

Men's soccer racks up two OTs  
 and one win in tournament  
 Sports/B2

# Sports

## Pirates force Deacs to walk the plank

By Scott Payne  
 Sports Editor

Those of you who only watched the first 20 minutes of September 13's football game against the East Carolina Pirates probably think that the Deacons won in impressive fashion.

At the nine minute mark of the second quarter the Deacs held a commanding 21 to 0 lead.

Well, one problem — football games last 60 minutes, so in front of the largest crowd in Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium history (38,031), the hosting Pirates defeated the Deacs 25 to 24.

This was the Deacs first trip east to Greenville since 1963, and it was the first time since 1979 the teams had played at all, with the home team winning each contest. The game in 1963 was the first game ever played in then-Ficklen Stadium.

Although the teams had not played in nearly twenty years, there was definite tension on the field between the two squads. Prior to the game even starting, during warmups, there was a brief skirmish at midfield that witnessed pushing and shoving between players and coaches from both teams.

During the course of the game there was another shoving match on the Deacon sideline that was quickly halted by a combina-

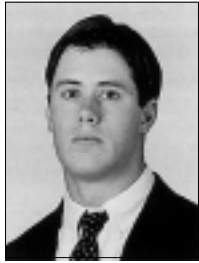
tion of Deacon coaches and referees.

The Deacons broke into the scoring column with six minutes remaining in the first quarter on a 13 yard pass from junior quarterback Brian Kuklick to sophomore wideout Jammie Deese. The score was set up by the defense, when senior cornerback D'Angelo Solomon recovered a Pirate fumble and returned it to the 12.



Kuklick

Then, following an East Carolina punt, the Deacs marched down the field going 88 yards in six plays to score another touchdown on a dive from the one-yard line by sophomore running back Morgan Kane. The bulk of the yardage on this drive was gained by sophomore running back Kito Gary, who ran up the middle for a gain of 76, only to be caught



Lyman

at the Pirate two yard line. At this point there was still 2:56 remaining in the first quarter and the Deacs held a 14 to 0 lead.

The Deacon defense, led by sophomore

**Following a Kito Gary fumble, the Pirates scored their first touchdown to cut the lead to 14. Then they executed a surprise inside kick that swung the momentum in favor of the Pirates.**

linebacker Dustin Lyman who had 12 tackles and a sack on the day, forced the Pirates to punt once again.

On the strength of three passes of more than twenty yards on the drive, two to Deese and one to Desmond Clark, the Deacs scored their third touchdown of the half on a sneak by Kuklick to take a seemingly insurmountable 21 to 0 lead.

It was at this point that everything started to fall apart for the Deacs.

Following a Kito Gary fumble the Pirates scored their first touchdown to cut the lead to 14. Then they executed a surprise inside kick that swung the momentum in favor of the Pirates.

Using this newfound momentum the Pirates scored their second touchdown in less than a minute and a half, trimming the Deacon led to a mere eight points.

"It (the inside kick) was a big deal. We had one bullet in the gun and we had to use it," said East Carolina Head Coach Steve

Logan, who in his six seasons has compiled a record of 31 wins and 27 losses.

"The fumble (by Gary) was crucial but every turnover we had they capitalized," said Deacon Head Coach Jim Caldwell.

In the entire second half the Deacons could only muster three points on a Matthew Burdick field goal that came with six minutes remaining in the fourth quarter, while the Pirates would score two more touchdowns.

The final touchdown was scored on a 6 yard pass from Pirate quarterback Dan Gonzalez to running back Scott Harley.

Caldwell said of his team's unraveling, "We knew we would have to put more points on the board. We didn't and we let it slip away. Our mistakes killed us. We did a lot of damage to ourselves."

In last week's victory over Northwestern, the Deacs dominated the line of scrimmage, giving Kuklick more than enough time to find open receivers and causing him to be sacked only once.

In the game against East Carolina Kuklick was rushed all day and sacked a total of seven times.

Because of the constant pressure, Kuklick often had to throw passes to Morgan Kane out of the backfield to avoid the rush, preventing a throw down field.

Kane caught the most passes of any Deacon receiver, eight, with the trio of

Davis, Deese and Clark catching a mere three a piece.

Last week against Northwestern Clark caught nine balls and Deese caught seven, including one touchdown each. Kuklick would finish the day 19 of 30 for 257 yards, one interception and two touchdowns, one running, one passing.

"They have a heck of a team. They got up the field and can run well," said Caldwell. "They made him (Kuklick) feel uncomfortable."

The weather also seemed to have a negative effect on the Deacs. At kickoff the temperature was a hot and humid 85 degrees.

During the course of the game many of the Deacon players, muscles cramped up, and they had to be helped off the field.

Caldwell said of the number of players experiencing cramps, "Every starter has a heavy work load ... especially on special teams. So many play different positions."

"We are not going to be out-conditioned," said Logan.

This Saturday the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets come to Groves Stadium for a 6:30 kickoff, when the Deacs will try to recover from their demise at the hands of the Pirates.

"This is a tough loss. Nevertheless, we will get back. We will correct and get better on pressure," Caldwell said.

## Deacs roll off six straight wins

By Greg Wilson  
 Sports Copy Editor

The women's field hockey team has hit its stride at the right time this season. Heading into September 17's conference showdown with ninth-ranked Duke, the team was coming off of a six-game winning streak.

