

Deacons top Missouri 74-65

Sports/B3

Sports

Clouston, Munoz capture doubles title

By Paul Gaeta
 Assistant Sports Editor

A two-and-a-half month break from competitive tennis did not cause the Demon Deacon men's team, and specifically their ace, junior Myles Clouston, to miss a beat.

Clouston, who was ranked 90th in the latest Rolex Collegiate Tennis Rankings, continued what has thus far been a very successful 1997-98 campaign.

The native of Durban, South Africa compiled a 14-5 record this fall. He also became the first Demon Deacon to advance to the main draw of the ITA All-American Championships, one of college tennis' four grand slam events.

Jan. 24-25, the Demon Deacon squad saw their first action of the new year as they traveled to Clemson, S.C., to compete in the ACC Indoor Championships at the Hoke

Sloan Tennis Center. With the inaugural event of 1998 came the Demon Deacons' first championship of the new year as Clouston teamed up with freshman Raul Munoz to capture the doubles title at the tourney.

The duo, seeded third at the championships, has been virtually unstoppable since pairing up, dropping only two matches in 12 in the fall while watching their national ranking rise to 38th.

The ACC Indoor Championships created no obstacles that would stop, or even slow down, the team's winning ways. Clouston and Munoz, who hails from Mexico City, made quick work of the competition, seemingly blowing away their opponents.

"I think we were playing great," said Munoz. "The victory will help us rise up in the rankings, and the win was a great start to the season."

"We got into the match pretty early and we jumped on them from the beginning. We played and well and dominated."

Raul Munoz
 Freshman

The pair opened the tournament with an easy 8-1 win over Duke's Porter Jones and Marko Cerenko. The victory set up a second-round match with Huntley Montgomery and Kent Kock of Virginia.

The Cavalier's duo proved to be Clouston and Munoz's closest match of the tournament playing an even match before the Demon Deacon players pulled through with the quarterfinal win, 8-6. Although the match was close, the Deacon players thought

they should have put the competition away much earlier.

"We complicated the match," said Munoz. "We were very tentative from the beginning and we had a difficult time finishing. They were not the best team we played in the tournament, we just hurt ourselves in the match."

An 8-1 semifinal win over the tandem of Justin Smith and John Winter of Virginia set up the championship against Tony Thomas and Rob Tedesco of Carolin.

The Tar Heels players were the toughest competition the Demon Deacons faced, but Clouston and Munoz jumped on them early and were able to cruise to an easy victory by a score of, 8-3.

"We got into the match pretty early," Munoz said, "and we jumped on them from the beginning. We played and well and dominated."

While the doubles action proved quite successful for the Demon Deacons, the singles play at the tourney never got off on the right foot.

Clouston, in fact, was the only Deacon player to win two matches at the tournament before he fell in the third round.

The Demon Deacons' second match of the new year comes on Saturday, Jan. 31 against 18th-ranked Middle Tennessee State.

The match will be the first at the new Wake Forest Indoor Tennis Center, built last year.

The Deacs hope their first competition on the new court will result in a win over a very good Middle Tennessee State squad.

"Having practiced there since last semester should help," said Munoz. "It's going to be a good match. We have a good team at the moment, and I think we can beat them."

What are you doing Saturday at, say, 1 p.m.?

By Scott Payne
 Sports Editor

"I was ecstatic with the crowd. I was very pleased that our fans showed up and I thought they were a big help for us," said Head Coach Dave Odom, following his team's 62-55 victory over the Virginia Cavaliers, an Atlantic Coast Conference victory that his team desperately needed.

Looking at the final statistics it is difficult to see how the Deacs managed to pull off the victory, against a team who had already beaten them this season. In games such as these, when a team is not able to buy a basket, crowd support can often prove to be the difference between winning and losing, especially in this conference.

Tuesday night against Virginia the official attendance was 13,505 and every one of those people helped the Deacs overcome their early difficulties and ultimately win the game. Well, a combination of the crowd and the 24 free throws the Deacs sank.

The crowd that showed up came ready to cheer despite the monsoon-like weather outside and the "happenings with some of the other networks up in Washington" as Odom described, namely the State of the Union Address delivered by President Clinton at the same time as the game was being played.

In the last few games, especially against Virginia, it has become painfully obvious that the Deacons have trouble getting into the flow of things out of the gate, both offensively and defensively. After struggling early against the Cavs, the Deacons got a lift from the crowd and were able to overcome the deficit and have a lead by half time.

Last season the fans at Joel Coliseum came under much criticism for their lack of support for the Deacons and for sitting on their hands during key moments of games. This season, however, those attending Demon Deacon home games have given the Joel Coliseum an electric atmosphere of late.

In the three home games since the Jan. 14 loss to Duke, the crowd at Joel Coliseum has been exceptionally rowdy and all three games have resulted in Deacon victories.

The presence of the crowd and the advantage it creates will be even more important this Saturday, Jan. 31, when the North Carolina Tar Heels come to town ranked No. 2 in the country and fresh off their 103-55 throttling of Florida State, in which Vince Carter spent half the game swinging from the rim, creating his own ESPN highlight reel.

There should be no problem getting fans to come out to Joel Coliseum to watch the hated Heels.

But there is a distinct difference between coming to the game and coming to the game. Many of you probably assume that the Heels will walk over the Deacs in much the same fashion as Duke did two weeks ago. If the turnout to the game is good but the crowd is quiet that will send a message to the Deacon squad and may prevent them from being fired up at the start of the game.

This year's Deacon squad is different than those in recent history. Instead of being a veteran team full of upperclassmen, the '97-'98 Deacons feature six freshmen, including four freshmen in the starting lineup. Because of the transfer of several players in recent years, such as former forwards William Stringfellow and Antonio Jackson, Odom must deal with a young team.

