

DEACON NOTES

Deacons compile 2-5 during December

December proved to be a cold month for the Deacon women's basketball team as they dropped five of seven decisions, including two against ranked conference opponents.

The first loss came at the hands of the Pirates of East Carolina on Dec. 2 in Greenville.

For East Carolina, this 73-66 win marked the first victory over an ACC opponent since 1982.

The Deacs opened their regular season conference schedule against then-No. 7 North Carolina Dec. 4 at Joel Coliseum.

The Tarheels forced 24 Deacon turnovers in the 90-59 North Carolina victory.

For the Deacons, junior Emon McMillan recorded a career-high 20 points and pulled down a team-best 20 rebounds, while Dardy had the best outing of her young career, notching 11 points and seven rebounds.

Cookeville, Tenn., was the site of the Dec. 6 matchup between the Deacs and Tennessee Tech, in which the Golden Eaglettes came away with the 65-44 win.

McMillan was the high scorer for the Deacs with 12, while the team as a whole shot only 29.3 percent within field goal range.

The Deacs won their third game of the season on Dec. 17 against James Madison in Harrisonburg, Va., by a score of 76-71.

Coleman led the Deacons in points with 17, while McMillan scored 14 and Kelly added 12.

Despite committing 24 turnovers in the game, the Deacons were still able to come away with the double-overtime win against the Dukes, who committed 27 turnovers.

On Dec. 20 the Deacons traveled to Buies Creek to face cross-state rival Campbell, and despite shooting 82.4 percent from the free throw line, the Deacs fell to the Lady Camels 67-62.

Coleman was the only Deacon with double-digit scoring, with a career-high 27 points.

The Friars of Providence fell to the Deacons on Dec. 22 by a score of 65-52.

The Deacs tallied their second win of the month and their first in Winston-Salem.

McMillan led the Deacs with 13 points and six rebounds.

The Deacons returned to Joel Coliseum to host then-No. 18 North Carolina State on Dec. 30.

The Wolfpack came away victorious in the match by a score of 75-46, pulling down 39 total rebounds.

For the Deacs, Kelly was the only player with double-digit scoring with 12, while McMillan grabbed a team-high six rebounds.

The Deacs also gave the ball up 24 times, shot 32.1 percent within field goal range and went 0-10 from three-point land.

Men top Radford, fall to Princeton, Marshall

On Dec. 17 the Deacons shot a mere 33.3 percent from field goal range in a 73-66 loss to Marshall in Huntington, W. Va.

Senior Tony Rutland led the Deacons with 19 points, while senior Steven Goolsby scored 14.

Sophomore Loren Woods and freshman Robert O'Kelley each added 12.

The Thundering Herd also had four players in double-digits.

The Deacons then traveled to the Jimmy V Classic in East Rutherford, N.J., to face the Princeton Tigers.

Princeton proved to be better than the Deacs that day with a 69-64 victory.

Freshman Niki Arinze led the Deacs in scoring with 15, while Woods and O'Kelley each tallied 14 and Rutland added 13.

Woods also led both teams in rebounding with 14.

Head Coach Dave Odom and his team then returned to Winston-Salem to face Radford on Dec. 22.

The Deacs proved to be too much for the Highlanders as they dominated the match by a score of 85-53.

The Deacs forced 22 turnovers and held Radford to 36.8 percent from field goal range.

Meanwhile, the Deacs were 50 percent or better in all three shooting categories and out-rebounded the Highlanders 39-27.

Women's tennis team earns national honors

The Deacon doubles team of junior Nicola Kaiwai and freshman Dorothee Kurz were named the ITA National Doubles Team of the Month after winning the doubles title at the Rolex Southeast Regional in Chapel Hill in November.

The duo finished at 13-3 this fall and beat then fourth-ranked Margie Lespi and Manisha Malhotra of Tennessee in the Rolex finals.

Kaiwai and Kurz are currently No. 6 in the Rolex Collegiate rankings after beginning the fall unranked.

The Deacs open their spring season on Jan. 23 when they compete in the ACC Indoor Championships.

