

DEACON NOTES

MasterCard releases latest collegiate golf rankings

In the MasterCard Collegiate golf rankings released March 24 the women's golf team was ranked 31st in the nation and had two individuals ranked in the top 100.



Sophomore Marta Prieto was ranked 45th in the nation, and senior Kelly Kirwin was ranked 72nd.

Duke dominated the ranking, however, reclaiming its No.1 ranking after having slipped to second in the previous rankings. Duke has six individuals ranked in the top 90 and two ranked in the top eight, including fourth-ranked Beth Bauer.

North Carolina was ranked 17th in the nation followed closely by Florida State, ranked 22nd.

On the men's side, the Deacons did not make the top 50 golf teams but did have one individual in the top 100. Senior Michael Capone was ranked 100th in the nation.

Da Luz announces another soccer signee

Adding to an already outstanding recruiting class, women's soccer Head Coach Tony da Luz announced that Melissa Murray-Hobbes has signed a national letter of intent to play soccer for the Deacons next season.



Murray-Hobbes, a defender from Atlanta, Ga., led her Lakeside High School team to the Georgia AAA championship game in 1997 and the state semi-finals in 1998 as a three-year starter on the team.

Murray-Hobbes is also a three-time All-County and All-Region honoree, earning the honors in 1996, 1997 and 1998.

As a member of the Stone Mountain Spirit Club, Murray-Hobbes led her team to the USA Cup championship game in 1998 and is a four-year member of the Olympic Development team.

Murray-Hobbes joins five other outstanding signees that will become part of a Demon Deacon team that advanced to the NCAA tournament for the third consecutive season during their 1998 campaign.

ITA ranks both men's, women's tennis teams

In the March 23 Intercollegiate Tennis Association ranking both the men's and women's tennis teams were ranked in the top 50, and a few individual Deacons were ranked.



The women's tennis team dropped one spot from 16th to 17th in the nation behind ACC rivals and second-ranked Duke. Florida State was also ranked in the top 25 at 20th.

On the individual side sophomore Mariel Verban was ranked ninth in the nation after previously being ranked sixth, but only trails third-ranked Vanessa Webb of Duke for the top individual ranking in the ACC.

Freshman Janet Bergman was also nationally ranked coming in at 43rd in the nation.



The men's tennis team jumped way up in the rankings from 68th in the previous rankings to 43rd in the country trailing ACC teams Duke (seventh), N.C. State (24th), Clemson (30th) and Virginia (37th).

Senior Myles Clouston dropped 15 spots in the individual rankings falling from 35th to 50th overall.

However, the doubles team of Clouston and sophomore Raul Munoz moved up two spots from 14th to 12th in the country.

Clouston and Munoz are the top ranked ACC doubles team in the nation with their closest ACC competition being Pablo Bellagamba and Josh Goffi of Clemson ranked 26th.

Ups and downs continue for women's golf

By Sean Blue
Sports Editor

Climbing back to the top during their roller-coaster season, the 31st-ranked women's golf team finished second at the Bryan National Collegiate March 26-28, recording their best finish this year.

The Deacs recorded a team score of 929 to finish tied for second with the Swedish National team at the 12-team tournament which the Deacons co-hosted with UNC-Greensboro.

The second-place finish was the best finish of the season for the Deacons, who have been up and down of late, finishing their last three tournaments 11th, third and 11th in that order.

"We're getting stronger with every tournament we play," Head Coach Diane Dailey said. "We had some injuries at the beginning with sore wrists and sore backs. It's been hard as far as that goes, but I'm pleased with the progress we've made."

"It was definitely a good stepping stone for what we have coming up," senior Kristen Wagner said. "It lets us know where we are and what we have to do for the upcoming ACC Tournament."

Senior Kelly Kirwin led the Deacons with an individual finish in sixth place. Kirwin shot a 73 in the final round to jump three spots and finish in sole possession of sixth place.

"Kelly has played very, very well," Dailey said. "She's really come into her own. She has an excellent short game and has begun hitting the ball very well. It won't be long before she starts breaking par."

Sophomore Marta Prieto was the next highest finisher for the Deacons recording a ninth place finish. Prieto was only two shots off the lead after two rounds of play but recorded a six-over 78 in the final round to finish tied for ninth.

Wagner also played very well for the Deacons finishing tied for 11th overall. Wagner started the tournament with an eight-over-par 80 but battled back with a 73 in the second round and a 78 in the final round to record a 245 score and finish in the top 11.

"Kristen Wagner also played very well for us," Dailey said. "It was her best tournament as a senior. We placed three people in the top 11, and I think that speaks very well for the team and those individuals."

