

Deacon volleyball team triumphs
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Sports

Deacs kick off season in style

New Head Coach Tony da Luz is victorious in debut as Demon Deacons beat ACC rival Florida State

By Paul Gaeta
Assistant Sports Editor

Last year, the women's soccer team was arguably the greatest sports story on campus. In only their third year of existence, the team surprised virtually every soccer fan in the nation, winning eight straight games to start the season.

The climax came when they landed a spot in the 32-team NCAA Tournament where they were defeated by second-ranked University of Florida in the second round.

This season, the squad, ranked 15th in *Soccer America's* latest rankings, is not out to surprise anyone. With the majority of their starters back from last season, the Demon Deacon booters are out to prove last season was no fluke.

In head coach Tony da Luz's debut, the team continued last year's momentum into this year's first two games defeating ACC rival Florida State at home Friday, 2-1, to open the season.

They then backed that win up with a 2-0 victory over UNC-Charlotte Sunday under the lights of Spry Stadium.

"The first game we played tight in the first few minutes, but we settled down after 20 minutes and got a good win," said da Luz. "The second game we played well the whole way through. The rhythm and organization was there. It was 2-0, but it could have been 6 or 7-0."

In Friday's opener against Florida St., the Demon Deacons struggled in the first few minutes of play. Forty-one seconds after the whistle was blown, the Deacons surrendered their first goal of the year.

Seminole Erin Grimsley received a high pass from teammate Alexandria Osorio and headed it past sophomore Beth Klein into the goal as Florida St. bounced out to an early 1-0 lead.

The Deacs regrouped and started playing like the 15th best team in the nation.

After testing Florida St. goalkeeper Melissa Juhl with several sizzlers, the Demon Deacons were finally able to knot the game at one.

Sophomore Anne Shropshire tied it up when she chased down a lead pass from junior Jessen Snyder and slid a pass past Juhl into the net at the 20:22 mark of the first half.

The Demon Deacons, however, weren't finished. Twelve minutes later, Shropshire lifted one of the team's seven corner kicks of the day into the front of the net. Sophomore Karli Schilling was there to volley the ball home, giving the booters a 2-1 lead they would keep for the rest of the game.

The victory was important as it not only got the season started on the right foot but also notched a win over a tough conference opponent.

"That was definitely huge," said Schilling. "Florida St. is a weaker ACC team because they are a new program, but any time you get a win in the ACC it's huge."



Stephanie Matthews fights for possession of the ball in the open field against a UNC-Charlotte defender during the game held at Spry Stadium under the lights, Sunday evening

Carlton Ward / Old Gold and Black

The triumph also gave da Luz, who replaced Chris Turner as head coach, his first victory as a Demon Deacon.

"It was a big relief," said da Luz. "I was very pleased and relieved with the win."

The team came back Sunday night and gave in-state rival UNC-Charlotte a tough start to their season, dominating the Lady 49ers in every facet of the game.

Twenty minutes into the game, the Schilling-Shropshire duo was at it again. Shropshire lofted a pass to a streaking Schilling who tipped it past UNC-Charlotte's Jessica Brooks into the net.

It was Schilling's second game winning goal in as many games.

"Anne had a breakaway down the right wing and she lofted a pass to me," Schilling said. "It was just me and the defender, and I was able to volley it in."

The Deacs were unable to take advantage of several scoring chances in the last part of the first half. Midway through the second, the team added an insurance goal.

Junior Megan Suddes headed in a Shropshire corner kick that initially hit the post, giving the Demon Deacons a 2-0 lead.

Klein notched her first shutout of the

season as she recorded seven saves. The Deacons tested Brooks with 17 shots and 10 corner kicks.

After Sunday's game, Schilling received ACC Player of the Week honors as a result of her two game winning goals on the opening weekend of play. It was the first time she has received the award.

"I was really surprised," she said. "It's a great honor, but there are other things more important, too."

This weekend, the Demon Deacon booters host the Wake Forest/Nike Invitational at Spry Stadium. Other teams playing are Villanova, High Point and the University of Maine.

'Cats will walk away losers again

By Scott Payne
Sports Editor

Last weekend marked the beginning of the college football season, in which college football powerhouses such as Tennessee and Nebraska

FROM THE PRESS BOX

play non-conference games that are viewed as mere scrimmages. These games often showcase the superiority of the favored team featuring their long touchdown passes, smothering defenses, and pum-

meling rushing attacks which create lopsided scoring.

However, once and awhile things do not occur as the Associated Press rankings dictate. Often the team that no one expects to have a chance, the under dog, does the unthinkable; they pull off the major upset.

Such was the scene last Saturday in the Carrier Dome at Syracuse University as the Wolfpack of N.C. State came to town. For the last few seasons the Wolfpack has experienced great difficulty achieving victory on the gridiron, much like our Demon Deacon football team. Syracuse was ranked in the top 20 in almost all of the national college polls and was expected to run away with the victory.

But when the game was over, the final score was 32 to 31; the team celebrating in the middle of the field was not the home team but the visiting Wolfpack.

The same scenario surrounds the Demon Deacon's season opener this Saturday at Groves Stadium. Northwestern comes to town ranked in the top 25 nationally and heavily favored to claim victory, following their dismantling of the Oklahoma Sooners two weeks ago.