If the Deacon team that played Maryland shows up against North Carolina, things could get very interesting. Since Maryland beat North Carolina, knocking them out of their No. 1 ranking, and the Deacons went on to beat Maryland, then perhaps ...

Deacons conquer Cavaliers, 62-55

By Scott Payne
 Sports Editor

If a team takes seven minutes to score its first points and shoots only 33 percent from the field for the game, then that team has no chance at winning, especially in the Atlantic Coast Conference. Right? Wrong. In a sloppy game littered with fouls, turnovers and enough bricks to build a house, the

WFU	62
Virginia	55

Deacons were able to hold on down the stretch for a 62-55 victory over the Virginia Cavaliers.

"Well, that's as good as we can play. If that's not good enough then I can't help it," joked a sarcastic Head Coach Dave Odom, whose team picked up their third conference victory of the season.

The Deacons started the game ice-cold from the field and did not score until the 12:51 mark, when freshman guard Robert O'Kelley hit a jumper to make the score 2-7. The Deacs made only six more field goals for the rest of the half, but because the Cavs' offense was just as stagnant, the Deacs held a 22-21 half time lead.

"Its probably as bad an eight minutes of basketball as we've played all year. Why I don't know," said Odom of his team's slow start. "You look up at the clock (at the half) and you say, 'That can't be. How can (we) be ahead?'"

During the intermission Odom did not scream at his team about their poor shooting or their six turnovers, but instead he praised them.

"I will tell you what I told them at half time, exactly. 'I'm proud of you.' I was very proud of them at half time. Not proud of the way we played but proud that we didn't get away, proud that we didn't lose our composure and our poise or presence," Odom said.

Immediately after half time, Cavalier guard Curtis Staples found his rhythm and canned two straight threes to put the Cavs ahead.

Staples was a thorn in the Deacons' side all night, leading all scorers with 24 points, all of which came on eight three-pointers.

At an official time-out with just over 16 minutes remaining, the Deacons trailed by a score of 24-31, but when the action resumed, the Deacs made their move. The Deacons took control of the game down the stretch at the free throw line, as they hit 29 of 39 from the charity stripe, including 24 of 32 in the second half.

"The jump shots weren't going (for us), and (the Deacs) started dribble-driving the basketball and we kept bumping and holding and putting them at the free throw line and they made their free throws," said Cavalier Head Coach Jeff Jones, whose team committed a total of 32 fouls in the game.

By the end of the game Staples, forward Norman Nolan, and forward Willie Dersch, who scored 42 of Virginia's 55 points, had all fouled out, and each of the nine Cavaliers to play in the game had committed at least one personal foul.

Senior Tony Rutland capitalized on the Cavs' fouling spree as he hit 11 of 14 free throws, including nine of 10 in the final two and a half minutes of the game. Rutland finished with a total of 18 points.

Despite their free-throw proficiency, the Deacons failed to distance themselves from the Cavs. With only



Senior guard Tony Rutland launches a shot from downtown for three of his 18 points in the Deacs' 62-55 victory over Virginia on Tuesday, Jan. 27. Eleven of Rutland's points came from the free throw line. For the game the Deacs made 29 of 39 free throws on their way to their third ACC victory of the season.

Carlton Ward/
 Old Gold and Black

40 seconds left, the Cavs trailed by two at 52-50, until senior Steven Goolsby hit a running jumper from the right baseline to push the lead back to four.

"Obviously the biggest shot of the game was Steve Goolsby off the baseline at 52-50 when he hit the shot with about 15 seconds or so on the shot clock after a time out. We actually planned it for a three, to be honest about it, but he got in a little tighter than that but we took a two very willingly there, very pleased to get that," Odom said.

Even after Goolsby's heroics, the game was far from decided. With just over 16 seconds left and with the crowd chanting, "Hey, Hey Goodbye" Staples hit his

eighth three-point bomb to quiet the crowd and cut the Deacon lead to 56-53.

But free throws by O'Kelley and Rutland in the waning seconds secured the victory for the Deacons. O'Kelley, the only other Deacon besides Rutland to score in double figures, finished with 20 points.

"I think the key to the second half was, we began to build up some fouls on Virginia, quickly. They were fouling us, we were getting some decent thrusts to the basket off the dribble, they were fouling us and eventually we got the free throw line," said Odom, whose team faces the North Carolina Tar Heels next when they come to Joel Coliseum Jan. 31.

Kraus leads Deacon runners back into action

By David McGlinchey
 Old Gold and Black Reporter

Sophomore Janelle Kraus led a strong Demon Deacon women's track team competing in Blacksburg, Va., by finishing the one-mile run with a time of 5:01.70. Kraus finished fifth in the event.

Running in their first meet of the indoor track season last Sat., Jan 24, at the Virginia Tech Indoor Track and Field Invitational, the team had to contend with a winter break conditioning pro-



Wallace

gram that was almost exclusively long-distance training. The team also only had about one and a half weeks of training with which to prepare for the meet since returning to school from Winter Break. "We were training anaerobically over winter break," junior Amy Wallace said.

The team also only had about one and a half weeks of training since returning to school with which to prepare for the meet.

Wallace flew through the 3,000 meter race in a time of 10:37. "That time was OK, but it was nothing outstanding" said Wallace.

The women's 4x400 team, which in-

cluded sophomore Trista Hopkins, junior Brook Chapman, freshman Summer Shaw and sophomore Jill Snyder, also ran well at the Virginia Tech meet, finishing with a fast time of 4:02.

"Considering the preparation we had for this meet and the high level which we still performed to I would say that this team is just scratching the surface of its potential," Wallace said. "After we get a few more weeks of training under our belts we will be a force to be reckoned with."