

Sports

Navy sinks under Deacon barrage, loses 67-43
 Sports/B2

Looking at the glass as half full Even though the Deacs are not bowl bound, they still found success

By Scott Payne
 Sports Editor

Yet another Demon Deacon football season has come to a close, and once again the Jim Caldwell-led Deacs will be at home with family over Winter Break rather than practicing for a bowl game. It is great to be with one's family during the holiday season, but I'd be willing to bet

that each and every player that strapped on the gold and black this season would rather be in pads, doing full-contact drills, preparing for a bowl game instead.

However, the success of a football season should not be measured by postseason berths alone. Although the Deacons did not finish the season bowl-eligible, with the six necessary wins, that does not mean that the entire season went for nothing.

By winning five games, the Deacons proved that they are an up-and-coming program with great potential in a conference that is one of the toughest in the country. If it weren't for three second half collapses and the whole turnover problem, the Deacs could have easily defeated East Carolina, Georgia Tech and Virginia.

But that is in the past now. By failing to reach a bowl game this season, many people may think that the blame falls on the shoulders of Jim Caldwell. Not true.

In fact, Caldwell did a remarkable job coaching the Deacons this season, an effort that deserves ACC Coach of the Year honors.

Caldwell took a team of players that was used to getting killed week in and week out on the football field and convinced them that they could win football games.

Not only did Caldwell convince them that they could win, he showed them as well.

The Deacs opened the season with a virtuoso performance against the Northwestern Wildcats for their second-straight upset of the boys in purple. With other wins coming over Duke, Maryland, Rutgers and the most impressive of all, the victory over N.C. State, the Deacs won the most games in one season of the Caldwell era.

Every coach that played the Deacons this season commented after the game what a great team Caldwell had built and how impressed they were at the improvements made from last season.

In his tenure as the Deacon head coach, Caldwell has put together a talented squad that features big strong receivers, an accurate throwing quarterback, quick and elusive running backs, powerful pass rushers, linebackers who have a nose for the ball, and punters and place kickers that kick the leather off the ball.

Next season the outlook for the Deacons is bright, as most of the major contributors on both offense and defense return, including James Lik, Brian Kuklick, Desmond Clark, Jammie Deese, Morgan Kane, Matthew Burdick, Kelvin Moses, Dustin Lyman and others.

Not only is Caldwell a good coach on the field, he is a first class individual off it, as he represents the university in a most professional manner. He sees to it that his players not only receive the X's and O's but that they also get prepared for life after football.

Very few college football players go on to make millions in the NFL, which increases the importance of a good education.

With the steady improvement the Deacon football team has been making under Caldwell, it is plain to see that his system works and that a winning tradition is in the near future for him and his team.

'Roos march home 88-70 losers

By Scott Payne
 Sports Editor

"It's been awhile since I've seen one like that to open a season. It was wild and woolly out there," said Head Coach Dave Odom, of his team's 88-70 season-opening defeat of the Running 'Roos of VMI, Nov. 15.

The Deacs were led by senior guard Jerry Braswell, who, on a perfect seven-for-seven from the field and two-for-two from the line, scored a career-high 20 points, including four three-point bombs.

"I thought that Jerry played very, very, very well," said Odom, whose team shot 51.7 percent from the field for the game.

Braswell spent much of the night as the Deacs' primary ball handler due to the suspension of senior point guard Tony Rutland. Rutland, the leading returning scorer with 11.8 points per game last season, was serving the first of a two-game suspension for participating in an unsanctioned summer league.

"It's good to know that you can win a basketball game without one of your best players in there," Odom said of Rutland, who will return to action on Nov. 21 against Georgetown in Springfield, Mass. at the Basketball Hall of Fame.

