

DEACON NOTES

Golf team finishes 12th at SMU/OSU tournament

The women's golf team struggled during their final round of the SMU/OSU Challenge and fell from ninth to 11th place in the 18-team tournament.



After two rounds of play the Deacons stood in a two-way tie for ninth place with Texas, but shot a 324 in the final round to fall to 11th overall. During their first two rounds the Deacs shot a strong 306 both days and were within 12 shots of first place.

The Deacons were shooting in the 70s for the most part during the first two rounds but the final round saw only one Deac, senior Kristen Wagner, shoot under an 80.

Individually, sophomore Marta Prieto led the way for the Deacs finishing in a seven-way tie for 12th place. Prieto shot a one-over-par-72 in the second round to record the fifth best round of the tournament for any individual, but shot an 81 in the final round to drop from ninth to 12th place.

Junior Kelly Kirwin finished with a 235 overall and tied for 38th in the tourney. Wagner's 79 in the final round helped her move up two spots from 46th to finish 44th in the tourney and freshman Nicole Faniola finished with a 239 to finish in a tie for 54th place. Freshman Katie Brenny dropped three spots during the final round and ended up in a tie for 66th.

Wellman confirms change to '99 football schedule

Athletic director Ron Wellman officially announced the addition of the University of Alabama-Birmingham to the 1999 football schedule in place of Tulane.

Rumors began circulating about the change when the tentative schedule was released in the beginning of January but were never confirmed until Feb. 5 with Wellman's announcement.

The UAB game will take place Oct. 23 at Groves Stadium instead of the originally scheduled Sept. 4 date with Tulane.

The change was made after discussions with Conference USA officials (UAB and Tulane are both member schools) about the recent reorganization of the Conference USA and the readjustment of member school schedules. The change of date pushes the Deacs' regular season opener back one week to Sept. 11 at Army. The Deacons' first home game will not be until the third week of the season, Sept. 25, when they host N.C. State.

The pushing back of the regular season opener eliminates the Deacons' bye week and the final game of the regular season for the Demon Deacons will be at home against Georgia Tech on Nov. 20.

Baseball to open season at home this weekend

The ACC baseball champion Deacons will open their regular season Feb. 12 at home against the Evansville Purple Aces. The Deacs are coming off a great season in which they went 43-23 and captured the ACC crown before finally bowing out in the NCAA tournament.

Evansville and the Deacons have met only once before in a 1991 game that saw the Purple Aces down the Deacons 4-2.

The Deacs, however, return seven of last year's 10 starters in the field and seven pitchers. The Deacs return, among others, senior standout, first baseman Jon Palmieri, who earned pre-season All-American honors and captured the ACC batting title last season while setting school records in hits, RBIs and doubles. Senior John Hendricks earned All-American honors last season and pre-season All-American honors this season after posting a 3.14 ERA and recording 13 victories last season to rank third in the nation and set a school record.

The Deacons also return sophomore Cory Slavik at third base. Last season Slavik earned freshman All-American honors for posting a .375 batting average and hitting seven home runs and 47 RBIs.

Junior Mike MacDougal will most likely open the game for the Demon Deacs. MacDougal posted a 6-5 record with a 4.15 ERA last season and has been ranked as the third-best draft prospect in the ACC.

The game should prove to be a good season opener for the Deacons as they begin their quest to reclaim the ACC title and advance back into the NCAA tournament.

ACC baseball to provide exciting season

By Kim Gaffney
U-Wire

The Atlantic Coast Conference has long been recognized as one of the top conferences in college baseball.

If the nine teams across the southeast region of the country can pull off on the field anything like what they look like on paper, 1999 should be one of the conference's best years ever.

With the NCAA bracket expansion to included 64 teams, a seven-team representation for the conference might be more than likely.

Pitching seems to be the dominant characteristic for the conference from Georgia Tech, voted No. 1 in the conference's pre-season coaches poll, to Maryland and Virginia, who were picked 8th and 9th. What is returning on the mound has dictated early season predictions.

"We are where we are, and I think that our kids took a little slap in the face being ranked 71st in the country because of what we have on the mound," said Wolfpack pitching coach Mark Fuller.

"Carolina has two possible first-round draft picks, Wake has a 14-game winner, Florida State is Florida State. Throughout the conference there are strong pitching staffs."

More than eight of the conference's returning hurlers have earned All-American honors, either last season, in junior college, or for the 1999 pre-season.

Clemson

Clemson returns 10 of its top 12 hitters from a year ago who helped the Tigers hit an ACC-leading .326 while compiling a .434 on base percentage. Jack Leggett's

Clemson team is led by 1998 ACC Rookie of the Year Patrick Boyd. The outfielder, who was a member of the USA National team this past summer, has been selected as a pre-season First-Team All-American by Baseball America.

On the mound, the Tigers return Third-Team All-American Ryan Mottl, a right-hander who has 19 wins in two seasons and a career strikeout-to-walk ratio of 3.05.

