

Rutland leads Duncan-less  
 Deacs to 105-67 thrashing of  
 Aussies Sports/B2

# Sports

## Deacs going to NCAA Tourney

By Paul Gaeta  
 Assistant Sports Editor

Tony da Luz, the head coach of the Demon Deacon women's soccer squad, had a hunch that his team would be one of 32 teams chosen for the season-ending NCAA Tournament.

In fact, da Luz held mandatory practice this week for his team, a surprising fact considering the Deacs were ousted by the Duke Blue Devils on Nov. 6, in the first-round of the ACC Tournament held at the university's own Spry Stadium.

The loss initially looked like the final nail hammered into the Demon Deacon's coffin. The team only managed one ACC victory, a 2-1 win against Florida State way back on Aug. 29, in the first game of their season.

The committee chosen to select the 32 teams into the NCAA Tournament saw it differently, however.

For the second straight season, the Deacs were awarded an at-large bid to the tournament, one of five given to ACC teams. Clemson, Virginia, Maryland, and Duke received the other bids.

"We are extremely excited to earn an invitation to the NCAA tournament. Getting a bid to the tournament is a great reward for our players," said da Luz.

Despite their good fortune at being selected to the 32-team field, the Deacs got the worst possible draw in the first round. The Demon Deacons must travel to Chapel Hill for a first-round match against top-ranked, undefeated North Carolina, the No. 1 seed in the southeast region.

In the Deacs only game against North Carolina this season, the team played strong but lost 2-0 after being out shot 29-1.

Although the Deacs bowed out to Duke in the first round of the ACC Tournament, it was their play in the game that gave them the final push into the NCAA Tournament.

In the most thrilling game of the Deacon's season, the Deacs pushed the eighth-ranked and second-seeded Blue Devils into sudden-death penalty kicks



Sophomore Anne Shropshire attempts to dribble past a Duke defender in the Deacons Nov. 6 first-round match of the ACC Tournament against Duke. The Deacs lost a thriller to the Blue Devils in a penalty kick shootout.

Carlton Ward/Old Gold and Black

before falling four kicks to three.

Duke got on the scoreboard first when Samantha Baggett put a header from 12 yards out past Deacon goalkeeper, sophomore Beth Klein, at the 29:25 mark of the first half.

The Blue Devils maintained their 1-0 lead for the remainder of the half and for most of the second half, but with eight minutes remaining in regulation, sophomore Christie Melby knocked in a rebound past Duke's freshman goalie, Isis Dallis, knotting the game at one and sending it to overtime.

The Demon Deacons continued their

late game momentum into the extra period. Two minutes in, sophomore Karli Schilling, off a pass from freshman Rachel Lewis, fired a shot from the top of the box and into the net.

Then, with over 109 minutes on the clock, Duke's Baggett was at it again, putting a cross from ACC Player of the Year Andi Melde into the Deacon net.

The game remained at 2-2 for the rest of overtime, meaning the victorious team would be decided with penalty shots.

With the kicks knotted at three, Duke's Dallis, the ACC Rookie of the Year, became the hero of the day. After Blue

Devil freshman Susan Kraeger put her team up by one, 4-3, Dallis saved a Melby penalty kick, lifting her team to victory.

"I felt that we had control in the overtime," da Luz said. "This was very disappointing for us because we wanted to be playing on Sunday and not watching the game from the stands."

"I thought it was a great, great game. We were able to create a lot of chances and this game could have gone either way. Unfortunately for us, Duke was able to do a better job of finishing the game," da Luz said.

## Deacons play better but still drop two

By Jessica Reigle  
 Old Gold and Black Reporter

The Deacon volleyball team dropped two consecutive matches to UNC on Friday night and N.C. State on Nov. 8.

Even though they lost the match, the Deacons played the best match of the season on Nov. 7, according to Head Coach Mary Buczek. "It was the best we've played as a team, a group, and defensively," she said.

