

# DEACON NOTES

# ACC Tournament begins today for men

## Parrish, Wolverton earn top academic honors

Juniors DaLawn Parrish and Brian Wolverton were named to the 1998 ACC All-Academic football team for their academic progress in the classroom during the 1998 season.

Parrish was one of two athletes to repeat from last year's team. Parrish, a defensive back, has a 3.11 grade point average as a history major.

Wolverton, an outside linebacker, is a communications major with a 3.25 GPA.

Ebenezer Ekuban of North Carolina won the Jim Tatum Award, given annually to the top senior student-athlete for football.

## O'Kelley honored for show against UNC, N.C. State

Sophomore Robert O'Kelley earned ACC Player of the Week honors for the week of Feb. 22-28.

O'Kelley was a key factor in the Deacon's win over N.C. State Feb. 28 and overtime loss to North Carolina Feb. 23. On the week O'Kelley scored 52 points to help the Deacs finish fourth in the ACC.

In a 69-65 overtime loss to UNC, O'Kelley scored 28 points, going 7-13 from three-point range before fouling out in overtime. One of O'Kelley's three-pointers was a key off balance shot with two seconds left in the second half to force overtime.

O'Kelley scored 24 points in 28 minutes of play in the Deacs' 74-45 victory over N.C. State. O'Kelley shot 4-10 from three-point range and 7-13 from the field.

Overall for the week, O'Kelley hit 11 of 23 from three-point range, grabbed eight rebounds and dished out eight assists.

## ACC announces 1998-99 All-ACC basketball team

The top three teams in the ACC comprised the top five positions for the All-ACC team.

Duke's Elton Brand and Trajan Langdon received the most votes followed closely by Maryland's Steve Francis and Terence Morris. North Carolina's Ademola Okulaja filled out the first team.

Sophomore Robert O'Kelley received eight first-team votes and 139 points overall to place 10th in the voting and earn All-ACC second team honors.

Brand was the only unanimous first-team All-ACC selection this year.

## O'Kelley chasing Randolph Childress, scoring records

Sophomore Robert O'Kelley is quickly closing in on Deacon records for scoring and has at least one game left to jump up the standings.

O'Kelley currently ranks fourth in scoring after his sophomore season for Deacon basketball players. O'Kelley has 985 points, 12 points behind Randolph Childress, currently in third place.

Barring an injury O'Kelley should have no problem passing Childress when the Deacons meet N.C. State in the first round of the ACC Tournament March 5.

Two other Deacon athletes have scored above 1,000 points through their sophomore seasons, Rodney Rogers (1,084) and Dickie Hemric (1,161).

Senior Joseph Amonett has been named to the All-American Farm Team by *Successful Farming* magazine.

Amonett grew up on his family's 700 acre farm in Byrdstown, Tennessee and even owns some of his own livestock. Amonett has worked on his family's farm since he was a youngster.

*Successful Farming* has made a contribution to the Deacons' scholarship fund in recognition of Amonett's selection.

As a team, the Deacons kept alive their streak of finishing in the top half of the ACC.

The win over N.C. State Feb. 28 clinched fourth place in the ACC for the Deacs and made it the seventh consecutive season that the Deacons have finished fourth or higher.

By Jordan Webster  
Old Gold and Black Reporter

Four days of ACC Tourney hoops with bids and seeds for the NCAAs yet to be determined begin tonight. So hold on ... March Madness has officially begun.

As the tourney arrives in Charlotte, the Demon Deacon basketball team controls its own destiny.

This season has seen the Deacs defeat highly-ranked Maryland only to succumb to lowly Virginia. They have played five freshmen and three sophomores who have seen the lion's share of playing time, and had a linebacker shatter a backboard at revered Cameron Indoor Stadium during warm-ups.

Despite the ups and downs that the young squad has experienced, they find themselves in a position to claim an invitation to the NCAA tournament.

The Deacs step on the floor March 5 against North Carolina State with a bid to the big dance hinging on their performance.

After thrashing them by 29 points at the Joel Feb. 28, the Deacs will face the Wolfpack for the third time this season, with the winner of the rubber match likely to obtain a spot in the field of 64, and the loser awaiting a call from the NIT. The Deacons will look to follow what was most likely their best performance of the

season against a N.C. State team that will no doubt be hoping to avenge the embarrassing defeat Feb. 28.