Duke

The Blue Devils return just 11 letter-winners from the 1998 squad, but the Devils look to make up for quantity with quality. Leading the return on the field is a trio of 1998 All-ACC First Team players.

With the duo of Jeff Becker and Vaughn Schill on the left side of the infield, the Devils should have a strong defense behind returning ace Stephen Cowie.

Schill has been named a pre-season All-American pick by Collegiate Baseball and is one of the team's top returnees at bat. The junior led Duke with a .367 average at the plate and a .935 fielding percentage as well.

Cowie logged an 11-2 record on the mound last season, going 3-2 against ACC competition while striking out 111 in 126.1 innings.

Florida State

Perennial powerhouse Florida State has no plans to disappoint fans this season.

The Seminoles' storied history includes 21 consecutive NCAA Regional appearances, nine top 10 finishes in the last 10 seasons, 17 50-win seasons and nine trips to the College World Series in the last 12

years.

A pair of aces top the 1999 roster for the Seminoles. Nick Stocks, a member of Team USA this past summer, posted a conference best 2.35 ERA in 1998, en route to a spot on Baseball America's Freshman All-American team.

Jon McDonald joined his teammate on the Freshman All-American squad and Team USA after posting a team-leading 10-4 record.

At the heart of FSU's lineup is NCAA Atlantic II Regional MVP Matt Diaz, who broke the Seminoles' freshman home run record last season.

Georgia Tech

Georgia Tech was pegged by conference coaches as "the team to beat," but the Jackets will have to watch out below.

Tech was 41-22 in 1998, finishing the season as the runners-up in the NCAA Midwest Regional and found themselves in the top 10 nationally in three publications pre-season polls.

Tech's most notable returnee to the mound in All-American Chuck Crowder, whose 1998 statistics included a 12-4 record and a 3.03 ERA.

Maryland

Seniors Casey Trout and Mike Wooden have been named as co-captains on the University of Maryland Terrapins squad.

Trout, considered the Terp's top returning position player, started all 57 games for Maryland last season, hitting .332 and collecting 48 RBIs.

Wooden has been a starter on the mound for the Terp's all three seasons that he has

been in College Park. The right-hander is considered Maryland's best in 1999.

UNC

The UNC Tar Heels will have to make adjustments after losing long-time coach Mike Roberts and his son, shortstop Brian Roberts, the ACC Player of the Year in 1998.

Under the reigns of former Tar Heel player and first year Head Coach Mike Fox, junior Kyle Snyder will lead a five-man rotation on the mound.

Snyder finished the 1998 season winning four consecutive decisions, and allowing just four earned runs in 34 innings. At the plate, outfielder Jarret Shearin, a member of the All-ACC team one year ago, returns despite being drafted in the 11th round.

Virginia

Virginia returns just one of its top five hitters, by the numbers from last season, sophomore catcher Mark Rueffert. The six-foot right-hander batted .362 but played in just 32 of the Cavaliers 55 games in his freshman campaign, picking up just 94 at bats.

Only three returning Cavaliers stood at the plate more than 100 times last year.

Head Coach Dennis Womack will have the help of an experienced pitching squad. All five of the Cav's top hurlers return, but with a combined 1998 record of 19-13 and only three posting ERA's below 4.00 in 1998.

Kim Gaffney writes for The Technician, the student newspaper of N.C. State.

Verban

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quarterfinals she found herself up against an opponent that seemed unbeatable.

"I played Catlin in the fall in the All-Americans that we played in California and I beat her in that match, but she was coming back from mono then," Verban said.

"Last week she played really well. I don't think she could have played any better. She remained very consistent through the match and used a lot of spin and moved the ball around the court."

Verban also said that her impatience

on big points had an affect on the match results. "They were hardcourt, but the courts were really fast though and my timing was off."

Verban, currently ranked 10th nationally by the ITA, had advanced to the quarterfinal round by knocking off Ole Miss's Agnes Muzamel (6-3, 6-3), the No.3 seed in the tournament and the third-ranked player in the country, during a second-round match earlier that morning. In her first round match, Dee Harrington of Southern Methodist University was ousted 6-4, 6-4 by the Deacons' lone representative in the tournament.



Verban

Going into the tournament, Verban said she set a few goals for herself. "I knew I wasn't going to be seeded, so I wanted to get through my first round match because they're always the toughest ... physically and mentally. It's important to get comfortable with your game and the courts. I also wanted to try to stay focused," Verban said.

Verban qualified for the championships by winning the Southeast Regional in Winston-Salem.

With the tournament concluded, Verban's overall singles' record remains excellent as she moved to 22-6 on the season.

Verban will fill the No. 1 spot for the Deacs when team match play begins this weekend. The team will open its 1999 season against Tennessee on Feb. 13, in Knoxville, Tenn.

ACC considers boycott of Auburn

By Paul Kardous
U-Wire

The fallout of Auburn's cancellation of the Florida State football game has begun.