Kaiwai and Kurz should be seeded on top of the doubles bracket heading in to the season starting tourney.

They are currently ranked No. 13 as a team in Rolex Collegiate Tennis Rankings, after being ranked No. 14 prior to the fall season.

The Deacons were led in scoring by Rutland, who after regaining his position in the starting lineup, broke out for 15 points.

Freshman Niki Arinze came off the bench to record 10 points, including two on a spectacular reverse with five seconds left in the first, a rare highlight for the Deacs on this night.

"It's easy for me to say this but I know that we're not as bad as we looked tonight. I know we're not," Odom said.

The Deacs will have an opportunity to redeem themselves Saturday, Jan. 17 when the Maryland Terrapins come to Joel Coliseum, fresh off last night's upset of the top-ranked and previously undefeated North Carolina Tar Heels.

Even though his team is in the midst of a streak in which they have lost six of their last eight, Coach Odom is convinced that his Deacons can return to the early season form that saw them burst out of the gate with a 8-0 record.

"I can tell you this: Nothing stays the same. Nothing. Nothing stays the same except for life and death. Those two things are constant but everything else changes in between that. So the way things are today, maybe they'll be that way March 1, but maybe they won't," said a philosophical Odom.

Deacs test Duke but fall, 73-60

Women play well, but the 22nd ranked Blue Devils are too tough for the Deacons

By Erin Korey
Arts and Entertainment Editor

Despite the Duke Blue Devils national ranking, the women's basketball team came out strong against them, to give them a scare in a 73-60 loss.

The Deacons losing record of 4-9 is not representative of their hard work ethic.

The Deacons are in a tough position with four teams in the ACC ranked in the top 25.

Ranked 22 in the country, Duke played the Deacons strong and came out on top.

Throughout the season, the team has been giving playing time to all of the players, allowing different team members to lead the team.

Freshman Kristen Shaffer came off the bench to share the title of high scorer with senior Carri Walker, both scoring ten points.

She also led the team with six rebounds along with senior Emon McMillan.

The Deacons' strong point this season has

been their free-throw shooting. In the first half, they were 9 for 9, never missing a beat.

What they struggled with last season, they are now using to their advantage.

Although the Deacons were unable to take the lead away from the Blue Devils, they kept the score close throughout the game.

In the final two minutes of the first half, the women came had a burst of momentum, putting them on a 7-1 scoring streak.

Dardy stole the ball twice in the last 30 seconds to allow the Deacons the opportunity to bring the Deacons within four points of Duke.

Half-time allowed the Deacons to get pumped and they left the locker-room with a new energy.

This didn't last long, as the team continued to trail the intense Duke team.

Although the Deacons kept within 15 throughout the second half, they were never able to break back into the competition.

The Deacons' statistics show that they actually played a strong game.

Although their first-half shooting percentage was only 32 percent, they shot 48 percent in the second half.

Unfortunately for them, Duke shot 56 percent in the second half to give them the win.

"I felt good about our effort," said coach Charlene Curtis.