Despite the odds, last season the Deacons proved that they have the capability to beat Northwestern. Also, the team that Northwestern has this year is much weaker than last season's club with heavy losses to graduation.

So I figure that there is no reason that the Deacs should not be able to beat Northwestern again.

In order to win, though, the Deacs must play to their strengths. And as everyone knows the strength of the Demon Deacon football team lies in the air.

One key for Saturday's game is that this is the first game of the season for the Deacs, which could create several distinct outcomes: First, Northwestern has no way of studying film on any new wrinkles in the Deacon offensive playbook; Second, the Deacs are well rested and eager to play their first game; or Third, Northwestern's one game played has allowed them to iron any problems with their schemes.

Any way you slice it, there is no reason that we should not beat Northwestern again. We did it last year when they were a better team, so why not make it two in a row.

My prediction, the Deacs defeat the Wildcats 32 to 31 in overtime. Hey, it worked for N.C. State last weekend.

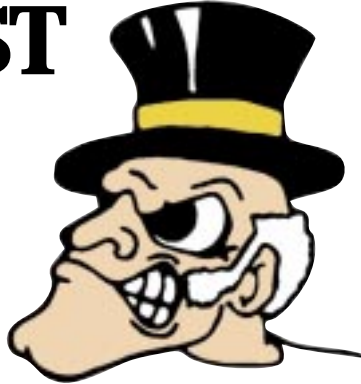
Surveying the competition

A preview of ACC football teams for the 1997 season

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WAKE FOREST

Head Coach: Jim Caldwell, four years
1996 Record: 3-8
Home Stadium: Groves Stadium
Returning Starters: 18, 9 offense, 9 defense
Players to Watch in '97: Senior QB Brian Kuklick, Junior WR Desmond Clark, Senior WR Thabiti Clark, Senior LB Kelvin Moses



Despite a ranking of only 84th in the nation, and predictions that the team will finish only ahead of Duke in the ACC, the Demon Deacons' relatively soft schedule may help the team to achieve a more respectful record than last season's. Wake Forest will meet only two of the top 25 teams on the road (Florida State and UNC), and only one at home when they face Clemson. The team's strength this year will likely rise from QB junior Brian Kuklick, who led the ACC in total offense last season, and from WRs Desmond Clark and Thabiti Davis.

Davis ranked third in the ACC last year for receptions, and Clark finished as WFU's leading receiver, with 79 receptions for 782 yards and six touchdowns. Most of the defense returns intact and should be a formidable force in the ACC. Last year the Deacs opened the season with a win against Northwestern, which was their first win over a ranked team since 1979. As they face Northwestern for a season opener Saturday, the Deacs may want to hold their breath in hope that history will be repeated.

For more previews, see page B3

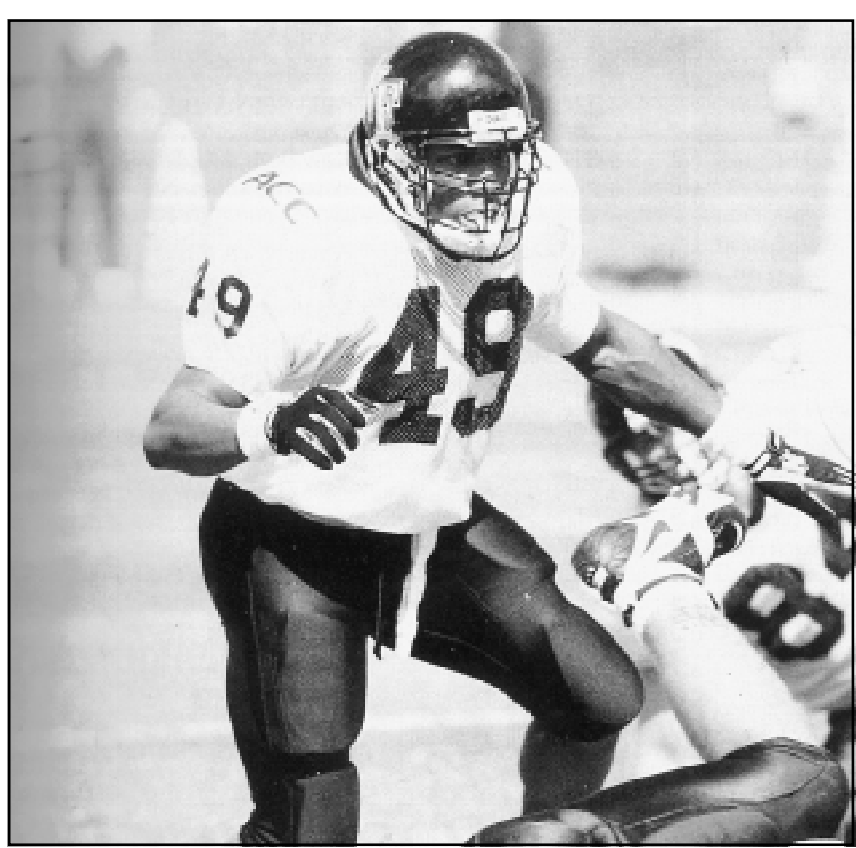


photo courtesy of Sports Information

Let's get ready to rumble

Beginning this weekend linebacker Kelvin Moses will once again be patrolling the defensive backfield looking to prey on unsuspecting running backs and wide receivers. The Deacs open their season Saturday at 3:30 against Northwestern.