The Orlando Sentinel reports that it has obtained a letter from ACC commissioner, John Swofford, to Auburn Athletic Director David Housel, in which Swofford states: "If this is the way Auburn University is going to conduct its business, I feel it is my obligation as conference commissioner to ask all of our member institutions to seriously evaluate whether it makes sense to schedule Auburn in any sport."

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ACC Commissioner

The Sentinel article also states that the letter was sent to Housel before a decision was made on whether to cancel the FSU game.

"We have received the letter. We have reviewed the letter," Housel said. "We received it before we reached our decision."

The Tigers have scheduled Appalachian State to replace FSU on the schedule.

Auburn, however, was not the only school to back out of a football game with an ACC school. Kent State chose to replace North Carolina with Pittsburgh, catching the Tar Heels by surprise.

Paul Kardous writes for The Auburn Plainsman, the student newspaper of Auburn University.

Diamond

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sophomore Josh Bartlett and freshmen Adam Heaps, J.J. Moulton and David Bush will see relief action.

Behind the plate for the Demon Deacons will be the experience of senior Andrew Riepe. A starter at the most grueling position on the diamond in 64 of 66 games last season, Riepe still hit .283 with 11 homers.

Arguably the Demon Deacons' best player on the field this season will be senior first baseman Jon Palmieri. A first-team, pre-season All-American, like Hendricks, Palmieri was tops in the ACC in batting (.438), slugging percentage (.727) and on-base percentage (.498). He set school records in doubles with 30 and RBIs with 78.

Palmieri continued his exceptional play over the summer in the reknown Cape Cod League. He batted .307 using wooden bats to lead his team, the Chatham A's, to the league championship. Baseball America tabbed him the best pure hitter and best defensive first baseman in the conference.

Sophomore Corey Slavik, a freshman All-American, last year will return to man the third base position. Slavik hit .375 with seven home runs and 47 RBIs last spring. Slavik's classmates, Chase Voshell and Jason Aquilante, will get the starts at shortstop and second base, respectively.

Two of the three outfield positions will hold starters from last season. In right field, senior Ben Danosky, who hit .292 with 12 homers last spring, will get the start. He was the lone Deacon to start all 66 games in '98. Speedy Scott Daeley, who led the team with 17 steals, will return to center field for another season. The left field spot will feature the play of several players: junior Ricky Mendez, sophomore Carlos Brackley and freshman John Kubachka.

Sophomore Danny Borrell, a freshman All-American, will resume his role as designated hitter and as a weekday starting pitcher.

SCOREBOARD

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Standings

	ACC	Overall
Duke	11 0	23 1
Md.	9 3	21 4
UNC	7 4	19 6
FSU	5 5	12 10
N.C. State	5 7	15 9
WFU	4 7	13 10
Ga. Tech	4 7	13 10
UVa.	3 8	13 11
Clem.	2 9	13 11

Statistics

Free Throw Percentage	Pct
UVa.	.733
UNC	.716
Duke	.716
WFU	.710
Md.	.707

Scoring Defense

	Avg
Clem.	61.9

UNC	62.4
WFU	63.5
N.C. State	65.3
Md.	66.5

Three-Point Field Goals Per Game

	Avg
Trajan Langdon, Duke	3.3
Robert O'Kelley, WFU	2.6
A. Harrington, N.C. State	2.5
Terrell McIntyre, Clem.	2.4
Jason Floyd, Ga. Tech	2.3

Field Goal Percentage Defense

	Pct
UNC	.385
Md.	.390
Duke	.397
Ga. Tech	.411
WFU	.415

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Standings

	ACC	Overall
Duke	12 0	20 4
UVa.	9 3	16 6

UNC	9 4	22 5
Clem.	8 5	18 5
N.C. State	7 5	14 8
Ga. Tech	6 7	13 10
WFU	2 10	6 16
Md.	2 10	5 17
FSU	1 12	6 16

Statistics

Three-Point Field Goal Percentage	Pct
Duke	.395
Ga. Tech	.387
Clem.	.338
WFU	.316
UNC	.310

Three-Point Field Goals Per Game

	Avg
Duke	6.1
WFU	5.7
UNC	5.1
Ga. Tech	4.8

THIS WEEK

Feb. 11
Women's Basketball at Duke at 7 p.m.

Feb. 12
Baseball vs. Evansville at 2:30 p.m.
Men's and Women's Indoor Track at Valentine Invitational

Feb. 13
Baseball vs. Evansville at 1 p.m.
Women's Tennis at Tennessee in Knoxville, Tenn.

Men's Tennis at Illinois
Men's Basketball at Duke at 1:30 p.m.
Men's and Women's Indoor Track at Valentine Invitational

Feb. 14
Baseball vs. Evansville at 1 p.m.
Women's Tennis at Vanderbilt in Nashville, Tenn.

Feb. 15
Women's Basketball vs. Florida State at 7 p.m.

Feb. 16
Men's Basketball vs. Georgia Tech at 9 p.m.

Feb. 17
Baseball vs. Davidson at 2:30 p.m.