

Injuries plague Deacs in 33-16 loss to Tigers

By Scott Payne
Sports Editor

On a day when Jim Caldwell's Demon Deacons faced perhaps their first ever must-win situation, nothing seemed to go their way all afternoon.

In a game where a win would possibly propel the Deacs to their first postseason appearance in five seasons, Caldwell saw his starting quarterback and the bulk of his defensive line carried off the field with injuries in a 33-16 shellacking at the hands of the Clemson Tigers. "Every time that you lose a ball game, it hurts, and this one was a critical one. They're all critical at this point in time. Certainly we were looking forward to the opportunity to go .500 in the conference," said Caldwell.

The loss drops the Deacs to 4-5 overall, 3-4 in the conference, and virtually erases any chance at a bowl bid.

Now they must defeat Rutgers on Nov. 8 and then the Florida State Seminoles, currently ranked No. 3 in the nation, in the final week of the season to reach the six-win plateau. During the first quarter, it looked as though the game was going to come down to the final minutes, as both teams scored touchdowns.

Clemson marched up the field on its first possession, needing only ten plays, eight of which were rushes, to travel 63 yards.

Running back Raymond Preister capped off the drive with a 2 yard run up the middle for a touchdown, the only second first quarter touchdown allowed by the Deacon defense all season.

The extra point was shanked wide left, giving the Tigers the early 6-0

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lead.

The Deacons would answer right back, as they moved the ball down the field mixing the run and the pass.

Senior quarterback Brian Kuklick hit senior wide out Thabiti Davis on their patented fade into the corner.

Sophomore Matthew Burdick's extra point split the uprights, putting the Deacs on top 7-6.

However, the touchdown drive would prove to be very costly because on the drive Kuklick got hammered by a Tiger defender and stayed on the turf for several seconds.

Following another series in which the Deacon offense was ineffective, Kuklick was forced out of the game with a bruised knee and would not return.

Replacing Kuklick was inexperienced sophomore Ben Sankey, who looked impressive on his first series.

On his first play from scrimmage Sankey completed a 21-yard pass to junior wide receiver Desmond Clark. Sankey led the Deacs deep into Tiger territory, where Burdick nailed a 38-yard field goal when the drive stalled at the Clemson 21.

Burdick's kick put the Deacs on

top 10-9, the last lead the Deacons would have all day.

"Obviously it changes your game plan a considerable amount. Brian has a lot of experience, whereas Ben has very little. (Ben) came in and ran the offense. We had to adjust to a few things and we maybe weren't as sharp as we had to be," Caldwell said.

The injury bug not only plagued the Deacon offense, but struck the defense as well.

Senior defensive lineman Aljamont Joyner missed the entire game with a nagging knee injury.

In the first half, senior Robert Fatzinger injured his hamstring and sophomore Fred Robbins injured a knee, and both would miss the whole second half.

"We're not a team that can take out Aljamont Joyner and Fred Robbins. Those guys are very important to our defense.

You take those guys out of there and we're obviously significantly less effective. That proved to be the case today," said Caldwell.

The absence of the defensive lineman was obvious as the Tigers rushed for 196 yards for the game on 45 carries.

On the strength of two field goals, the second coming with only 27 seconds remaining in the half, Clemson held a 12-10 halftime lead.

Right before the half, however, Clemson's Raymond Priestner, one of the top backs in the conference who constitutes the bulk of the Tiger offense, sprained his ankle and would return late in the second half only for pass protection purposes.

In the second half, Greene threw two long bombs for scores in the second half, the first to the fleet-footed Tony Horne from 52 yards



Carlton Ward/Old Gold and Black

Sophomore quarterback Ben Sankey races past the Clemson defense for a fourth quarter touchdown. The touchdown, however, would prove to be too little too late as the Deacs lost 33-16.

out. Greene's second long-distance connection was from 41 yards to R. Gardner, who stole the ball out of the hands of the sophomore cornerback Reggie Austin and walked in for the score.

Greene finished the game with a stellar 18 completions on 25 attempts for 286 yards and he also ran for 51 yards on 10 carries.

Caldwell realized the effect Greene had on the game's outcome.

"Nealon Greene just had an extraordinary day. He's virtually unstoppable."

Sankey scampered 16 yards through the Tiger defense for a touchdown with 90 seconds remaining, scoring the only Deacon points of the second half.

But by that point the Tigers had tacked on two fourth-quarter field goals and a safety off a botched snap from center on a punt from the

Demon Deacon endzone.