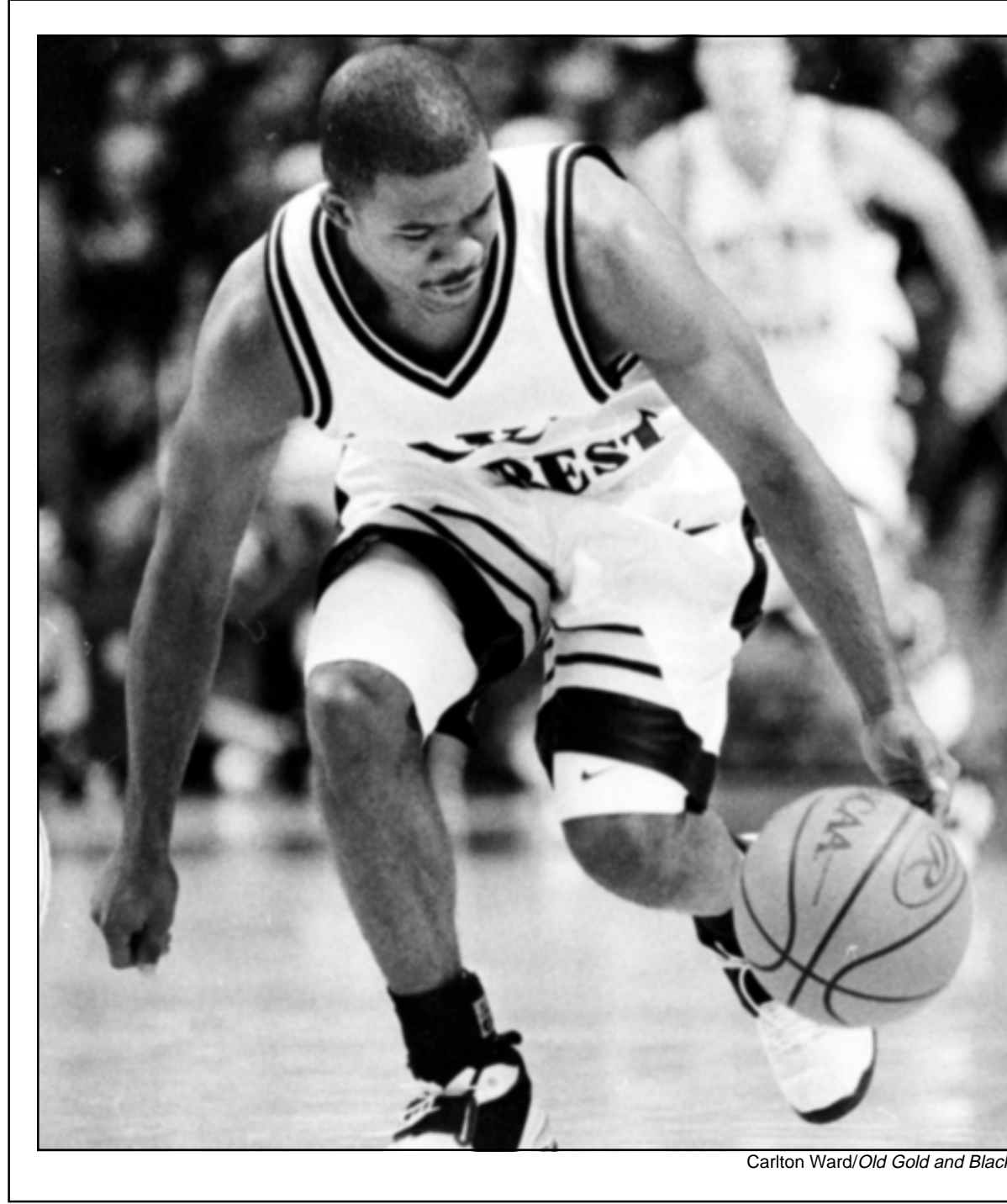
"Our game plan defensively worked early on in the first half, but the Blue Devils really picked it up in the second half."

The Demon Deacons are off to a shaky start, but show potential for a strong season.

With the advent of a new coach, and a young team, the next few years may prove hopeful for the team.



Shaffer



Carlton Ward/Old Gold and Black

Rookie sensation

Freshman Robert O'Kelley, starting guard for the Demon Deacon basketball team, looks down at the ball while dribbling down the court. O'Kelley has been this year's biggest surprise, leading the team in scoring in his rookie campaign. Last night, however, O'Kelley's talent on the court couldn't help his team at all. The Deacs got thrashed by second-ranked Duke, 88-52. The team jumps back into action Saturday with a 7:00 game at home against Maryland.

Tech stings Deacs in closing minutes

By Paul Gaeta
Assistant Sports Editor

The Deacon men's basketball team, following this season's trend of bowing to opponents in the final minutes of games, lost to ACC foe Georgia Tech in Atlanta Jan. 10, 70-63.

The Yellow Jackets were led by All-ACC forward Matt Harpring who single-handedly brought Georgia Tech back from a six-point deficit and to their first conference win of the season.