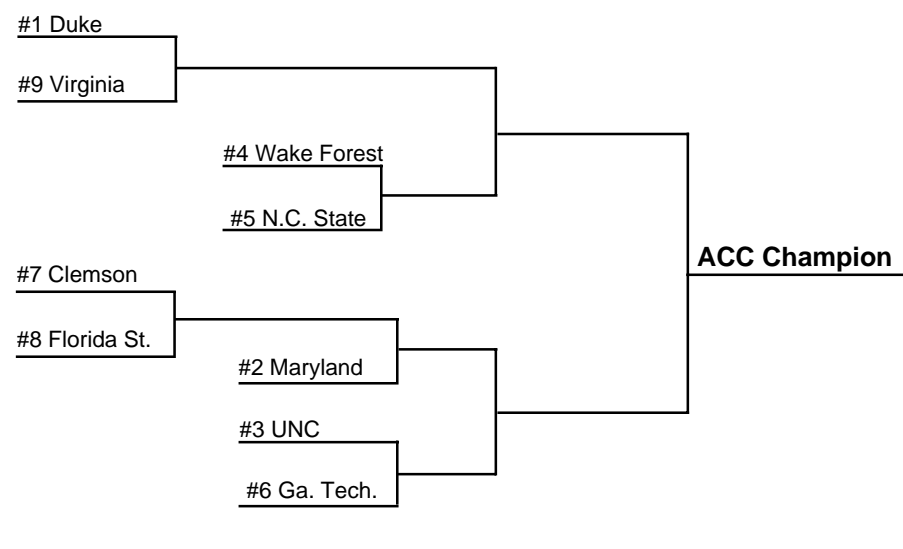
The Deacons earned the fourth seed in the tourney, and the Wolfpack own the fifth seed. Although, this is the most important opening-round match-up, more intriguing games could evolve as the tournament continues.

Duke has claimed the top seed in the tourney by virtue of its unprecedented 16-0 regular season conference record. The Blue Devils have shown they are far superior to the rest of the conference and, barring any unforeseen developments, many expect Duke to walk away with the trophy. According to many analysts, the ACC is concluding what is a down year by its standards, and this is partly because of the dominance of Duke.

Condolences go out to Virginia, who has the unenviable task of playing Duke in the first round. The winner of this game will play the victor of the Deacon/WolfPack game.

On the other side of the bracket, second-seeded Maryland will meet the winner of the Clemson-Florida State game. Clemson is perhaps the team with the most to gain of the nine participants. A projected top 25 team before the season, Clemson has been a disappointment. However, the Tigers have been playing more and more like the team that everyone expected recently and

### 1999 ACC Tournament Schedule



could make a charge for an NCAA bid, should it run the table.

Georgia Tech has similar aspirations for the tournament. It faces North Carolina in the opening round, a team that it defeated once already this season. Like Clemson, the Yellow Jackets' season has not been what they had hoped, with super sophomore Dion Glover missing the entire season with a knee injury. However, Tech is also in the same boat as Clemson in that

unless it makes a run in the tournament, its hopes of participating in the big dance will disintegrate.

Should the brackets go according to form, they would set the stage for a third meeting between Duke and Maryland. Duke has defeated the talented Terrapins twice, but a Maryland win would acquire one of the four top seeds in the NCAAs. Although Duke has the edge, the possibility of a third match-up is interesting.

# Tennis loses tough one to Gamecocks

## Women's tennis falls to No. 21 South Carolina

By Jessica Riegle  
Old Gold and Black Reporter

The ninth-ranked Demon Deacon women's tennis team suffered a surprising 4-5 loss to 21st-ranked South Carolina Feb. 27 in a frustrating match where the Deacs had several opportunities to claim the victory, but ultimately could not follow through.

"It was a tight match and we had a lot of opportunities to close it out, but it just didn't go our way," said freshman Janet Bergman, who claimed an individual win at No. 3 singles.

The Deacs had the edge after the completion of singles play, leading the match by a score of 4-2. However, South Carolina proceeded to sweep the doubles play to claim the victory with a final score of 4-5.

Sixth-ranked Mariel Verban captured a 6-7, 6-1, 7-6 win for the Deacons at the No. 1 singles spot. Teammates Bergman, freshman Maren Haus and junior AnneMarie Milton all followed suit, each winning her singles match.

However, the strength that the Deacs displayed in singles failed to carry over to their doubles matches, as the Deacons

succumbed to South Carolina in all three doubles slots. Although all of the matches were close, the Deacs failed to defeat the Gamecocks, falling by scores of 8-9 (7) at No. 1 doubles, and 7-9 at both second and third doubles.

"We did very well in our singles matches," Head Coach Lew Gerrard said. "However, I was disappointed with doubles."