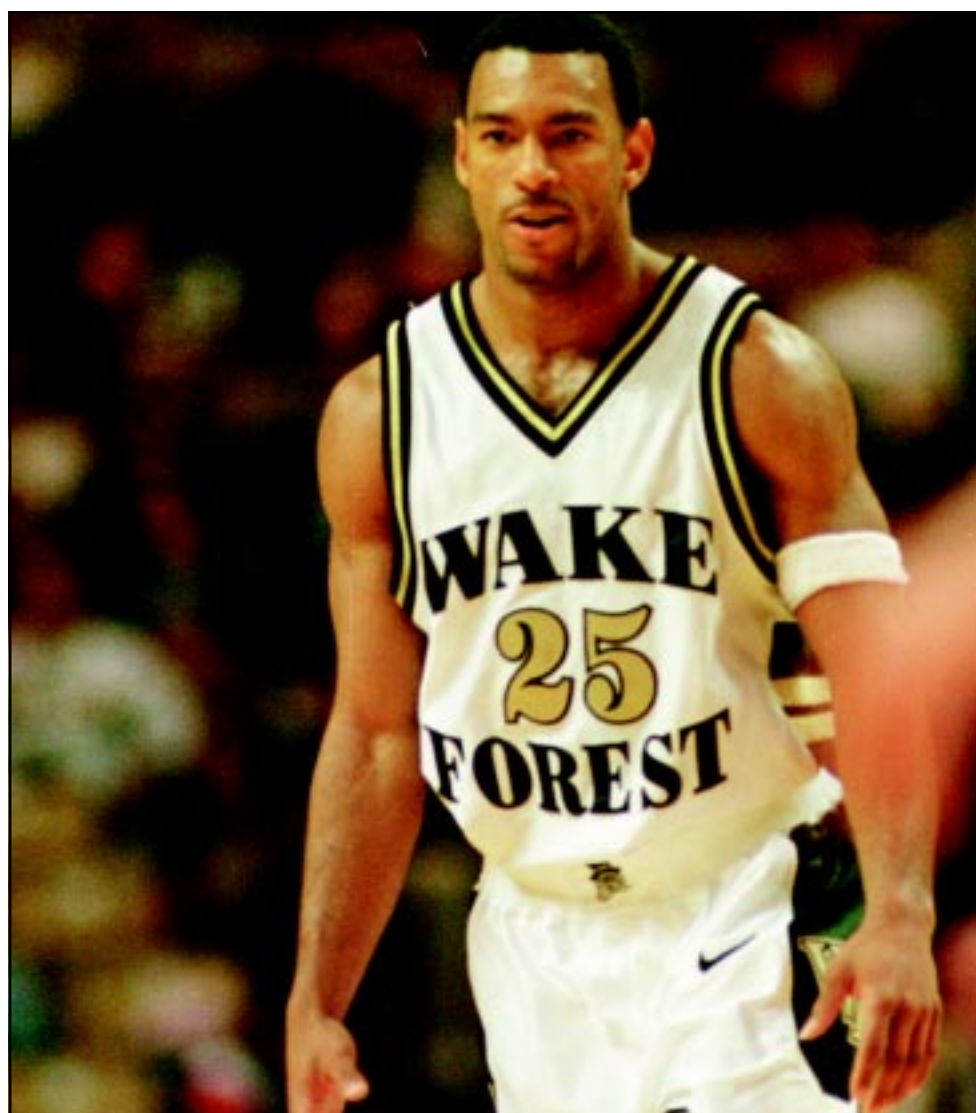
In addition to the sharp shooting of Braswell, senior Stephen Goolsby lit up the Roos for eight points on four of five shots in only 16 minutes.

The Deacons dropped in only six three-point bombs on 14 attempts in the game but exhibited enough long-range marksmanship to satisfy VMI Head Coach Bret Bellairs.

"Dave Odom's got some shooters, I'll tell you that. They're very dangerous," Bellairs said.

Sophomore Loren Woods, who stands 7-1, proved to be too much for the 'Roos to handle inside, with their tallest player standing four inches shorter than Woods at 6-9. Woods scored 17 points, including seven of nine from the charity stripe, pulled down seven boards and swatted five shots.

However, the leading rebounder for the Deacons was 6-5 freshman Niki Arinze. In



Senior guard Jerry Braswell moves up the court in the Deacons' victory over the Running 'Roos from the Virginia Military Institute. Braswell was pressed into duty at the point-guard slot because of the suspension of senior point guard Tony Rutland. Rutland sat out the game as part of a two-game suspension for participating in an unsanctioned summer league. In the game Braswell scored a career-high 20 points, as he was a perfect seven-for-seven from the field for the game. For the Deacs' game on Friday, Nov. 21, against the Georgetown Hoyas in Springfield, Mass., Rutland will be cleared to play again. The Deacs will face the Hoyas at 7:30 p.m. from the Basketball Hall of Fame.

Carlton Ward/Old Gold and Black

his first official collegiate game, not only did Arinze break into the starting lineup, but he scored an impressive 15 points.

"(Niki) has a sense about him that is hard to describe but he knows when to turn it on. He's savvy, I guess is a good way to describe it," said Odom of his recruit from Nashville, Tenn. "He gives you some bounce in the frontline that we haven't had in a long time."

Arinze was not the only freshman to make a significant contribution in his first collegiate outing. Robert O'Kelley scored

17 points and dished out four assists, including an alley-oop lob pass to fellow freshman Josh Shoemaker, which Shoemaker promptly crammed into the basket.

"I think our freshmen class has a lot of promise. I really do. We've just got to keep after it," said Odom, the three-time ACC Coach of the Year who is seeking his sixth straight 20-win season.

In the second half, the Deacs allowed the 'Roos only one three-point basket, and their tight defense forced the 'Roos to shoot a miserable 34 percent from the field.

"Our team really tightened down defensively," Odom said. After leading by only nine points at halftime, the Deacs broke the game open late, hitting 16 of 18 free throws in the second half alone, to cruise to the 18-point victory.

"I was never comfortable until we were inside the two-minute mark," said Odom. "I don't think I've sweated that much in a long time."

"We hit some key shots and were able to break away," said Odom whose team starts the season with a 1-0 record.

