

DEACON NOTES

Deacons set for vital ACC game vs. Heels

The Demon Deacons will host the Tar Heels of North Carolina Jan. 24 in an important ACC contest.

The Deacons are 1-4 against ranked teams this season but have shown promise all season, most recently when they hosted second ranked Duke Jan. 13.

Duke narrowly escaped from Winston-Salem with a ten-point victory that doesn't relay how close the game really was.

UNC on the other hand started off strong claiming a victory over then second-ranked Stanford but has been on the decline as of late. UNC is 3-1 against ranked teams but blew a halftime lead against Maryland Jan. 13 to lose by 13 points.

The Heels followed up the loss to Maryland with a close three point victory over unranked N.C. State.

North Carolina features the ACC's assist leader Ed Cota, the ACC's fourth leading shot blocker Brendan Haywood and the ACC's fourth-leading rebounder Ademola Okulaja.

North Carolina relies more on its whole team however and ranks an impressive second in the ACC in scoring defense, holding teams to an average of 61.9 points per game.

The Deacons rank fourth in ACC scoring defense with a 62.6 points-per-game average but rank last in scoring offense only averaging 66.8 points per game versus UNC's 71.5 points-per-game average.

The Deacons will look to capitalize on North Carolina's last-ranked turnover margin, which has the Tar Heels averaging 4.2 more turnovers than they are causing.

The Deacons will have to stay outside the paint and away from Haywood and Okulaja in order to compete with the Tar Heels and also keep a close guard on Cota when he has the ball.

On the offensive end, sophomore Robert O'Kelley and freshman Craig Dawson need to start hitting the outside shots early. That will open up the inside for Deac big men freshman Darius Songaila and sophomores Rafael Vidaurreta and Josh Shoemaker.

Baseball team signs seven players early

The baseball team has already received seven national letters of intent for the fall 1999 season.

Head Coach George Greer announced that seven players have committed to the Demon Deacons and would enroll in the fall of 1999.

The signees include Jon Asahina, an infielder/pitcher from Fresno, CA; Nick Blue, a power hitting infielder from Saratoga, CA; Ben Clayton, a pitcher from San Leandro, CA; Ben Elbe, a pitcher from Largo, FL; Hank Hornsby, a catcher from Maitland, FL; Dustin Pate, a pitcher from Clemson, SC and Mat Thompson, a pitcher from Boise, ID.

The Deacons are happy with their recruiting thus far and feel that they have met the most serious of their needs.

The Deacon coaching staff felt their most pressing need was pitching and so far have landed five pitchers.

Greer said he is not done recruiting and hopes to add to this class during the spring signing period.

He will most likely have to replace 10 seniors and draft-eligible juniors.

Deacs take diamond ready to defend ACC title

By Sean Blue
Assistant Sports Editor

With last season's ACC title and the bulk of last year's team returning for this season, the men's baseball team was ranked 21st in the nation in the *Collegiate Baseball* magazine's pre-season poll voted on by head coaches throughout the nation.

Last year the Deacs went 43-23 and captured the ACC title.

The Deacs are returning 21 lettermen from that squad including seven starters in the field and seven pitchers.

"We're very happy to be ranked 21st. We're coming off a good season and winning the ACC title," senior Jon Palmieri said.

"We feel we could be ranked higher by the end of the season. We feel we can be a top-10 ball club." However, the Deacons will have their work cut out for them if they want to defend their ACC championship.

Four other ACC teams are ranked in the top 25, three of which are

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Jon Palmieri
Senior

ranked above the Deacs.

Georgia Tech is ranked second after a 41-22 record last year followed by Florida State ranked ninth, Clemson at 20th and North Carolina at 23rd.

Wichita State is ranked first following a 1998 record of 56-7 with USC, Rice and Long Beach State rounding out the top five.

"A lot of teams have their pitching staffs back from last year. This is probably going to be a pitcher dominated league this year," Palmieri said.

"We know we have to go up to Florida State and play Georgia Tech and Clemson. Those teams are always tough."

