

Sports

Deacons out of their element
 among Tigers, lose 33-16
 Sports/B2

The coolest game in the world, really

By Zach Everson
 News Editor

Hockey advertises itself on Fox as the "coolest game on the earth" — a fact that is lost on North Carolina.

The newly relocated Carolina Hurricanes, however, have been drawing fewer fans than C League intramural football championship games. For \$15 you can get great seats to witness the coolest game out there.

It is a heckuva lot cooler than all of the other major sports. Baseball may be better, but any sport that takes over three hours to play is not cool. Football? There's nothing cool about seeing some fat lineman's sweaty gut stick out from under his jersey.

Basketball is out, at least as long as Dennis Rodman is around (crossdressing has never been cool). And last (and certainly least), sorry soccer fans, but 0-0 ties are anything but cool.

If none of that convinces you to go out and be a hockey hooligan, how about the fact that hockey teams don't have annoying celebrations after a goal is scored. No one mistakes himself for an airplane or takes his helmet off for the cameras (unless of course it's knocked off).

Instead, hockey players are cool and collected after scoring. Usually the celebration is a conservative fist pump and stick in the air, with the scorers teammates patting him on the head. Occasionally the scorer is flat on his back, after having the bejessus knocked out of him by some big Norwegian defender named Ulf during his scoring drive, in which case he's so cool he's out cold.

By the way — names that you'll find in the NHL, like Ulf, Jari, Kjell and Teemu, are all very cool.

Hockey fans are given much more leeway than spectators at other sports. Wanna throw something on the ice? Go right ahead. A guy scores three goals — chuck your hat. You're a Detroit Red Wings fan? Throw a squid. New Jersey Devils fan? Wing a rat onto the ice.

Need another piece of evidence to show that hockey is cool? Hockey hair. Remember seventh grade, when all of the cool guys had spiked hair that was gooped-up, short on the sides and long in the back? Well, guess what — in hockey it's still the coolest and not just for the players, whose helmets unfortunately cover their luscious locks.

If you want to see a really cool case of hockey head check out ESPN hockey studio analyst Barry Melrose. His head is so slick it looks like a zamboni just ran over it.

Speaking of zambonis, they're pretty cool themselves. Even if you are still not interested in watching a hockey match and would rather go to a tractor pull, hockey is worth your while: Instead of spending \$15 to see vehicles designed to handle manure, go to a hockey game and check out the zamboni cleaning the ice surface. Hey, ice is a lot cooler than cow pies.

Oh yeah, the sport itself is pretty cool, combining agility, speed and power. But you can check that out for yourself — it's only \$15 with a student I.D. — pretty cool, huh.

Kraus brings home ACC crown

By Ginny DeFrank
 Old Gold and Black Reporter

Mondays are rarely anyone's favorite day. But on this past Monday, Nov. 3, found the women's cross country team in a state of elation as it claimed second place in the ACC Cross Country Championships in Tallahassee, Fla., defeating North Carolina for the second time in the past two meets.

Sophomore Janelle Kraus had the best day of any Deacon, as she won the entire event. Kraus, who was named ACC performer of the week four times during the season, won the ACC title with a time of 17:07.

She beat her biggest conference challenger, Laura Rhoads of N.C. State, to whom she had previously lost by only eight seconds in the North Carolina Collegiate meet in Charlotte, two weeks ago.

"It was something I knew I could do, especially after running in a main meet like the one at Charlotte. I knew I lost to (Rhoads) at Charlotte because I lost it mentally. I had developed the strategy to try to stay with her for as long as I could and go at the final 400 meters," said Kraus of her winning performance.

Coach Francie Goodridge said she is aware of the significance of Kraus' championship effort. "It was the second time in our history we've had someone win the individual title. What a wonderful victory for Janelle Kraus. She's dominated the conference



Carlton Ward/Old Gold and Black

Sophomore Janelle Kraus nips at the heels of N.C. State's Laura Rhoads. Kraus eventually passed Rhoads on her way to her first ACC Championship.

this year. Her performance shows how good she is and will be at nationals," said Goodridge.

Kraus' performance not only astounded

her coach but her teammates as well. Freshman Kelly Brady said, "Janelle is amazing, she is a machine. She runs incredibly all the time yet she doesn't even give it a

second thought."

The team's upset of UNC, which to this point had been the team's most challenging opponent, means that the Deacons have firmly established themselves as a contender for one of the two spots to be won at regionals, where success could then advance the Deacs to the nationals.

Kraus said, "It was a major confidence boost, having beat Carolina for the second time. Judging from this meet I think mentally our team is ready to make the next step."

Kraus' victory was not the lone outstanding Deacon performance for the meet.

Freshman Kelly Brady came home with a fourth place finish, running a season best time of 17:35.4. In addition to Brady, junior Amy Wallace continued to establish herself as a dominating member of the team, finishing twelfth.

Sophomore Jill Snyder, who was 15th ran a time of 18:02.1 and Emily Sleeved, who was 16th, crossed the finish line in a time of 18:05.3.

Janelle Kraus and Kelly Brady earned All-ACC honors for 1997. Brady is the first freshman to do so since Nicole Stevenson in 1992.

Kraus is the first Deaco title holder since Seana Arnold in 1989.

