

# DEACON NOTES

## ■ Allen dismissed from duties

Chris Allen, the defensive coordinator for the Wake Forest football team the past four years, has been relieved of his coaching duties, according to head coach Jim Caldwell.

Allen, who has also served as an assistant coach for Arizona, Central Michigan, and Ball State during his 27-year collegiate career, came to the Demon Deacon team in 1993 after a four year stint as associate head coach at Southern California. No replacement for the position has been named.

## ■ Timbers on All-Star team

Josh Timbers, a senior member of the men's soccer squad, was chosen to participate on the 1996 Nike Challenge All-Star team. The team will consist of mostly college seniors and will play the USSF under-20 men's national team in this exhibition match. The event will be played at the NCAA Men's Soccer Final Four in Richmond, Va.

Timbers, a starting defender, was the Deacons team leader in points (23) with eight goals and seven assists. Throughout his college career, he has accumulated 15 goals and 13 assists in total.

## ■ Men reach newfound heights

The men's basketball team attained their highest national ranking this past week. Both the AP and CNN/USA Today polls have the Deacons in the number two slot of the polls, trailing Kansas in both. Previously, both systems had the squad ranked third.

# Women's hoops ends break with mixed results

By ERIN KOREY  
PERSPECTIVES EDITOR

Over Thanksgiving break, the women's basketball team kept busy by playing four games, two of which included the Dial Classic at Old Dominion University.

Starting off their first regular season game, the Deacons were able to hold back California with a 61-58 win. With junior guard Heidi Coleman back in the starting line-up after arthroscopic knee surgery, the team was able to hold onto the lead. Both of Coleman's baskets were three-pointers.

The team shot 41 percent from the floor the first half, giving them a 34-27 lead at half-time. Although they were shooting well from the floor, they still had trouble connecting on free throws, shooting only 50 percent from the line.

"I feel good about the shooting percentage moving up. It's a good indication that we are improving our shot selection," said head coach Karen Freeman.

Once again, senior center Tracy Connor was the high scorer for the team with 17 points. She also contributed 9 rebounds.

The team was able to improve their free throw shooting in the second half, but lowered their field goal percentage as well. The team won their first game, advancing them to the championship round against Old Dominion.

Plagued from the beginning, the

Deacons were crushed 82-41. Nine minutes into the game, the Deacons suffered a tremendous setback when Connor dislocated her shoulder and was lost for the game.

The Deacons were unable to compensate for the lack of their leading scorer and rebounder, being outscored 44-19 in the first half.

The Deacons were unable to get shots off in the face of Old Dominion's aggressive defense. They were only able to shoot 31 percent from the floor with no three-pointers in the first half. The second half brought about a better shooting percentage, but the team still found themselves with foul trouble.

The team only made it to the foul line seven times throughout the game in comparison to Old Dominion's 27 foul shots. "We didn't do a good enough job getting ourselves to the foul line, which hurt us a lot," said Freeman.

The third stop on the Deacon's Thanksgiving tour brought them to Appalachian State for a tough loss, 66-60.

Emotionally fatigued by the loss of Connor and Mulholland to a fractured tibia in practice, the Deacons were unable to get their act in gear. Sophomore forwards Jenn Miklic and Emon McMillian did their best to fill the shoes of Connor and Mulholland.

"We went out concerned with our game. Physically we were capable of beating Appalachian State, but we couldn't get it to happen," said Freeman.

The team was outscored 32-18 in the first half, shooting only 28 percent from the floor. Without Connor leading the team, Miklic had to step up in her place. She was the high scorer for the team, with 15 points, which included 6 out of 7 free throws.

"Miklic is a natural offensively," said Freeman. "She gives a good spark in the transitional game."

The Deacons were able to rally in the second half, outscoring the other team 42-34.

"We stepped up our defense in the second half, but only played six minutes real hard," said Freeman.

Despite the late game burst, the Deacons were unable to pull off a victory at the hands of Appalachian State.