The Deacs took Chapel Hill to five games before falling two games to three. UNC won the first two

games 15-8 and 15-2, but the Deacs made a comeback in games three and four, winning by scores of 15-12 and 17-15.

Unfortunately, the Deacs lost the fifth game 10-15, securing the win for UNC.

The Deacons' Nov. 8 match against N.C. State presented a physical and mental challenge, since the Deacs have been struggling with consistency in back-to-back matches.

The Deacs defeated N.C. State in their only ACC victory so far this year on October 3.

N.C. State dominated the match and defeated the Deacs in three straight games by scores of 15-3, 15-

12 and 15-6, despite a valiant effort by the Deacons.

The Deacons' record is now 8-20 overall and 1-12 in the ACC.

The Deacs wrap up their regular season at home this weekend with three matches against Georgia Tech on Friday, Florida State on Saturday and Clemson on Sunday.

"This will be an interesting weekend since we have three back-to-back matches, and sustaining our level of play in back-to-back matches has been a problem throughout the whole season," Buczek said.

"Our focus will be on playing consistently and maintaining that throughout the weekend," she said.

## Defense dominates in 28-14 victory over Scarlet Knights

By Scott Payne  
 Sports Editor

In the month of November it is rare to find a football team from the Atlantic Coast Conference playing in the state of New Jersey. However, last week, Head Coach Jim Caldwell and his Demon Deacons traveled north to the Garden State's city of Piscataway, where they dominated the still winless Scarlet Knights of Rutgers by a score of 28-14.

"I was very proud of our football team and very pleased to come away with a win over a talented young Rutgers team," Caldwell said.

The win over Rutgers, a team considered by many one of the worst in Division I, pulled the Deacons' record to an even 5-5 on the season, with one game remaining: a Nov. 15 matchup with the Florida State Seminoles in Tallahassee, Fla.

Directing the Deacon offense was sophomore quarterback Ben Sankey, who was making his first career start due to the season-ending injury suffered by junior quarterback Brian Kuklick in the game against Clemson Nov. 1.

Sankey directed the Deacs for three touch-

down scores and led two drives that concluded with field goals.

"Our offense did a good job of controlling the ball and putting points on the board when we needed them," Caldwell said.

The first touchdown on the day came on the Deacons' first possession. After the defense, which has been plagued by injuries in recent weeks, forced the Scarlet Knights to go three and out on the first series of the game, Sankey drove the team down the field.

Then, on a 16-yard run by senior running back Herman Lewis scored, capping off a 10 play, 71 yard drive, giving the Deacs a quick 7-0 lead.

For the game, Lewis ran for a total of 137 yards on a whopping 36 carries and two touchdowns.

Then, following an interception by Dameon Daniel on a pass tipped at the line by sophomore linebacker Dustin Lyman, the Deacs drove down for another score.

On the strength of four straight runs by

**"Except for a lapse in the second quarter, it was a great effort by our defense."**

Jim Caldwell  
 Head Coach



Lewis

Lewis, the Deacs moved the ball to the Rutgers goal line. Then on a third and goal from the one, Sankey plunged in for the score, making the score 14-0 with 36 seconds left in the first quarter.

After only two plays on their next drive, Rutgers quarterback Mike McMahon fumbled the ball and senior defensive lineman Robert Fatzinger recovered for the Deacs at the Rutgers 29 yard line.

Using the ground game once again, the Deacs moved the ball into Rutgers' red zone, but after offsetting penalties on a fourth and four play, sophomore place kicker Matthew Burdick booted a 32-yard field goal, putting the Deacs out to a commanding 17-0 lead with nearly 11 minutes remaining in the first half.

However, Rutgers recovered quickly, as they scored two touchdowns prior to half-time on passes of 12 and 37 yards, the

second coming with only eight seconds left on the clock, which brought the Knights to within three points at intermission, as they trailed 17-14.

The Deacons have experienced great difficulties this season holding off comebacks by their opponents in the second half. However, in this game the hapless Knights were held scoreless in the second half by the Deacon defenders. Leading the charge for the Deacs were senior David Zadel, who recorded five tackles and a sack in the afternoon, while his linemate senior Kelvin Shackleford had three tackles for loss.

