middleton, GaT | 5.6 |
| Desmond Clark, WFU | 5.5 |

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----|---------------|---|---|----|---|
| Ne Brown, UNC | 4.9 | Florida State | 2 | 5 | 12 | 7 |
| Thabiti Davis, WFU | 4.8 | | | | | |
| Jimmy Grissett, NCS | 4.3 | | | | | |
| L.C. Stevens, UNC | 3.8 | | | | | |

Women's Soccer

| Team | Conf. | | Overall | |
|----------------|-------|---|---------|---|
| | W | L | W | L |
| North Carolina | 7 | 0 | 21 | 1 |
| Duke | 3 | 3 | 10 | 9 |
| Clemson | 3 | 3 | 15 | 7 |
| N.C. State | 3 | 3 | 11 | 9 |
| Virginia | 3 | 3 | 12 | 7 |
| Maryland | 2 | 3 | 18 | 4 |
| Wake Forest | 2 | 5 | 14 | 7 |

This Week

- Friday-Sunday:** Volleyball at ACC Tournament, Atlanta Ga.
- Saturday:** Football at N.C. State, 1 p.m.
- Saturday-Monday:** Women's Basketball at Dial Classic
- Sunday:** Men's Basketball vs. VMI, Joel Coliseum, 1:30 p.m.
- Monday:** Men's Basketball at The Citadel, 7:30 p.m.
- Women's Cross Country at NCAA Championships, Tuscon, Az.
- Tuesday:** Women's Basketball at Appalachian State, 5:15 p.m.

Football

ACC Standings

| | | | | |
|----------------|-------|---------|----|---|
| Team | Conf. | Overall | | |
| Virginia | 4 | 0 | 16 | 2 |
| Maryland | 2 | 2 | 13 | 5 |
| Wake Forest | 3 | 3 | 12 | 7 |
| Duke | 3 | 3 | 12 | 7 |
| Clemson | 2 | 3 | 10 | 7 |
| North Carolina | 2 | 3 | 8 | 8 |
| N.C. State | 1 | 3 | 9 | 6 |

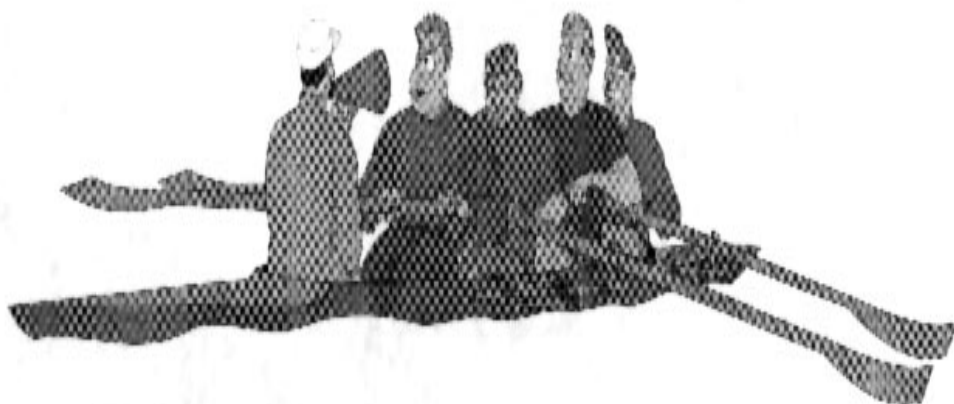
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