The team will face difficult opposition at the regional meet where some 40 different teams will vie for two bids to nationals including William and Mary

Deacons grab second place at ACCs

By Sean Blue
 Old Gold and Black Reporter

Last weekend the men's cross-country team nearly witnessed the end of yet another tradition in their storied history at the ACC championships in Tallahassee, Fla.

In a season that has seen the Deacs drop from the top 25 nationally for the first time in 11 years, the Deacons had one tradition left.

They had not finished below second in the ACC championships since 1988. The tradition was kept alive—barely—as the Demon Deacons finished second overall, just two points ahead of third place Clemson.

"Brett (Strahan), Pat (Fitzgerald) and Stephan (Pro) made a run for it at the end to help us beat Clamson," said senior Eric Dunn, who finished second for the Deacons and 11th overall. "Jason Reckner ran a great race for Clemson, which surprised us. We felt okay, but as soon as we start feeling good we'll do better. Our best race is yet to come."

Led by senior Nolan Swanson, the Deacons racked up 73 points. N.C. State won the tournament by finishing all five of their runners in the top eight, earning 24 points.

"It was a positive step to build on for the remainder of the season," said Head Coach John Goodridge. "There's definitely still room for improvement. This team still hasn't given its best performance. They're capable of more."

The Deacs had failed to live up to expectations in their two previous meets, finishing fourth and 14th in the Iona Meet of Champions and pre-NCAA champi-

onships, respectively. The Iona meet was the team's opening meet of the season at which they did not fare as well as they had expected. They still managed a fourth place finish, which kept them in the rankings.

However, at the pre-NCAA championships, held at Furman, the Deacs' poor showing dropped them out of the national rankings for the first time in 11 years.

"We needed better mental preparation, and we've addressed that since Furman. The team responded quite well and turned in a much-improved team effort," Goodridge said when addressing how the team prepared differently for the ACC championships.

The Deacs could not have picked a better time to begin showing their full potential, since only one meet remains definite for the remainder of the season. The Demon Deacons will return to Furman in two weeks for the NCAA regional qualifiers.

If they place high enough there, the Deacs will advance to the NCAA championships, also to be held at Furman.

"This team will need more improvement in order to be effective at the NCAA qualifiers," said Goodridge.

The NCAA qualifier will be a little more difficult because the NCAA championship races are 10,000 meters instead of the typical 8,000 meters.

One of the things the helping the Deacs' team effort, though, is that they are already familiar with the course at Furman.

"We have lots of experience at Furman. Also we have a positive attitude towards the 10,000-meter distance. We feel good about our chances to qualify. We looked strong at the end of the 8,000 (in our last race) and we're well prepared for 10,000," Goodridge said.



Carlton Ward/Old Gold and Black

Senior Eric Dunn races toward the finish line in the ACC Championships held in Tallahassee, Florida last weekend. The Deacs finished in second place.

Men's golf take sixth place at Doral match play tourney

Even though the team was playing on Ray Floyd, Jr.'s home course, the match play format proved to be too difficult

By Jon Giokas
 Old Gold and Black Reporter

Each tournament presents a new challenge for the Demon Deacon men's golf team, but that saying was especially true as the team finished sixth at the Rolex Match Play Championships at the world famous Doral Golf Resort and Spa in Miami, Florida.

The most distinctive feature of the tournament was its match-play format, where five players from each team squared off against each other, with each match being worth one point, that point being split if the match ends up even.

This is different from all of the Deacons'

other fall tournaments, where the format was of the stroke play variety, and only four of the five players' scores count on a given day.

The team returned from Miami with a sixth-place finish in the tournament. The Deacons lost a first-round match to Texas Christian University by a score of 4.5 points for TCU to 0.5 for the Deacs.

The Deacons rebounded with a 3-2 victory over Southern Cal in the second round before ending a tight contest with Arizona State in the finals of the consolation bracket in a tie.

The Sun Devils were, however, declared the winners of that match due to a tie breaker, having won the largest number of

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Jerry Haas
 Head Coach

total holes in the match.

The Demon Deacons entered the tournament as the sixth seed out of eight teams. TCU was seeded third, Southern Cal seventh, and Arizona State fifth.

Coach Haas told the story of the team's play in their two losses. "We got paired

against TCU and we didn't play very well. We really outplayed Arizona State. It came down basically to the last hole," said Haas.

"It was a match play tournament, which is unusual. They (the team) had a lot of fun," continued Haas.

Senior Ray Floyd, playing in his hometown had a record of 1-1-1 in his three individual matches, as did fellow senior Todd Lynch.

Michael Capone, Oscar Sanchez, and Patrick Damron all had records of 1-2 over three rounds. Capone, Sanchez and Floyd keyed the Deacons' victory over USC with individual victories.

"We don't have anyone really playing great. They're all playing decent. We just

need that one hot guy" Haas said. He said that for the team to emerge as a threat to win the national championship in May, it must continue shooting solid scores, but also needs at least one player to step up each week and turn in an under-par score, which has been lacking in recent weeks.

The Demon Deacons have one more fall tournament left, the Palmetto Dunes Invitational on Nov. 14, 15, and 16, in Hilton Head, S.C.

The team hopes to reverse its fortunes, as well as change its recent history, by playing better in the fall than in the spring. "Maybe this time we'll start slower and finish stronger" Haas said, hoping the team will peak in time for NCAAs in May.