The final stop of the four-game road trip was at Freeman's alma mater, Canisius College outside of Buffalo, N.Y.

Connor returned to her usual strong play, scoring 20 points, followed by senior guard Stacey Hawes with 18 points.

The team was back on track, shooting 47 percent. This aided in their performance as they won 74-71 in the final five minutes of the game.

The Demon Deacon squad open ACC league action Saturday at 12th-ranked Virginia. The Cavaliers, led by senior guard Tora Suber and junior forward Monick Foote, look to continue their dominance over the Demon Deacons as they beat them twice last year. They could prove to be the Deacons toughest ACC foe.



LeeAnn Hodges

Sophomore forward Jenn Miklic posts up down low.

# Gridders end year on down note

Team ends difficult 3-8 year with a 37-22 loss at North Carolina St.

By SCOTT PLUMRIDGE  
OLD GOLD AND BLACK REPORTER

Aside from a disastrous first quarter, the Demon Deacon football squad played even up against North Carolina State two weeks ago in Raleigh. The 37-22 Wolfpack victory ended the season on a sour note for the Deacons who finished at 3-8.

The first quarter proved to be the thorn in the Deacon's heel, as State jumped out to a quick and seemingly insurmountable 17-0 lead. The first Deacon possession ended with a blocked punt which was converted into a Wolfpack touchdown. The Wolfpack built on the emotion of the special teams touchdown with a field goal and a touchdown in their next two possessions.

The onslaught continued in the second quarter with the Wolfpack converting a 27-yard field goal. Down 20-0, the Deacons finally snapped out of their daze and rallied for a score of their own to end the quarter. On a drive that featured five passing completions in as many attempts by sophomore quarterback Brian Kuklick, the Deacons put up six points of their own. Junior receiver Thabiti Davis grabbed the fifth and final pass of the drive for a 23-yard touchdown.

Second-half action was marked by an exchange of points. Every Deacon touchdown and effort to close the gap was matched by a Wolfpack score to keep the visitors at arm's length. A field goal by freshman Matt Burdick opened the second half scoring, but was immediately canceled out by a Wolfpack touchdown.

A Deacon touchdown on the next possession was dismissed in a manner similar to that of their previous score. Just two plays after the Deacon touchdown, State scored a long touchdown to again keep the Deacons at bay.

A final Deacon touchdown and a

Wolfpack field goal rounded out the scoring on the day. This balance in the second half of scoring mirrored the relatively even numbers posted by both teams on the day. In total, the Deacons amassed 431 total yards while State racked up 461.

The Deacon offensive output was largely attributable to the passing game.

On the day Kuklick was 28-57 for 330 yards, three touchdowns and two interceptions. Three Deacon receivers were the main benefactors. Davis led all with 12 catches for 132 yards while redshirt freshman Jammie Deese caught seven for 92 and sophomore Desmond Clark grabbed six for 110 yards.



Kristin Thompson

Sophomore Brian Kuklick fakes a handoff and fades back in the pocket to pass.

# Booters fall in NCAA tourney ending an excellent season

By PAUL GAETA  
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

The Demon Deacon women's soccer team lost Nov. 23 to the Florida Gators, 5-0, in the second round of their first-ever NCAA Tournament appearance, putting an end to their extraordinary season.

The Deacon's defeat came at the hands of one of the nation's finest teams. The Gators were ranked third nationally going into the big dance, compiling a 22-2 record throughout the season. Although they were crushed by second ranked UNC in the third round of the tourney by a score of 9-0, their regular-season success and team talent was evident on the field against the Deacons.

"We played terrible and frightened," third-year Head Coach Chris Turner said. "We gave them every opportunity in the world to beat us and they did. We had a great run to get there, but it wasn't meant to be."