Seniors John Hendricks and Palmieri were named to the *Collegiate Baseball* magazine's pre-season All-America team.

Hendricks was one of six pitchers named to the first-team.

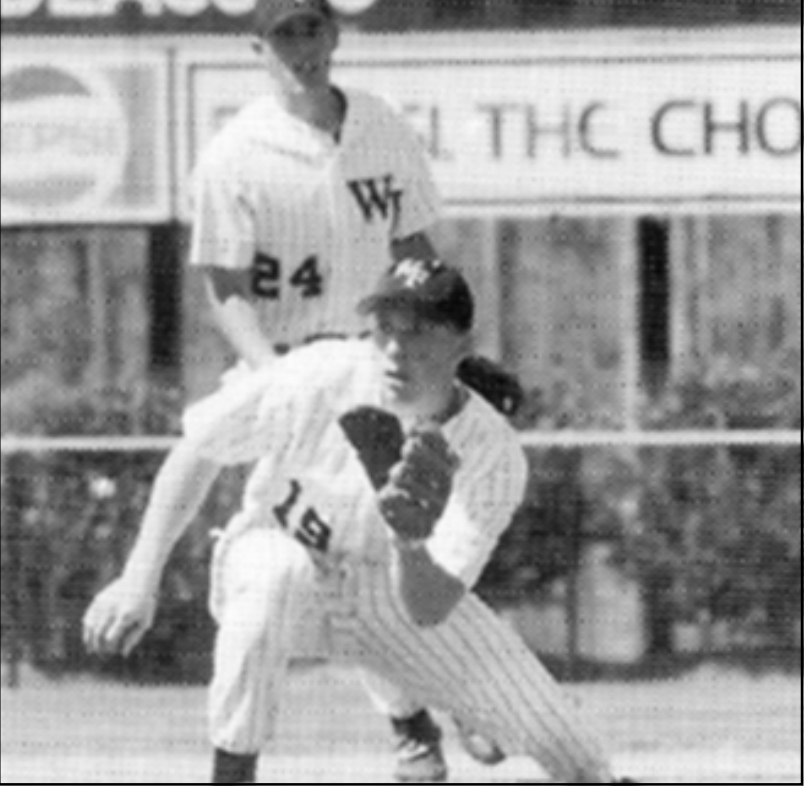
Last season Hendricks recorded 13 victories and a 3.14 ERA in 141.1 innings pitched to rank third in the nation.

Palmieri was a first-team selection for first base. Palmieri set Deacon records with 30 doubles and 78 RBIs while hitting .438 to claim the ACC batting title.

"We're not putting a lot of pressure on ourselves. We're not thinking about defending the ACC title. We plan to take each game day by day and are looking at the regular season right now," Palmieri said.

"When the ACC playoffs come around, then we'll start thinking about defending the ACC title."

The Deacs will open their season against Evansville on Feb. 12 and trips against the nationally-ranked Yellow Jackets, Tigers, and Seminoles will follow when ACC play begins soon after.



Senior John Palmieri, a first baseman, was named a preseason All-American by the *Collegiate Baseball* magazine.

Hypocrisy of NCAA highlighted in Henson case

By Geoff Moak
U-Wire

It's at it again.

The NCAA is often criticized, and rightly so, for treating student-athletes unfairly — for example, by not allowing them to hold part-time jobs (even in the off-season) like other students. The holders of this point of view usually argue that the NCAA is a money-grub-

bing parasite, leeching off the talents of student-athletes.

That image is justified. Sometimes its rules are so bizarre that one has to wonder if the NCAA is smart enough to intentionally leech off anybody. Consider the case of Drew Henson, a backup quarterback for the University of Michigan football team who also plays professional baseball in the New York Yankees' farm system. Recently Henson's

baseball card started appearing from Upper Deck on the market for two weeks. "Was" is the key word in that sentence.