The tournament was won by Washington, which shot a 302 in the final to tie for the lowest recorded round of the tourney and seal their first-place finish. Washington was aided by Kelli Kamimura, who shot a tournament-record-tying 69 in the final round.

Kamimura was hampered by her two previous rounds of 76 and 77, respectively, and finished tied for second one stroke behind the individual champion, Lindsey Smith of Furman. Smith recorded 221 overall to win the tournament.

Furman stood in first place after the first round but shot a 322 in the second round and dropped to sixth overall and was never able to fight back up the leader board.

The tournament was played on the par-72, 6,037-yard Bryan Park Champions Course in Brown Summit.

The Deacons will next compete in the ACC Championships April 16-18 in Greensboro. Last year Prieto claimed the individual title in the championships as a freshman but will be hard pressed to repeat as the ACC Champion again this year.

Prieto and the Deacons will face the nation's top-ranked team in



Courtesy of Sports Information
Senior Kristen Wagner fired a 73 in the second round of the Bryan National Collegiate to help her finish in the top 11.

Duke. Duke also has two players ranked in the top 10 with freshman Beth Bauer ranked fourth in the nation and senior Jenny Chausiriporn ranked eighth. Duke has four of its players ranked in

the top 27 and six ranked in the top 90 in the country.

"It's going to be tough (playing against Duke)," Wagner said. "It's fun to play against teams like that. It's a good challenge for us."

Tennis faces rough road

Deacs face three top 20 teams, pull out victory against FSU

By Jessica Reigle
Old Gold and Black Reporter

The 17th-ranked Demon Deacon women's tennis team demonstrated an impressive amount of strength this past weekend, playing intense matches against several of the toughest teams in the country. They emerged from what could be their most difficult weekend of the season with one victory and two losses.

The Deacs began their three-match weekend in Gainesville where they faced the top-ranked University of Florida team. Although the Gators defeated the Deacons 5-1, the Deacs made a strong showing, playing better than they did when the Gators beat them 6-0 in February.

"I thought Wake Forest competed much better today than they did when we played them at the National Team Indoor Championships," said UF head coach Andy Brandi. "Wake Forest is definitely one of the top 10 teams in the country."

Deacon freshman Janet Bergman gave the Deacs their lone win, solidly defeating Stephanie Nickitas 6-3, 6-2 and the No. 2 singles spot. That victory put the Deacons up 1-0 in the match, but the Gators soon gained momentum and clinched the rest of the matches.

Deacon sophomore Mariel Verban played a strong match at the No. 1 singles spot, challenging her opponent constantly throughout the match, but eventually being defeated 6-4, 1-6, 6-2.

Freshman Maren Haus also gave her UF opponent, Stephanie Hazlett, a run for her money at No. 3 singles, keeping the match close until the very end. Hazlett eventually defeated Haus 5-7, 7-6, 6-4, in what proved to be an extremely close match.

The Deacs bounced back quickly from their loss March 25 to defeat 20th-ranked Florida State the following day by a score of 5-



Trevor Hughes/Old Gold and Black
Freshman Janet Bergman stretches to return a serve in her match. Bergman won all three singles matches she played this week, but the team did not fare as well.

4. With this win, the Deacs picked up their second ACC win of the season.

FSU and the Deacons split the singles matches, 3-3, and the Deacs then won two of three doubles matches to claim the overall victory.

Verban crushed FSU's Alida Gallovis 6-3, 6-0 at No. 1 singles, and Bergman and Jackie Houston pinned two more singles matches at the No. 2 and No. 4 spots.

Bergman and Verban teamed up at No. 1 doubles to soundly defeat their opponents 8-4. The team of Haus and Houston won the match for the Deacons at the No. 3 doubles spot, beating Kia Asberg and Natalie Carratala 8-6.

The Deacons had one day of rest and then returned to the courts in Athens March 28 to take on the No. 3 Georgia Lady Bulldogs. Unfortunately, the Deacs appeared to be worn out from their previous

back-to-back matches, and fell 4-5 to the Bulldogs.

Despite the defeat, the Deacons made a valiant effort, claiming four of the six singles matches.

Bergman, Haus, Houston, and senior Annemarie Milton all notched wins for the Deacs at the No. 2, No. 3, No. 4 and No.5 singles spots, respectively.

Bergman, Haus and Milton won in straight sets, putting the Bulldogs at a disadvantage going into the doubles matches.

However, once in doubles, Georgia took the upper hand, claiming all three matches.

Haus and Houston paired up at No. 3 doubles in what would be the deciding match, to challenge Georgia's Aarthi Venkatesan and Zoe Mellis in a tight match that the Bulldogs ended up winning 8-6.

The Deacs now have a 7-8 overall record, and are 2-0 in the ACC.

