

Men's soccer drops 1-0 games to Duke, Davidson  
 Sports/B2

# Sports

## Deacons squash Terrapins, 35-17

By Scott Payne  
 Sports Editor

The Demon Deacon football team went into Saturday's contest against the Maryland Terrapins in hopes of improving on last season's debacle, a 52-0 shellacking courtesy of the Terps. With their 35-17 victory, the Deacons proved they are truly a different team from last season's squad, which finished the season 3-8.

"It's pretty much the same guys that we had last year, but they're more experienced and they're just better prepared. We are pleased with the progress we're making, but we certainly aren't home yet," said Head Coach Jim Caldwell.

The Deacons set the tone for the game early. On their first offensive series of the game the Deacs marched 70 yards on five plays, capped off by a 22 yard run up the gut by senior running back Herman Lewis. Lewis finished the game with a total of 17 carries for 87 yards, an impressive 5.1 yards per carry average.

Maryland answered the Deacs on their next possession with a 35-yard field goal, making the score 7-3, still in the first quarter. That Terrapin field goal constituted the only first quarter points the Deacon defense had allowed since a field goal in the opening stanza of the Northwestern game, six games prior.

On the ensuing kickoff, senior kicker Returner Nelson Savage provided the most exciting play of the season so far for the Deacs.

Savage took the kick at the two yard line and sprinted 98 yards for a touchdown. Savage's return was the first time since 1993 that a Deacon returned a kickoff for a score, and the 98 yards equals the longest play in school history.

"I just saw daylight and I ran as fast as I could for daylight and that was that. As soon as somebody blocked the kicker I realized that there was nobody around me and that it was up to me from there," said Savage, the 5-7, 178-pound product of Piscataway, N.J.

After forcing the Terps to punt, the Deacs drove down the field again and punched the ball into the end zone on a 20 yard pass from junior quarterback Brian Kuklick to junior wide receiver William Merritt, completing another 70 yard drive.

It was the first career touchdown reception for Merritt, a walk-on to the squad. His catch put the Deacs on top 21-3, and it looked as if the Deacons were finally going to run away to victory.

However, on the strength of two straight touchdowns, both with less than five min-



Carlton Ward/Old Gold and Black

Junior quarterback Brian Kuklick rolls out to his left as the offensive line gives him the protection he needs to complete a pass. On the afternoon, Kuklick completed 26 passes for 330 yards and went over the 5,000 yard mark for his career.

utes remaining in the half, the Terps cut the lead to 21-17.

As the 17,893 in attendance at the game watched the Deacons come out for the second half, many of them were undoubtedly awaiting the seemingly trademark second-half collapse of the Deacs. It appeared as if it was going to be déjà vu all over again when on the first offensive series of the second half the Deacs drove 67 yards on 15 plays to the Maryland 7-yard line, only to have Kuklick's pass intercepted at the goal line.

However, it was evident that the Deacon defense was determined to prevent any possible collapses.

Led by the eight tackles and two sacks of sophomore linebacker Dustin Lyman, the Deacons did not surrender a single point in the second half.

For the game, the Deacon defenders allowed the Terps only 53 yards rushing, forced them to punt five times, and sacked Maryland quarterback Brian Cummings a whopping seven times.

"Obviously, that second half is the best second half we played all year," Caldwell

said of his team's domination.

Maryland Head Coach Ron Vanderlin said: "I thought that Wake Forest played really hard. I felt that their players played like a team that would not accept losing."

Although the Deacs did not score in the third quarter, they added two fourth-quarter touchdowns to finish the scoring on the cold, cloudy afternoon.

The first came on a 31-yard strike from Kuklick to junior wide receiver Desmond Clark, who had 111 yards receiving on six catches. The final score for the Deacs was on another Kuklick pass, this one to senior wide receiver Thabiti Davis from six yards out.