The Gators got on the board early in the first half and put on a relentless attack for the 2,041 in attendance at their home field from then on. At the 8:13 mark, Danielle Fotopoulos proved why she is one of the nation's leading goal-scorers as she fired a shot from eight yards out past charging goalkeeper freshman Beth Klein. After the goal, the Deacons stormed down the field themselves and had a perfect opportunity to even the match, but their shot hit off the post.

"We were a little down after such a quick goal, but when we came down and almost scored we gained some confidence," Turner said. "Things just didn't work out from there though."

Minutes after the Demon Deacons' missed attempt their usually solid defense failed to clear a ball in the box, and Florida's Leah Bridges slammed the ball home for the 2-0 lead. At the 30:38 mark, the Gator's Melissa Pini converted a penalty kick, and then, two minutes before the conclusion of the half, Fotopoulos scored her second. After 45 min-

utes of play the Deacons were already in a four-goal hole.

The game did not improve for the booters in the second half. Nine minutes in Florida put in their fifth and final goal of the match when Pini scored her second off a blast from 20 yards out into the upper right corner.

The Deacons were dominated from the start. Florida outshot them, 21-3, and Klein was forced to save 10 shots as opposed to the Gator's goalie, Michelle Harris, who was only tested twice.

Although the booters' season came to an abrupt end, their accomplishments throughout enabled them to become one of the top teams in the nation in only their third year of existence. They included the year reeling off eight straight wins, including tournament championships in the Maine Invitational, Rutgers-Umbro Classic, and Wake Forest Kickoff Classic. One of those victories, against then 13th-ranked Duke 1-0, was the program's first-ever over a ranked opponent. They also won their first ever ACC Tournament game, 2-1 over Duke, in a game that assured them a berth in the big dance.

"Things fell in the right place this year," Turner said. "There was one bump in the road in our loss to UNC-Asheville, but we did meet all our expectations this season. We attained all that we wanted to."

With only two weeks' time elapsed since the conclusion of the season, the Demon Deacons are already a leg up on the rest of their competition next year. The team returns all players from this year's squad, giving the already talented players that much more experience. This experience and talent combined with next season's incoming recruits will make for quite a formidable team.

"We have the proverbial nucleus, and it will help," said an optimistic Turner. "We only can look to improve on what was a great year."

# Hoopsters school early season competition

By MICKEY KRAYNYAK  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Demon Deacon men's basketball team revved its engines without a hitch in its first three games of the season, dealing lopsided defeats to VMI, The Citadel and Davidson in the first six days of the 1996-97 campaign.

The Deacons opened their season Nov. 24 in Joel Coliseum against the Keydets. Despite garnering generous numbers of minutes from eleven members of their roster they were unable to lodge a wrench in the home team's gears.

"We're very pleased with our opener," Head Coach Dave Odom said. "I think for the most part we played very well."

The hosts debuted as the third-ranked team in the country (equaling the highest ranking the program has ever attained) and held VMI to a chilled 29.6 percent shooting performance in collecting a 92-63 win. Senior Tim Duncan led all scorers in the contest with 18 points, and also pulled in 15 rebounds.

"I think the key to this game was our ability to attack at both ends of the floor," Odom said.

However, junior Jerry Braswell played the role of sparkplug in the Deacons' first game, as the starting off-guard chimed in with nine of his team's first twelve points to ward off any first-game hitches. Largely on the strength

of Braswell's shooting touch, the Deacons ran out to a 24-9 lead with 11 minutes remaining in the first half. The Keydets spent the remainder of the game mounting unsuccessful attempts to chip into their hosts' sizable lead.

"I think Jerry Braswell set a tone early in the game," Odom said.

Braswell led all halftime scorers with 15 points on five-for-six shooting from behind the arc, and also grabbed four boards in the first frame.

In his first game as a Demon Deacon, freshman center Loren Woods scored nine points and grabbed ten rebounds. Perhaps most interestingly, Woods and Duncan also both swatted four shots on the night, laying the foundation for a blocked shot derby which persisted throughout the Deacons' next several games.