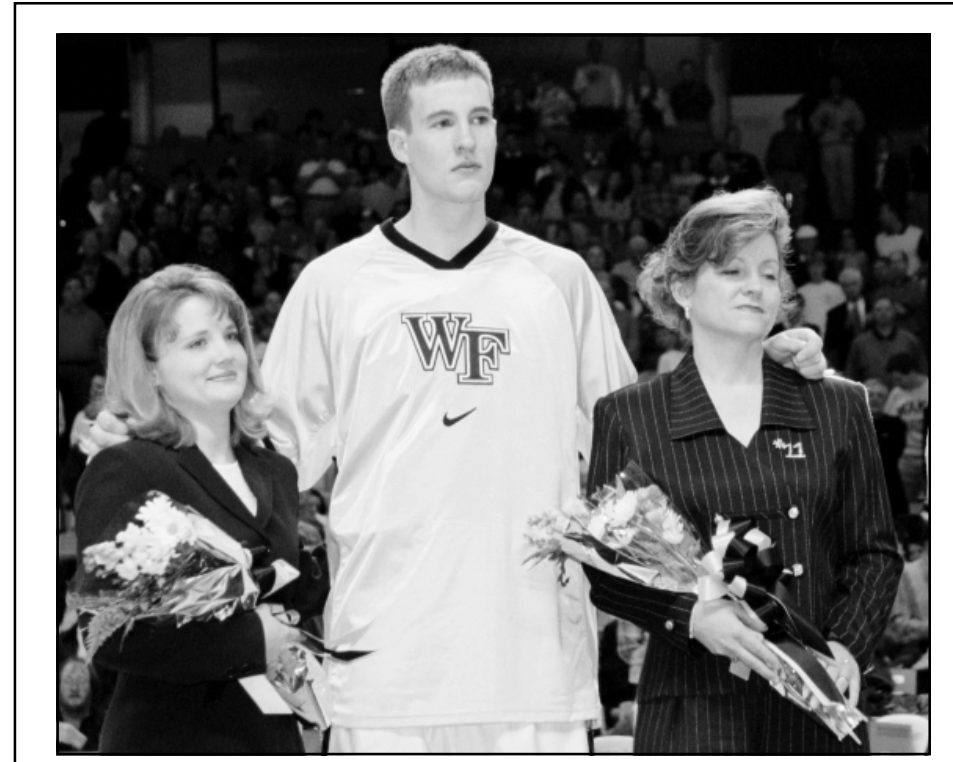
Despite this loss to South Carolina, which gives the Deacons a 2-4 record, Gerrard is optimistic about the rest of the season.

"The team is very talented, and we need to get a little tougher to step up and get the job done," said Gerrard, who predicts that the season will be very because of a rigorous schedule.

"If they consistently put themselves in a position to win, we will win more than our share," Gerrard said of his youthful squad.

Bergman agrees, saying that she believes that the team will end up on top in the end.

"We're a young team struggling a little with not having college match experience, but everyone is improving quickly," she said.



Chris Carlstrom/Old Gold and Black

## It's so hard to say goodbye

Senior Joseph Amonett played in his final home game at Joel Coliseum Feb. 28 against N.C. State. Before the game Head Coach Dave Odom said he had never been more proud of a player than he was of Amonett.

# Coaches

Continued from Page B1

running game.

The Deacons have also signed former Philadelphia Eagles assistant coach Gerald Carr. Carr will coach wide receivers for the Deacons. Carr was the wide receivers

coach for three years with the Eagles and also spent three years with UNC.

Diron Reynolds, a former linebacker for the Deacs, who has been a graduate assistant under Caldwell for the past two years, has been named a full-time assistant in charge of outside linebackers.

Bobby Kennedy will take over as running backs coach and Ray Rychleski will take over the duties of tight ends coach.

# Riepe leads Deacs in two-game sweep of Hokies

By Greg Cousart  
Old Gold and Black Reporter

Senior Andrew Riepe went 4-for-9 with a home run, two doubles and three RBIs to lead the Diamond Deacs to a two-game sweep of the visiting Virginia Tech Hokies at Hooks Stadium Feb. 27 and 28.

Riepe's solo homer in the first game of the series provided an insurance run in the Deacs' 4-2 victory. Senior John Hendricks (2-1) gave up only one earned run while striking out seven Hokies in nine innings to record the first complete game of the season for the Deacs.

Hendricks benefited from timely fielding by sophomore Corey Slavik and senior Jon Palmieri to escape Hokie rallies in the fourth and sixth innings.

The Hokies started the scoring in the fifth inning with the help of a passed ball by Riepe and a wild pitch by Hendricks.

The Deacs responded quickly in the bottom half of the fifth when sophomore Carlos Brackley led off with a single and scored on Slavik's home run that sailed down the right-field line.

Hendricks gave up a lead-off home run to Tech's Matt Griswold to account for his only earned run of the game. He was then bailed out of a jam in the same inning by the defensive efforts of Palmieri and Slavik. With a runner on third and just one out, Tech's Nick Perlozzo hit a slow grounder to Palmieri, who caught Tech's Addison Bowman in a rundown by throwing to Slavik.