Since Henson is still eligible to play football at Michigan, he's still subject to the imaginative regulations of the bumbling NCAA. The production of the baseball card is against those regulations. The catch is that NCAA rules do not allow companies, such as Upper Deck, to

profit from the image of student-athletes.

Never mind that every time a check comes in from a television network paying for the rights to broadcast college games, the NCAA itself is profiting from the images of student-athletes. Come to think of it, the networks profit from that transaction, too.

Apparently, the only problem the NCAA has with making a profit

comes when it doesn't get a cut.

Fortunately for Drew Henson, Upper Deck agreed to simply stop printing the baseball card, thus averting any problems with Henson's football eligibility. Could it only be so easy to get the NCAA to simply stop being so high-handed?

Geoff Moak writes for The Pitt News, the student newspaper of the University of Pittsburgh.

SCOREBOARD

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Standings	ACC	Overall
Duke	6 0	17 1
Md.	5 1	17 2
UNC	3 2	15 4
FSU	3 2	9 7
WFU	2 3	11 6
N.C. State	2 4	11 6
Ga. Tech	2 4	11 7
Clem.	1 4	12 6
UVa.	1 5	10 8

Statistics

3-Point Field Goal Percentage	Pct
Trajan Langdon, Duke	.474
Terrell McIntyre, Clem.	.451
William Avery, Duke	.446
Craig Dawson, WFU	.418
A. Harrington, N.C. State	.408

3-Point Field Goals Per Game

Avg	
Trajan Langdon, Duke	3.6
Terrell McIntyre, Clem.	2.6
A. Harrington, N.C. State	2.5
Robert O'Kelley, WFU	2.4
Jason Floyd, Ga. Tech	2.4

Scoring Defense

Avg	
Clem.	58.2
UNC	61.9
Md.	62.0
WFU	62.6
N.C. State	65.1

Free Throw Percentage

Pct	
Duke	.737
UNC	.722
UVa.	.719
Md.	.701
WFU	.697

3-Point Field Goal Percentage

Pct	
Duke	.412
UNC	.402
N.C. State	.393
Md.	.363
WFU	.355

3-Point Goals Per Game

Avg	
Duke	7.5
UVa.	7.4
Ga. Tech	6.9
WFU	6.3
Clem.	6.2

Field Goal Percentage Defense

Pct	
Md.	.368
UNC	.382
Duke	.392
Clem.	.396
WFU	.410

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Standings	ACC	Overall
Duke	7 0	15 4
UNC	6 1	19 2
UVa.	4 2	11 5
Clem.	5 3	14 3
N.C. State	3 4	9 7
Ga. Tech	2 5	9 8
WFU	2 5	6 11
FSU	1 6	6 10
Md.	1 6	3 13

Statistics

Rebounds	Avg
Summer Erb, N.C. State	9.5
Regina Tate, Ga. Tech	9.1
Brooke Wycoff, FSU	8.6
L. Barksdale, UNC	8.6
DeMya Walker, UVa.	8.4
Olivia Dardy, WFU	7.6

Blocks in Conference Games

Avg	
DeMya Walker, UVa.	3.7
Brooke Wycoff, FSU	2.4
Michele VanGorp, Duke	1.6
L. Robinson, WFU	1.4
Summer Erb, N.C. State	1.0

3-Point Field Goal Percentage

Pct	
Amy Geren, Clem.	.430
Juana Brown, UNC	.415
Nichole Erickson, Duke	.400
D. Donehew, Ga. Tech	.397
Heidi Coleman, WFU	.366
Erin Stovall, UVa.	.345

3-Point Field Goal Percentage

Pct	
Duke	.386
Clem.	.345
Ga. Tech	.337
WFU	.330
UNC	.312

3-Point Field Goals Per Game

Avg	
Duke	6.0
WFU	5.8
UNC	4.9
UVa.	4.8
Ga. Tech	4.0
Clem.	3.5

THIS WEEK

Jan. 23
Men's Basketball vs. North Carolina, 1:00 p.m.

Jan. 24
Women's Basketball vs. N.C. State, 12:30 p.m.

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