Against the Citadel the following evening, the Deacons again pieced together a sizable early lead, though this time Duncan was the major impetus behind the early Deacon onslaught. The pivotman hit on eight of nine first-half shot attempts for 16 points in the first frame, powering a Deacon attack which was able to pour in a generous number of low-risk shot attempts before the break.

When the teams went to the locker room, the Deacons had connected on 64.3 percent of their first half shot attempts, and had opened up a sizable 47-24 lead on their hosts. The

Citadel was unable to find an answer for the Deacons' warm shooting, and the home team's attempt to answer from the perimeter proved ill-advised: The Citadel hoisted eleven three-point attempts in the first half, but connected on only two of them.

The hosts found the going no easier after the intermission, as Woods notched seven points during the second half to pace the visiting team's lead-maintenance effort.

The Citadel was able to cut the Deacon lead to no smaller than 20 points, which they did with 5:22 remaining in the contest. The Deacons promptly squelched their hosts' mini-run, however, with a 21-7 run to close out the game. Woods and Duncan again but-tressed the squad's defensive effort, tallying three and two blocks, respectively.

Though the Deacons came out flat Friday against the Wildcats in Joel Coliseum, the home team was able to overcome a frosty early touch from long range to declaw their intrastate guests in the second half.

The Deacons took the floor against Davidson looking like a team that had not quite digested the entirety of its Thanksgiving fare. The Wildcats notched the first basket of the game with a three-pointer from Mark Donnelly, and maintained their advantage for all but the final 2.3 seconds of the first half, when junior Tony Rutland stole the ball and converted a layup to give the home team its

first lead of the day at 23-21.

The Deacons came out of the locker room in style, however, and knocked in the first seven points of the second half to gain some breathing room.

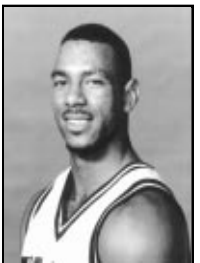
Though the Wildcats remained within striking distance for several minutes of the second half, the overmatched visiting team was ultimately unable to keep pace with the Deacons and was soon operating under a double-digit point differential.

After shooting only seven-for-21 in the first half (including an 0-for-5 three-point-shooting stint), the Deacons recovered in the second frame to drill 17 of 31 shot attempts while holding the Wildcats to a paltry 29 percent showing from the floor after the intermission.

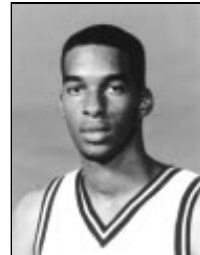
Duncan was the game's high scorer, notching 20 points and 13 rebounds; the center also blocked three shots (Woods swatted two).

Donnelly led the Deacons with 17 points. Odom noted throughout the early games that he was having problems maintaining his veteran squad's level of concentration in practice.

"My biggest challenge has been keeping these guys' minds sharp," Odom said. "When you're going over things you already know, sometimes you have a tendency to say, 'Let's play.'"



Braswell



Woods

# Richmond

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a second half run. Senior Sean Allen (six second half points), Woods (six), and senior Ricky Peral (five) paced the Deacons' second half effort.

The Spiders' best effort at a second-half comeback came compliments of center Rick Edwards, who tallied ten second-half points to lead the Spiders after the break.

Edwards converted a three-point play after drawing a foul from Duncan early in the half, and hit another basket soon after to pull the Spiders to within 46-31 with 17:23 left in the game.

Baskets from Allen and Woods soon after, however, squelched the hosts' comeback bid and relegated the Spiders to a second half spent trading baskets with the Demon Deacons.

Duncan and Woods again combined to thoroughly confound opposing attempts to generate consistent interior scoring.

Duncan, who tallied 14 points and 18 rebounds on the night, also swatted five shots in the contest.

Woods notched 10 points and nine boards in the win, and adjusted the trajectories of four Richmond shots.

The win over the Spiders moved the Deacons' record to 4-0 and was the team's second triumph in two tries on the road.