"Except for a lapse in the second quarter, it was a great effort by our defense. Not only did they shut Rutgers out in the second half out, but they also came up with four turnovers during the ball game, three of which led to scores," Caldwell said.

While the Knights were held scoreless in the second half, the Deacs broke loose for two third-quarter scores. On the strength of a 43-yard pass from Sankey to junior wide receiver Desmond Clark, the Deacs moved the ball to the Rutgers 11.

Sankey finished his first start with 158 yards passing on 14 completions. Following three unproductive rushes, Burdick came

in and kicked a 22-yard field goal putting the Deacs up 20-14.

On Rutgers' very next play, senior cornerback D'Angelo Solomon intercepted a pass and returned the ball 39 yards to the Rutgers 19-yard line. Then following a 15-yard run by sophomore running back Morgan Kane, Lewis broke through for a 15-yard touchdown, his second of the game, 55 seconds after the field goal by Burdick.

Following a two point conversion by Sankey, the scoring for the game was complete, with the Deacs on top 28-14.

In the fourth quarter, senior running back Myles Savage, playing in his hometown, got several carries in front of friends and families who were in attendance.

The Deacons will put the finished touches on the 1997 season next week, when they travel to Tallahassee to play the currently undefeated Florida State Seminoles, who are currently ranked No. 2 nationally in the AP poll.

"I certainly do not see a better football team in the country than Florida State. It will be a significant challenge for our team to play them this week in Tallahassee, but we are excited about the opportunity," Caldwell said.

## Will the real No. 1 please step forward

By Scott Payne  
 Sports Editor

Last Saturday, Nov. 8, three teams emerged from the pack as the cream of the crop of Division I college football. It was a day in which there were three classic matchups at various sites around the country: No. 3 Penn State versus No. 4 Michigan, No. 2 Florida St. versus No. 5 North Carolina and No. 1 Nebraska versus conference rival Missouri. When the smoke cleared from this exciting day of college football, it was believed that a clear

No. 1 would emerge. However, when the day was done, the national championship was a murky as ever.

Much to my surprise, Michigan went into Penn State and completely dominated the Nittany Lions for the entire game (or so I heard, as I was forced to watch Virginia versus Georgia Tech, but that's another issue entirely), Florida State whooped up on the overrated North Carolina Tar Heels, and Nebraska needed the Immaculate Reception Part Deux to force overtime so they could beat pesky Missouri.

Here we are, nearing the end of another college football season and still three teams have a strong claim for the national championship. Even with the creation of the somewhat confusing bowl alliance, the national championship hunt is still hazy at best.

If Michigan, who is currently No. 1 in the AP poll, wins the Big 10 title, which it appears they will, they will automatically travel to Pasadena to play either Washington or Washington St. in the Rose Bowl. So if Michigan defeats their PAC 10 competitor and Florida St. blows away their bowl opponent, who is the true No. 1? Who deserves the national title?

This problem that looms every New Year's Day is just more fuel to the fire that is the need for a college football playoff system.

The solution to this problem lies in the creation of a 16-team field, with berths awarded on the basis of winning the regular season conference championships, with several at-large bids available for teams such as unaffiliated Notre Dame or Tennessee, who is ranked in the top ten nationally but ranked second in their own conference.

The teams would be seeded based on a combination of winning percentage, both in conference and non-conference, opponents' winning percentage and strength of schedule. So therefore when Florida State finishing the season 11-0 after playing tough teams, it will be seeded higher than the Nebraskans that played the Southwest Oklahoma School for the Blind.

Designate neutral sites around the country and have each team play until only one team is left, the true national champion.

And of course, the championship game would be played on the frozen tundra of Lambeau Field in Green Bay, Wis.

The bowl format, while financially beneficial for schools and conference, penalizes the players. The players deserve to let all their hard work in practice pay off and on game day go for something definite, a national championship, not a victory in the Tostitos Bowl.

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