The Demon Deacons will now travel to scenic Piscataway, N.J. where they will face the still winless Scarlet Knights of Rutgers.

"We expect a very difficult game, one that will match two teams who both need a victory. This is a very important game for our squad if we hope to reach some of the goals we set for ourselves before the season ever began," Caldwell said.

DEACON NOTES

Play begins today at Spry Stadium for ACC Tourney

The 10th annual Women's Soccer ACC Tournament gets underway today at the Spry Soccer Complex, the first time the event has been on this campus.

The Demon Deacons, seeded seventh overall, look to avenge last Sunday's 3-1 loss to 11th ranked Duke, as they challenge the second-seeded Blue Devils in the first-round. The winner of that game will play the winner of the Maryland-N.C. State game Friday.

On the other side of the brackets, top-ranked and undefeated North Carolina will square-off against eighth-seeded Florida State. That winner will play the winner between fourth-seeded Virginia and fifth-seeded Clemson.

The winners of both semifinal games will battle Sunday. The victor will be crowned ACC Champion.

Deacon field hockey heads to UNC for ACC Tournament

The Demon Deacon field hockey team will compete in the ACC Tournament Nov. 6-9 at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill.

The team will face strong competition at

the tournament, as all four other conference teams are ranked among the top 20 teams in the nation. Three are in the top five.

Gridders hit road for non-conference game at Rutgers

This weekend the Deacon football squad will travel to Piscataway, N.J., to scrimmage the 0-9 Rutgers Scarlet Knights on Nov. 8 in their first non-conference game since the Sept. 13 loss to East Carolina in Greenville.

This is the first meeting between the Scarlet Knights and the Deacons, and the Deacons' first ever match versus a Big East team since the football portion of that conference was formed in 1991.

"We expect a difficult game, one that will match two teams who both need a victory. This is a very important game for our squad if we hope to reach some of the goals we set for ourselves before the season ever began," Demon Deacon Head Football Coach Jim Caldwell said.

The Deacons have already compiled their best season mark in Caldwell's five years at the team's helm. They have four wins for the first time since 1992, when that year's club put together a 7-4 regular season record and went on to defeat Oregon in the Independence Bowl.

Besides the '92 season, this season marks the first time a Deacon squad has defeated more than one ACC opponent.

Deacs bedeviled by Duke, 3-1

Team drops regular season finale to 11th ranked Blue Devils

By Paul Gaeta
Assistant Sports Editor

The final stop to what has been a long regular season for the Demon Deacons women's team arrived Nov. 2 in Raleigh as the Deacs lost a tough contest to the 11th ranked Duke Blue Devils, 3-1.

The loss dropped the Demon Deacons to 11-7-1 on the year, 1-6 in the powerful ACC, where the team beat Florida State in their first game of the year for its only conference win.

Yet, even though the Deacs regular season ended with a sour loss to an in-state rival, things are looking up for the team.

For the first time in the program's history, the Demon Deacons will host the ACC Women's Soccer Tournament at Spry Soccer Complex, and the Deacs are looking for the home field advantage to play a significant role in what could be some late-season heroics pulled off by the squad.

Today, the Demon Deacons look to hand the Blue Devils some revenge from Sunday's loss as both teams square off under the lights in the first round of the tournament. The winner plays the winner of the N.C. State-Clemson game tomorrow in the second-round of the single-elimination tournament.

Offense could be the key if the Deacs

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want to play the role of Cinderella in this weekend's tournament. In the team's six ACC losses this year, they only managed to score three goals combined, a statistic that will ruin success for any team plagued by the problem.

The scoring drought continued this past Sunday against the Blue Devils, a team the Deacons upset last year at Spry Soccer Complex on a last-second goal.

Duke raced out to an early 1-0 lead when senior Samantha Baggett headed in a pass from sophomore Kim Cahill past Deacon goalie sophomore Beth Klein at the 9:52 mark of the first half.

Play remained even for the rest of the first half. The Deacs, however, couldn't prevent another early goal in the second half.

Three minutes in, Cahill doubled her team's lead when she tapped the ball past Klein and into the net. Senior Andy Melde was awarded the assist.

At the 66:10 mark, the game looked like it was turning into a rout. Melde got

her third assist of the day, as freshman Kasey Truman scored her team's third goal.