Distance events

Deacs' specialty

Kraus takes second place in 10K

By Jordan Webster
Old Gold and Black Reporter

The women's track team participated in the Raleigh Relays at N.C. State March 26 and 27.

In a field that consisted of a round 3,000 athletes with representatives from approximately 90 teams, the squad performed admirably, especially in the middle-and-long distance events.

Junior Janelle Kraus grabbed the team's top finish, taking second in the 10,000-meter run. Her time of 35:04.50 fell short of victor Cheri Kenah by slightly less than two minutes.

Kraus, however, was the top collegiate finisher in the event, as Kenah, a Villanova graduate, has competed professionally in the past.

Also in the 10,000-meters, senior Amy Wallace ran well, placing 18th.

Head Coach Frances Goodridge was thrilled with Kraus' effort, especially considering the conditions.

"The weather was horrible — it was very cold and there was freezing rain during the 10K," Goodridge said. "Janelle could have run even faster if the conditions were better."

Kraus' time qualified her provisionally for the NCAA championships.

The Deacs' best team performance came in the 1,500-meter run, as junior Alison Anibaldi, sophomore Kelly Brady and jun-

"The weather was horrible — it was very cold and there was freezing rain during the 10K. Janelle could have run even faster if the conditions were better."

Francie Goodridge
Head Coach

ior Jill Snyder placed fourth, fifth and sixth, respectively. The trio of Deacons ran closely, with only 1.35 seconds separating the group. Anibaldi crossed the line in 4:27.59.

Katrina deBoer of Georgetown snatched first, three seconds ahead of the Deacon junior.

Goodridge was also pleased with the effort of her 1,500-meter runners, especially Anibaldi. "Alison is emerging in the 1,500," Goodridge said. "She was running the 800 initially, but she moved to the longer distance and did well for us."

Although the distance runners stood out on the Deacon team, they were not the only athletes in the black and gold that experienced success.

Junior Summer Shaw finished in an eight-way tie for fifth place in the pole vault, clearing a height of 3.05 meters on her best effort.

Another bright spot for Goodridge's team was senior Cynthia Kelley, who garnered a 12th-place finish in the high jump. Her leap of 1.52 meters tied her with eight athletes for the spot.

The Deacons will compete this weekend at Duke.

ECU ends baseball's streak after four straight

By Sean Blue
Sports Editor

Eric Bakich came up big for East Carolina March 30 as the 23rd-ranked Pirates broke the 19th-ranked Deacons' four-game winning streak.

East Carolina used Bakich's 4-for-5 hitting performance with one home run and three RBIs to defeat the Deacons 11-8 at Harrington Field in Greenville.

The game was decided in the final 1 1/3 innings after both starting pitchers had been pulled.

Kevin Fulcher picked up the win for the Pirates after tossing 1 1/3 scoreless innings to hold off an infamous Deacon rally. For the Deacons, sophomore Scott Siemon surrendered his first loss of the season, giving

up three runs in 1 1/3 innings of relief work. Freshman David Bush started the game but lasted only 2 1/3 innings and allowed six runs before being replaced.

The Pirates started scoring early and led 4-0 after two innings. The Deacs finally responded in the third, however, with three runs of their own. Junior Chris Turner led off with a single to left and was soon joined on the bases by senior Scott Daeley who was hit by a pitch and sophomore Jason Aquilante who walked.

With the bases loaded, Turner scored on a wild pitch and then a double by senior Jon Palmieri scored Daeley and Aquilante to bring the Deacs within one.

East Carolina refused to let the Deacons stay close, though, and scored two more runs in the bottom of the third to climb back

to lead by three.

Bakich recorded the first of his three RBIs on the evening, and Jason Howard recorded his third RBI of the game off a sacrifice fly.

The Deacons continued to battle and were able to tie the game at six in the sixth inning after two scoreless innings by both teams.

Senior Andrew Riepe led off the sixth with a solo home run to center, his fourth of the season. A single by sophomore Corey Slavik allowed Daeley to bring in a run off a groundout. Freshman John Kubachka reached base on an error and scored off an RBI single from Aquilante.

ECU used two unearned runs in the seventh to take a seven-point lead. An error by Aquilante kept the inning alive, and Bakich

belted a two-run homer with two outs.

The Deacons refused to die and tied the score at eight in the eighth with a two-RBI single from senior Ben Danosky.

The Pirates finally sealed the victory with a two-run homerun by Steve Salargo and added an insurance run to take an 11-8 lead.

The Deacons were unable to produce more of their ninth-inning heroics and went scoreless in the final inning to give the Pirates the victory.

In previous games this season, the Deacs have won five of their 19 victories in the last at-bat. Last season the Deacs won eight game sin the final at bat.

The loss dropped the Deacons' record to 19-7 on the season, and East Carolina improved to 25-5.