After tagging Bowman on the third-base line Slavik threw to second baseman Jason Aquilante, who caught Perlozzo attempting to advance to second.

Senior Scott Daeley's bases loaded single scored Brackley in the bottom of the seventh inning to provide the game-winning run for the Deacs.

They failed to capitalize further in the inning when senior Ben Danosky struck out and Palmieri popped out to the Hokie shortstop.

In the Feb. 28th game, both teams took advantage of the gusting wind that was blowing out to right field.

Tech used three home runs, all to right field, to jump out to an early 5-1 lead after four and a half innings.

The Deacs responded in the bottom of the fifth to narrow the deficit to one run at 5-4. Aquilante started the rally with an infield single and scored on a Daeley triple that got past the diving Hokie center fielder. Danosky brought in Daeley with a homer to where else, right field.

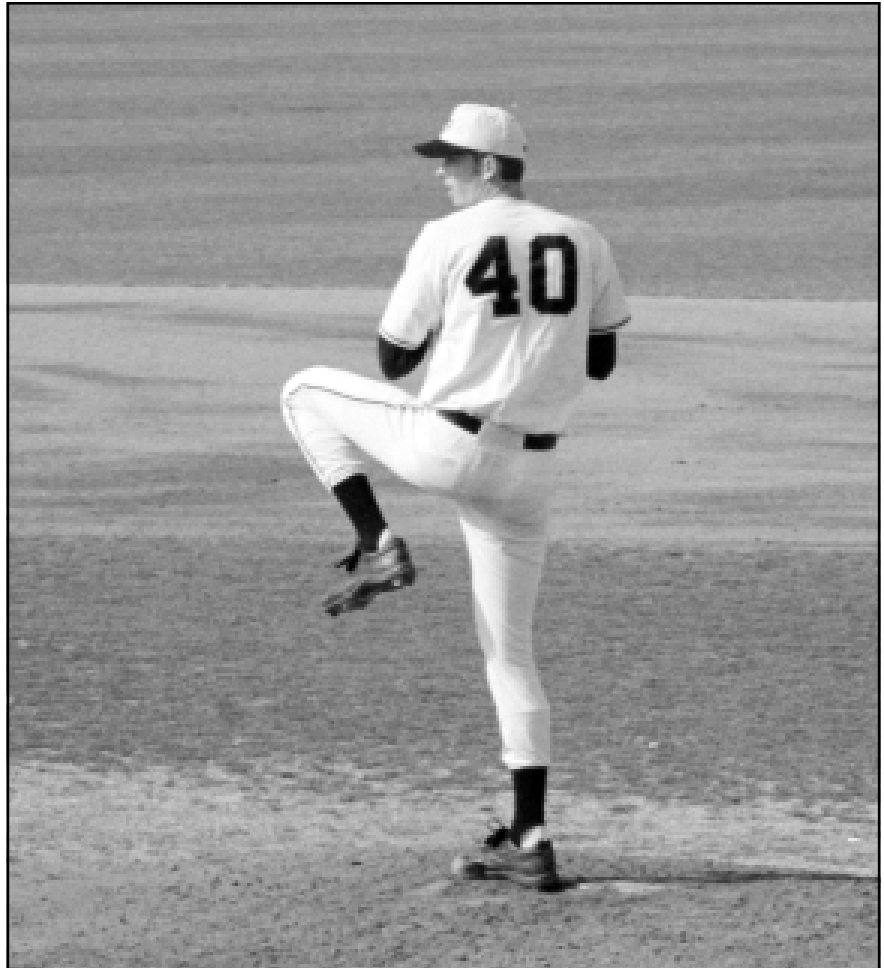
The Hokies added two runs in both the sixth and ninth innings to lead 9-5 going into the Deacs final at bat.

Aquilante, junior Ricky Mendez, sophomore Chase Voshell, Daeley, Danosky and Palmieri each hit consecutive singles to cut the deficit in half.

Riepe reached on an error that scored Daeley and Danosky to tie the game. Sophomore Scott Siemon struck out, and junior Stephen Sullivan flied out to the center to bring up Slavik, who was 0-for-4 and had been mired in an early season slump.

Slavik responded with a single up the middle to score Palmieri from third with the game-winning run.

Siemon struck out one batter in the ninth to notch his first victory of the '99 campaign. The victory pushed the Deacs record to 6-3.



Trevor Hughes/Old Gold and Black

Junior Mike MacDougal is considered one of the top pitchers in the NCAA and is expected to be drafted high in the Major League Baseball amateur draft. MacDougal led the Deacons and the ACC in wins last season.