

Field hockey beats
 Northwestern too
 Sports/B2

Sports

Deacs stun 'Cats again, 27-20

By Scott Payne
 Sports Editor

Despite being picked as 14-point underdogs, last Saturday the Demon Deacon football team did what they knew they could do. For the second straight season, the Deacs defeated the nationally ranked, heavily favored Northwestern Wildcats.

"We expected to win this game," said Head Coach Jim Caldwell, who opened his fifth season with a 27-20 victory.

"We were not lucky last year," said Caldwell. "We felt we could win, we came out hard, and did just that."

The determination of the Deacons to win Saturday's game was evident even before the Deacs ran onto the field. The Deacons gathered at the locker room exit prior to racing on the field. As they stood waiting to enter the playing field, the team was jumping up and down, slapping shoulder pads, butting helmets and exuding the kind of confidence needed to win a big game.

"This team has much more confidence," said junior wide receiver Desmond Clark, who finished the game with nine catches for 127 yards and a touchdown, all team highs for the game. "I took it (being underdogs) as a diss. It (last season's win) wasn't a fluke," said Clark.

The Deacs set the tone for the game on their first possession, as they drove 69 yards on nine plays, culminating with a 28 yard field goal by sophomore Matt Burdick, putting the Deacs ahead, 3-0.

The first drive of the season for the Demon Deacons had sophomore running back Kito Gary bust loose for a run of 41 yards and junior quarterback Brian Kuklick make a third down and 10 completions to Desmond Clark for 16 yards and a first down.

And to the surprise of no one, the first play from scrimmage for the Deacs was a wide receiver screen pass from Kuklick to Clark for nine yards.

On the first defensive series of the season, the Deacon defenders, led by junior Kelvin Moses and sophomore Dustin Lyman, who each recorded a quarterback sack during the game, forced Northwestern to go three and out. The Deacon defense went on to force Northwestern to go three and out a total of five times on the day.

"Bottom line was they controlled the line of scrimmage on both sides of the ball," said Northwestern head coach Gary Barnett.

"We didn't execute against a good team, which is a bad combination," Barnett continued.

However, going into the locker room at half-time, the Wildcats held a lead of 10-6, which they gained via a 12 yard touchdown pass from quarterback Tim Hughes to Brian Musso. The Deacs outgained Northwestern in the first half 210 yards to 128. And even though three costly fumbles prevented the Deacs from taking advantage of their opportunities, they still didn't get down.

"We showed a little resiliency. That's the difference between this team and other teams," said Clark.

Caldwell commented, "I was pleased at the way they responded after being down."



Carlton Ward/Old Gold and Black

Three Deacon defenders surround Northwestern QB Tim Hughes and approach him hoping for a sack.

The Deacons opened the second half by scoring 21 consecutive points on three touchdowns. The touchdowns came from Clark on a 37 yard reception, sophomore Jammie Deese, who caught a 12 yard pass from Kuklick, and sophomore Morgan Kane, who dove in from one yard out.

Northwestern scored ten points late in the game, but the Deacon lead would prove insurmountable.

During the second half of the game the Deacon offense did not turn the ball over once, and the Deacon defense held the trio of Wildcat rushers to only 30 yards, allowing only 63 yards on the ground the entire game.

Although the majority of the passes went to Clark and Deese, Kuklick was able to spread the ball around to other receivers,

including senior Thabiti Davis and sophomore James Lik, who caught a thirteen yard pass early in the first half.

"He was pretty much doing what he wanted," Barnett said of Kuklick's performance.

"I felt confident," said Kuklick, who has already thrown for 3,154 yards and 17 touchdowns in his career as the Deacon signal caller. "The coaches did a hell of a job getting us ready," continued Kuklick.

Currently the series between the Deacons and Wildcats is finished with no more games scheduled.

In the four previous meetings the teams have split, winning two games each, and in each meeting the home team has come out victorious.

"I'm sure they'd like to get at us again,"

said Caldwell with a smile.

The next opponent for the Deacons is the Pirates of East Carolina this Saturday in Greenville.

"We've got some real tough teams coming up. ECU has as much talent as (any team in the ACC) except for FSU and UNC," said Caldwell.

"We are more than ready to face the next challenge at ECU," said Desmond Clark.

The improvement in the Deacons from last season to this one is obvious to many.

"They are a better team than they were last year, absolutely," said Gary Barnett, "They are a legit team."

Caldwell commented on his team's future this season. "The team is beginning to understand what winning is about. This is only the first step."

Let students bring the posts down

Rushing the field a mere sign of school spirit

By Scott Payne
 Sports Editor

To borrow a popular phrase, two thumbs down are in order this week to the powers-that-be at Groves Stadium.

For those of you unable to make it to the football game from either the parking lot outside or from your dorm room, following Saturday's game there was a rare occurrence.