"In the second half I think we pretty much established what we wanted to do, run the ball and pass the ball," Clark said. Kuklick finished the afternoon 26 of 41 for 330 yards, with three touchdowns and two interceptions.

Also, with his 330 yards Kuklick surpassed the 5,000-yard mark for his career. However, he was not pleased with his performance.

"Personally, I didn't think that I played

as good a game as I have all year. I thought that was probably my worst outing. But as a team we played well. We got a win out of it, so I am very happy," said Kuklick.

With this win, the Deacs have put themselves in position to make a post season appearance. They need to win three of their last four games to be eligible.

A team must have six wins against Division I schools in to go to a bowl game.

The Duke Blue Devils are up next on the schedule for the Deacons. The Blue Devils have yet to win an ACC game this season but scored a surprising 24 points on Florida State (while giving up 51, however) and lost to Virginia by a mere three points.

"The season's not over yet. We have a lot of work to do. You have not seen us play well yet collectively for the first and second half," said Caldwell.

Clark summed up the remainder of the season for the Deacs. "We feel like we need to win these next four games to go to a bowl game. That's our ultimate goal, to get it to a bowl game. These next four games are crucial."

## Deacons saddle up to finish seventh in Texas

By Jon Giokas  
 Old Gold and Black Reporter

The Demon Deacon men's golf team earned a seventh-place finish against stern competition at the Taylor Made Red River Classic in Dallas last week.

The team finished with a score of 21 over par after three days of play on the 6,877 yard par 72 Brookhaven Country Club course.

Their 885 total left the Deacs 11 shots out of first place, which was taken by perennial powerhouse Arizona.

Although the lowest individual Deacon finisher was senior Tho-

mas Parker, the respective individual efforts of each of the players were consistent.

Parker shot a three day total of 219, three over par, to tie for tenth place.

Junior Mike Capone was only one shot behind Parker with a total of 220, but ended up in 16th place. Both players were within reasonable distance of individual champion Hunter Haas, a University of Oklahoma Sooner.

The theme of consistent, if unspectacular, scoring was extended by Deacon senior Todd Lynch, who had a 223 total, tying him for 31st place.

Among those with whom he

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indication, it looks as though Damron is poised to join the tradition of good-quality linksmanship that the Deacs is known for. In the first round, Capone fired a 72, leaving him tied for sixth place, as he and Damron led the team to a third-place standing after the opening day of competition.

The Deacs matched their first-round total with a 294 in the second round, and fell just slightly with a 297 on the third day. The University of Arizona trailed the Deacs, as well as nine other teams, after the first day. The Wildcats made their move on the second day, however, with a

score of 278, which was the lowest team round of the tournament by seven shots, and one of only four team rounds which was under par.

Although the Deacs did not finish at the top of the tournament standings, their outing was impressive because they contested against a number of top teams, all of whom were grouped close together when play was done. In addition to Arizona, the teams included Houston, Georgia, South Carolina, Texas, and Ohio State.

The Deacon golfers will be back in action at the Jerry Pate National tournament in Birmingham, Alabama.

## Deacon cross country runs away with second place at NC Collegiate

By Ginny DeFrank  
 Old Gold and Black Reporter

The Demon Deacon women's cross-country team earned a ranking of No. 23 in the nation by running an unbelievable meet at the North Carolina Collegiate meet in Charlotte Oct. 18.

The team placed second overall behind the ninth ranked team in the nation, N.C. State.

Even more importantly, the team beat the formerly 12th-ranked Tar Heels of North Carolina, which handed the Deacs a defeat in the Pre-NCAA meet.

Coach Francie Goodridge proclaimed exclaimed about the defeat of the Heels, "What a comeback!"

After the team's extremely disappointing showing at the Pre-NCAA meet at Furman University the week before, the team competed at a high level that showed

their ability, and defeated North Carolina by 15 points. Sophomore Janelle Kraus finished second overall with a time of 17:05 and was followed by junior Amy Wallace, who finished 9th with a time of 17:48.