Deacs' season ended by the Cavaliers

By David McGlinchey
 Old Gold and Black Reporter

The roller-coaster ride of a season that the men's soccer team was experiencing came to an end in Orlando, Nov. 14., at the hands of the eighth-ranked Virginia Cavaliers, in the second round of the ACC tournament.

The sixth-seeded Deacs did not go out quietly, though, as they annihilated third-seeded N.C. State, 8-0 and played second-seeded Virginia close the entire game before losing 2-1 after a questionable call.

"Our backs were against the wall," said freshman Brock Hilpert.

"We realized we had to win the ACC tournament to qualify for the

NCAA tournament."

The Deacs broke the single-game team record for scoring in the ACC tournament when they ran over N.C. State.

Senior Ihor Dotsenko set a new record for most goals in a single tournament game by a player when he picked up his hat trick 76 minutes into the match.

The Deacs' first score came 20 minutes into the game on a shot by senior Kevin Rice, when N.C. State goalkeeper Dan Alexander let the wet ball slip through his hands and into the goal.

The underdog Deacons struck again when the ball got past the Wolfpack keeper and an N.C. State defender used his hand to stop the goal. The defender was ejected

"Our backs were against the wall. We knew we had to win to the tournament to get into the NCAA tournament."

Brock Hilpert
 Freshman

and Dotsenko converted the penalty kick.

With the Deacs having the momentum and being up one player, the slaughter began.

"We started off luckily," said Head Coach Jay Vidovich. "They're a quality team."

"When they got down we picked it up," Hilpert said.

Junior Kyle Bachmeier scored

the third goal for the Deacs from sixteen yards out. Dotsenko scored the next two goals and freshmen Jaron Barbee, Ben Stafford and Peter Walsh each added a goal in the last ten minutes.

In the second round the Deacs played the Cavaliers to a scoreless first half. UVa. scored first on a header 11 minutes into the second half.

Hilpert answered for the Deacs five minutes later when he took a pass from fellow freshman Barbee and knocked the ball into the lower right corner of the goal from 12 yards out.

Several minutes later the Deacs were pushing the ball up the field when the Cavaliers took the ball on an blatant uncalled foul. UVa.

brought the ball back and scored what would prove to be the winning goal with 13 minutes left in the game.

"There was a foul committed which was not called but I was very satisfied with the team," Vidovich said, referring to the UVa. game. "We played our most consistent game of the year."

The Deacs finished the season at 10-10-0.

"I don't think that the results of the season reflect our level of play," Vidovich said of the Deacon's fortunes this fall. "Teams across the country know that we are a good team but a .500 record doesn't do justice to our team, it's disappointing in that sense."

Deacons lose three straight volleyball matches

By Jessica Reigle
 Old Gold and Black Reporter

Despite a their best efforts, the Demon Deacon volleyball team ended its regular-season play with three straight ACC losses last weekend. The Deacs were at a disadvantage in both strength and depth because they played three matches in a row.

The Deacs' rough weekend began on the night of Nov. 14 with a match against Georgia Tech. The powerful Yellow Jackets defeated the Deacs in three straight games by scores of 15-9, 15-2 and 15-4.

"We were just out-talented in our match against Georgia Tech," Head Coach Mary Buczek said.

Sophomore Deacon Katie Horne achieved a personal victory in the match against the Yellow Jackets, accumulating seven kills to obtain a single-season record of 401 kills.

Sophomore Sharon Harmsworth, who had a team-high eight kills, and junior Amber Grahm, who contributed 17 assists, both played key roles against Georgia Tech.

Saturday night, Nov. 15, brought the Deacons more disappointment when they were outplayed by Florida State, losing three straight games to the Seminoles by scores of 15-3, 15-10 and 15-2.

"We just didn't make as good of an effort as we could have in the match against Florida State," Buczek said.

The Deacons ended their weekend with a strong match against the Clemson Tigers.

"We played hard, we played well, and we finished our regular season play on a positive note," Buczek said.

The Deacons took the Tigers to four games before being defeated, and although Clemson won the first two games (15-10, 15-8), the Deacs rallied and took the third game 16-14. Unfortunately, Clemson came out strong in the fourth game, claiming the game 15-7, to clinch the win.

Horne was once again the Deacons' top player, notching 21 kills and eight digs. Grahm also played well, recording 54 assists and seven digs.

With these three losses, the Deacs closed out the regular season 8-23 overall and 1-15



Freshmen Jessica Hood (left) and Corie Miles (right) rise high above the net to block a shot. Miles was recently named to the All-ACC Freshmen Team for her performance this season.

Carlton Ward/Old Gold and Black

in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

"We like our chances going into our match against N.C. State on Friday because right now we have a split with them, since they have been the only ACC team we've

beaten this season," said Buczek.

The ACC Tournament will begin this Friday, Nov. 21, in Raleigh when the Deacs face N.C. State in the opening match at 10 a.m.