The Deacons finally got on the scoreboard three minutes later when sophomore Liz Burnette scored off an assist by sophomore Stefanie Mathews, but it was too little too late. Duke shut the Deacs down the rest of the game going on for a school record sixth ACC win.

Although the game seemed one-sided in score, both squads played an even match. Duke only outshot the Deacs by two.

So with the regular season behind them, the Deacons look to this weekend as one where they have something to prove to the rest of the ACC.

Last year at this time, the team was on the bubble of the 32-team NCAA Tournament, but a first-round defeat of Clemson in the ACC Tournament made them a sure shot for the big dance.

This year, with all starters returning, goals were even higher for the team. A losing record in the second-half of the year, however, has put a damper on some of these goals.

The NCAA Tournament might be out of the question, but the Deacs definitely have the talent to pull off a few upsets this weekend. If they can put some goals in the net, it could be a weekend for the host team in the ACC Tournament.

Volleyball continues to struggle

Deacs lack consistency in losses to both Duke and UNC-Greensboro

By Jessica Reigle
Old Gold and Black Reporter

The Deacon volleyball team lost their two most recent matches to Duke and UNC Greensboro, as they continue to struggle with maintaining their consistency and level of effort throughout an entire match.

It looked as if the Deacs were going to make a miraculous comeback in their Nov. 4 match against UNC-G after losing the first two games by scores of 10-15 and 0-15. The Deacs played with exceptional determination, shutting the Spartans out 15-0 and 15-6 in games three and four.

The decisive game five was intense, with the Deacs and the Spartans alternating ownership of the lead. When the Deacs pulled out to an 11-9 lead, it seemed as if they would get the win, but the Spartans

then scored six of the next seven points to win the game, 15-12.

UNC-G netter Becky Moore's kill on match point clinched the Spartan win, boosting their record to 14-14 overall.

Sophomore Katie Horne led the Deacons with 17 kills and 16 digs. Sophomore Sharon Harmsworth also contributed 14 kills and 17 digs, hitting .237.

The Deacs came out strong in the Oct. 14 match but then faded, but Nov. 4, they struggled at the beginning of the match and picked up their level of play in the last game.

"We had the same general problems of consistency in both matches, but this time we played well at the end of the match, whereas the first time we played well in the beginning of the match," Buczek said.

Deacon junior Christy Kelley performed well throughout the match,

finishing with six kills, no errors and a match high 13 digs.

Horne contributed 11 kills, the only double-figure kills total for the Deacs.

Duke was led by Sarah Peifer, who had 15 kills, only three errors, and a team high of 12 digs. Peifer was also a key player in Duke's October 14 match against the Deacs.

Duke's record improves to 11-12 overall and 7-4 in the ACC.

The Deacs now stand at 8-18 overall and 1-10 in the ACC.

Buczek is enthusiastic as the season progresses, and she hopes that the Deacs' match against UNC-G boosted the team's confidence a little as they head into the weekend when they will face ACC competitor N.C. State.

The Deacon's recent defeat of N.C. State on Oct. 3 remains its only ACC win of the season so far.

SCOREBOARD

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Standings

	ACC	Overall
UNC	7 0 0	19 0 1
Duke	6 1 0	14 4 0
Md.	4 3 0	11 7 2
UVA	4 3 0	13 3 2
Clem.	4 3 0	12 5 0
NCSU	2 5 0	9 11 0
WFU	1 6 0	11 7 1
FSU	0 7 0	8 11 0

MEN'S SOCCER

Standings

	ACC	Overall
Md.	3 2 1	12 4 1
Duke	4 2 0	14 4 0
NCSU	4 2 0	11 5 0
UVA	3 1 2	11 3 3
Clem.	2 2 1	9 4 3
WFU	1 4 0	8 9 0
UNC	1 5 0	6 11 0

FOOTBALL

Last Week

UNC 16, GaT 13
UVA 45, Md. 0
Clem. 33, WFU 16
FSU 48, NCSU 35
Penn State 30, N. WESTERN 27
MICHIGAN 24, Minnesota 3
IOWA 35, Purdue 17
TENN. 22, S. Carolina 7

Standings

	ACC	Overall
FSU	6 0 0	8 0 0
UNC	5 0 0	8 0 0
UVA	4 2 5	5 3 3
GaT	3 2 4	4 3 3
Clem.	3 3 5	5 3 3
WFU	3 4	4 5
NCSU	1 5 3	5 3 5
Md.	1 5 2	2 7 7
Duke	0 5 2	2 6 6