When the clock had ticked down to zero and the game was over, for only the third time in the last three seasons, the Demon Deacon football team was victorious on its home field.

As the clock wound down to the final seconds, the students remaining in the stadium crowded at the bottom of the stands, poised to rush the field.

They chanted "ACC, ACC, ACC" at the purple-clad Northwestern faithful filing out of the stadium dejected after a second straight loss at the hands of the Deacons.

When the game ended cheering students leaped from the stands and rushed toward the goal posts to bring them crashing to the ground in typical college football fashion.

However, upon reaching the base of the posts, the boisterous fans were met by security guards intent on preventing the collapse of the posts.

Following last season's defeat of the same Northwestern team, students rushed the field and were met by meager resistance from the security officials on duty.

Last year, despite the efforts of security both goal posts came crashing to the earth much to the delight of the students.

The win this season was in fact much more important to the Deacon program. Last season no one imagined the Deacs would win asking only how badly they'd be defeated.

This season the talk was of how Northwestern's annihilation of Oklahoma, and the revenge they would deal the Deacons.

The point spread prior to last Saturday's game was indicative of the fact that again no one had given the Deacs a chance.

By completely dominating Northwestern in all aspects of the game last weekend Coach Caldwell and the Deacons proved that last season's victory was no fluke.

If any victory was worthy of a celebration culminating with the demolition of the goal posts, it was the one last Saturday.

The new Bridger Field House is a beautiful facility, the grass on the field was never greener, ABC came and televised the game, but the goal posts should have come down after the game.

Should the Sept. 20 game against Georgia Tech end in similar fashion to the Northwestern game, this Deacon victory should be followed by students swinging from the goal posts, dragging them to the ground. After all, it's a sign of school spirit.

There may be costs incurred by the damage to the goal posts, but then again, is a Deacon victory not worthy of that price?

And for the record I am currently batting 1.000 with regard to picking the winner of Deacon football games this season.

For Saturday's game against East Carolina I have no such aspirations, but will again state the obvious. In order for the Deacons to win they must play to their strengths, which is undoubtedly through the air.

So next Saturday the Deacon Air Show arrives in Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium in Greenville, NC. Will they repeat this weekend's performance? I say they will.

Oh, what the heck — Deacons win 32-31 in overtime.

Women's soccer captures tournament crown

By Paul Gaeta
 Assistant Sports Editor

The Demon Deacon women's soccer team is the type of host other teams despise.

For the second consecutive year, the team was winner of the second annual Wake Forest/ Nike Invitational held this past weekend at Spry Stadium.

The 15th ranked Deacons dominated Villanova on Saturday for a 2-0 win. They then went on to beat University of Maine in a 3-2 nailbiter.

The two wins raised the squad's overall record this season to 4-0, 1-0 in the ACC.

In Saturday night's game against Villanova, the Demon Deacons put forth a relentless offensive attack that saw the team outshoot their opponent almost two to one.

Twenty-five minutes in, sophomore Anne Shropshire passed to Meghan Suddes in front of the net. Suddes blasted a shot past Wild-

cat goalkeeper Jeana Hennessy for a 1-0 lead.

Three minutes later, Shropshire received a pass from sophomore Karli Scilling and buried it in the back of the net for a 2-0 lead.

In the second half, the Demon Deacons continued to attack the Wildcat goal but were unable to put the ball in the net.

When the final whistle blew, the Deacons had come away with a 2-0 victory.

Demon Deacon goalkeeper sophomore Beth Klein earned her second shutout of the year, saving nine shots.

In earlier action Friday, Maine defeated Division II High Point, a late entry into the tournament when Furman dropped out, 4-0. Kelly Stubbs scored two goals and had two assists for the Black Bears.

It was winner-take-all in Sunday's game between the Demon Deacons and Maine as both teams played for the championship.

The Deacons got off to a good start early in the match thanks again

to Shropshire, who followed up her strong performance Saturday with an even stronger showing Sunday.

At the 3:14 mark of the first half, Shropshire curved her own corner kick past the Maine goalkeeper giving her team an early 1-0 lead.

Less than 20 minutes later, Shropshire did it again, curving another corner kick into the net for a 2-0 lead.

Tamara Vaughn got Maine on the board at the 34:23 mark, scoring an unassisted goal to cut the Deacons' lead in half.

The Deacons, however, got another insurance goal early in the second half when sophomore Lauren Hook scored off an assist from Suddes.

Maine scored one more goal but was unable to knot the score at three, as the Deacons were able to hold off a pushing Maine offense in the final minutes.

As a result of her strong play all weekend, Shropshire was named the tournament MVP.

Along with Shropshire, Klein, Suddes, and junior fullback Meredith Lester were also named to the all-tournament team.



Carlton Ward/Old Gold and Black

An opponent slide tackles freshman Christie Thrush.