Freshman Kelly Brady finished on Wallace's heels to earn a 11th place finish with a time of 17:49. "Beating UNC is a huge step for us, a huge confidence builder. I think we all realized what we're capable of doing at the higher levels of competition," Brady said.

Assistant coach Jennifer Kraus also stressed the confidence the team gained from its strong performance at the North Carolina meet.

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"Both individually and as a team all the girls saw major improvement in both race strategy and in times. The result of individual success is they really gel as a team."

Kraus agreed with the coaches' estimations of the team performance.

"So many individuals did a great job. It was our best team race, everyone put out their greatest effort. It was my favorite meet of the season because it's a lot more fun when you can share success with the whole team," she said.

Brady commented on the national ranking's effect and on the closeness of the team saying, "We set higher goals now because we all realize what we're capable of."

"Being nationally ranked is really exciting. It gives us the confidence going into ACC's that we can be one

of the best teams out there."

While the team performances were excellent, Janelle Kraus's performance once again proved phenomenal as she shadowed N.C. State runner Laura Rhoads, who placed ninth at last year's NCAA championships, for the entire race.

Rhoads got ahead of Kraus by eight seconds in the last 800 meters of the race. Kraus set a personal record of 17:05.

Assistant Coach Straub, speaking of Kraus's performance said, "She's been a phenomenal runner all season, but running with a runner who finished in last year's top 10 at NCAA's gives her the confidence that she can be an elite runner at the national level."

The team has the ACC Championships in two weeks and is poised for a bid in the upcoming NCAA Championships.

It was the best of times...

By Paul Gaeta  
 Assistant Sports Editor

When Spry Soccer Stadium officially opened last fall, hopes ran high that both Demon Deacon soccer teams would one day reign on the field as national champions.

FROM THE PRESS BOX

Early on, it looked as though the high hopes would be easily fulfilled.

The men's team started the fall with six

wins in its first nine games.

The women's team shared similar early season success. In its first eight games, the squad was victorious in seven.

Lately, however, the early-season success of both teams has turned into a significant mid-season struggle, leaving both teams not hoping for a national championship, but rather, praying they can make the 32-team NCAA Tournament.

The men's soccer team has thus far been the biggest enigma. Nine starters and a corps of talented freshman returned to the team this fall, raising hopes that this team would surpass its 12-7-1 record of last year.

The middle of their 1997 campaign has been a blur. At times, the Deacs look like one of the nation's premier teams.

This was evident in both their 2-0 victory over 7th-ranked James Madison and 4-0 victory over 4th-ranked N.C. State.

Yet, the Deacs followed up both of these major wins with shocking losses to mediocre programs. The first came against in a 2-0 loss to host Furman. Then the team was defeated at Davidson, 1-0.

How a team can beat some of the nation's strongest programs and then come back to lose to a team not even ranked in the top 50 is a mystery.

Maybe it's focus or home field advantage or low intensity for less important games.

One thing, however, is for sure. Right now the team stands with a mediocre 8-6 record. If they are unable to finish strong, a season once full with high hopes will quickly be washed away with feelings of major disappointment.

The Demon Deacon women's team has experienced similar difficulties. For a team that returned all 11 starters for a squad that made it to the second-round of the NCAA Tournament last year, the second leg of this season has been an uphill battle.

One reason the team has been struggling is due to their conference, the ACC, where eight of the nine teams have been ranked, at one time or another.

In fact, the only conference victory the Deacs do have came against Florida State, the one team that has yet to be ranked.

The Demon Deacons, however, have the talent and now, the experience that should be helping them beat their in-conference opponents. Yet, for some reason they have been unable to.

Currently, the team has a 9-6-1and has dropped from the national rankings.

With three games remaining, including a match with powerhouse Duke, the women's team needs to show the rest of the country that last year was no fluke.

If they don't, Spry Stadium will have no chance to be the home of a national champion this year.