Since opening its current homestand with a 12-0 shellacking of Davidson, the team appears to be comfortable at home. So far this season, the Deacons have outscored opponents 32-3 at Kentner Stadium.

After their record-setting performance against Davidson September 9, the team continued its winning ways. Against Appalachian State September 11, the team blew out the Mountaineers by a score of 10-0. Then, over the next weekend, the Deacs comfortably moved past American 6-2. They followed that performance with a solid 4-1 victory over Virginia Commonwealth.

Their superb play over the past two weeks has earned them national recognition. After dropping out of the national rankings last year, the team returned in force, earning the eleventh spot in this week's poll.

Against Appalachian, the team could do no wrong. Leading the attack was freshman midfielder Jenny Everett who tallied five goals and assisted on two others. These marks helped her set single game records for the Deacons.

After just over ten minutes had elapsed Everett got the Deacons on the board with an unassisted goal. It then took her only four more minutes to finish her hat trick.

The Mountaineers were helpless against the Deacon attack throughout the game. The Deacons finished their scoring with goals by Amy Marchell and Amanda Janney in the final 30 seconds. Meaghan Nitka and Jamie Tressler split time in goal and recorded four saves between them for the shut-out.

The Deacs dominated every facet of the game. They had a remarkable 48 shots on goal while the Mountaineers could only muster six. There was a similar discrepancy in the penalty corners. Appalachian had a meager three, while the Deacons had 12 corners.

Although not as dominant over the weekend, the Deacs still won both games easily. Senior Nicole Serluco led the Deacons on Saturday by recording a hat trick, with all goals coming from penalty strokes, and adding one assist.

After just under five minutes had gone by in their game against American, Serluco put the Deacs on the board with a goal from a penalty stroke. However, less than two minutes later, the



Carlton Ward/ Old Gold and Black Photo

**Junior Kelly Simon pushes the ball past a defender in pursuit of yet another goal.**

team gave up its first goal in nearly two and a half weeks when American's Sage Asteak tied the score.

The Deacons went into the half leading by a 3-2 margin after Kelly Simon scored on a rebound and Serluco added her second goal of the game on a blast high on the goalie's stick side.

The Deacs used a quick spurt to put the game away in the second half. In a burst of 2:35 Jenny Everett scored twice and Serluco added her final goal of the game to end the scoring.

The Deacons out shot American 29-9 and held a 9-5 advantage in penalty corners. Nitka and Tressler again com-

bined for the win.

The schedule-makers did not give the Deacs a chance to rest on their laurels.

They were back in action on Sunday and picked up where they left off. The Deacons held Virginia Commonwealth scoreless before giving up a single goal with only 2:30 remaining in the game. Janney led the team on Sunday with a goal and an assist.

The outstanding play during the win streak has brought recognition to several players. Foremost among them has been Everett.

In only her third week of college competition, she earned ACC Co-Player

of the Week honors. Her record-setting performance against Appalachian State, along with her strong showing in the other three games, totaled 22 points on 10 goals and two assists in just under a week. Maryland's Carla Tagliente shared the award with Everett.

Serluco has been a welcome return to the team after missing much of the 1996 campaign. She has been a part of a stifling backfield, along with senior Amy Allen and junior Lisa Andries, that has allowed a paltry 31 shots and only three goals in the past six games.

She has also made her presence known on the offensive end of the field

## Protection of Kuklick is the key to victory

By Scott Payne  
 Sports Editor

Compare the football game against Northwestern with the game against East Carolina and, for me, it is easy to see why the two games had such different outcomes.

The difference can be summed up using a mere two words: quarterback protection.

In the victory against Northwestern junior Brian Kuklick had all day to throw the ball and could stand in the pocket, find an open receiver and pick apart the defensive secondary.

Not only did Kuklick have a lot of time against Northwestern, but he also never got hit by a defender except once or twice the entire game. The fact that Kuklick did not take a beating for the duration of the game meant that he was fresh late in the game.

In the tragic loss to East Carolina Kuklick was sacked seven times and was not given a lot of time to throw. I have never played in a Division I college football game, but if I got hit seven times by guys weighing in excess of 250 pounds, I might be feeling less than perfect. If the Deacs want to win they need to protect the quarterback.

The Deacon offense has one of the greatest trio of receivers in the conference with junior Desmond Clark, senior Thabiti Davis, and sophomore Jammie Deese, but unless the quarterback has the time to throw the ball downfield, their receiving skills are rendered useless.

Because Kuklick often had to hurry a throw, he would dump the ball off to Morgan Kane out of the backfield.

I don't know what plays the offensive coordinators were calling but I highly doubt that they called that many swing passes and middle screens. With the quality of receivers on the Deacon's squad there is no reason that sophomore Morgan Kane should be the team's leading receiver.

The protection in the first half of the East Carolina game was great and it showed. But as the game wore on the protection seemed to deteriorate and Deacon points were few and far between; only three points in the entire second half.

I don't know if it was the heat, if the Pirates defensive line is that good, or what, but I do know that if the Deacons are going to win against Georgia Tech this weekend, job number one should be protect the quarterback.

Speaking of the impending game with Georgia Tech ...

I am going to go way out on a limb here and pick the Deacons to win by a score of, uh, let's see, how about 32 to 31 in overtime. I realize that I was wrong last week, but I have a good feeling that the Deacon football team won't let me down this week.

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