With nine minutes remaining, the Deacons looked well on their way to their second straight ACC

win as the squad took their biggest lead of the game, 49-43. The scrappy Tech players led by Harpring, however, fought back.

With 4:32 remaining, Harpring broke a 54-54 tie with a three-pointer from the top of the key. The three proved to be the final nail in the Deacs' coffin as the squad never could get back in the game.

A Michael Maddox lay-up off a Harpring assist put the Yellow Jackets up 59-56. Then freshman sensation Dion Glover, third in the nation in scoring, forced a turnover by Demon Deacon senior Steve Goolsby and converted it

into a thunderous dunk, two of his 16 points of the game. The jam gave Tech a five-point lead, 61-56.

Freshmen Robert O'Kelley and James Griffin helped cut a seven point deficit to three. Griffin took a pass from O'Kelley and hit an easy lay-up. Then, off two missed free throws by Tech's T.J. Vines, O'Kelley, continuing an excellent rookie year for the Deacs, drove in and hit a big bucket to cut the lead to three, 63-60.

That score, however, was the closest the Demon Deacons would get. Harpring scored four of his team's final seven points, and the Yellow Jacket defense held the Deacon of-

fense to only one field goal for the remaining two minutes, giving Tech its first conference win of the season.

Harpring, who leads the ACC in both rebounding and scoring this season, led all scorers with 23 points. He rounded out his effort with nine rebounds and three assists. Maddox chipped in with 15 points, while Glover added 16.

Senior guard Tony Rutland, who, with the help of 4-4 shooting behind the three-point arc, scored 16 points and grabbed four boards. O'Kelley continued his emergence as the Deacons' biggest scoring threat this season, hit for 17.

Deacons shellacked for 40 minutes in loss

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ended the 19-1 run by the Blue Devils.

However, by this time many of the 14,304 in attendance had already headed for the exits, convincing themselves they had seen enough.

The mass exodus started during an official timeout with 8:32 remaining, in the middle of the Deacon drought, as the Deacs were behind 72-41. During each timeout until the end of the game, more and more people headed to the parking lot.

By the end of regulation the second teams for both squads were on the floor battling in a game that had long been decided, as freshmen Aron McMillan, Chuck Goodman and Rahmen Love-Lane all saw action along with sophomore Tim Fuller.

McMillan's hook with under two minutes remaining was the only points from the group.

In the final 13 minutes of the second half the Deacs managed a mere 12 points.

"The only solace we have is that we know we lost to a great team, a multi-talented team, a team that attacks you at every position on every possession on both ends of the court," Odom said.

SCOREBOARD

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Standings

	ACC	Overall
North Carolina	4 0	17 0
Duke	5 0	15 1
Clemson	2 2	11 5
Maryland	2 2	9 5
Georgia Tech	1 2	11 4
Wake Forest	1 2	8 5
Virginia	1 2	9 7
N.C. State	1 3	9 5
Florida St.	1 4	12 5

Statistics

Three-Point Goal Percentage	Pct.
Mike Chappell, Duke	.522

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Standings

	ACC	Overall
Michael Maddox, GaT.	.471	
Tony Christie, Clem.	.471	
Robert O'Kelley, WFU	.441	
Clint Harrison, NCSU	.440	
Steve Goolsby, WFU	.439	
Rebounding		
	Avg.	
Matt Harpring, GaT.	10.3	
Antawn Jamison, UNC	9.5	
Norman Nolan, UVa.	9.1	
Loren Woods, WFU	8.7	
Statistics		
Three Point Percentage		
		Pct.
North Carolina	4 1	13 2
Duke	3 2	10 5
Maryland	2 3	9 6
Virginia	2 3	11 3
Georgia Tech	2 4	8 7
Florida St.	1 4	5 9
Wake Forest	0 6	4 12
Statistics		
Three Point Percentage		
Amy Geren, Clem.		.873
Betsy Foy, GaT.		.836
Chanel Wright, UNC		.795
Mimi McKinney, UVa.		.783
Emon McMillan, WFU		.750
Erin Stovall, UVa.		.712
Joannah Kauffman, GaT.		.681