

DEACON NOTES

Davis to join NFL; receiver goes European style

Former Deacon Thabiti Davis, '98, has agreed to play for the Barcelona Dragons of the NFL European League.

Davis was a three-year starter for the Deacs at wide receiver and is third in school history with 161 receptions.

Davis is hoping to follow in the footsteps of former Deacon George Coghill, a defensive back who spent seven years in the NFL Europe League playing for the Scottish Claymores before signing on with the Denver Broncos and earning back-to-back Super Bowl rings.

Davis started last season with the Carolina Panthers before being cut at the end of the preseason because of an abundance of wide receivers on the team.

The Dragons open their season April 17 against the Amsterdam Admirals and will play a 10-game season.

Doubles teams continue playing well for Deacs

Senior Myles Clouston and sophomore Raul Munoz are on pace to break their own school record for victories in a season.

The duo can break their own record if they can finish the season without any more losses. Although this appears a little daunting, the team is definitely suited for the task.

The 14th-ranked doubles team has won six consecutive matches since a 1-2 showing in the Blue-Gray Classic March 18-21. They remain undefeated in ACC play including a victory over Doug Root and Pedro Escudero of Duke, which avenged an earlier loss at the ACC Indoor Championships. Clouston and Munoz have also already defeated ranked teams from Virginia Tech, Illinois, Florida and North Carolina en route to establishing a 24-6 record on the season.

The combo has matches remaining against only ACC teams with the exception of South Carolina April 13.

Junior Michael Berger and freshman Justin Kaufmann have also played very well as a doubles team this season, establishing a 5-1 record since joining forces March 26 against Maryland for an 8-3 victory. Berger and Kaufmann's lone loss came against Duke March 31.

Home is sweet so far for Deacon tennis team

The men's tennis team has developed quite an affliction for their home court this season as they have built an undefeated 9-0 record while playing in these familiar confines.

The Deacons will play three of their final five matches at home as they try to continue the streak.

Freshman earns award for his sportsmanship

Rick Phillipp, a freshman on the men's tennis team, has earned the 1999 Bill Talbert National Junior Sportsmanship Award.

Phillipp was nominated by the Midwest Tennis Association and was selected from among all 17 of the United States Tennis Association's sections and will receive the award during a ceremony that involves the induction of John McEnroe into the Hall of Fame.

The ceremony will be held July 9-11 in Newport, R.I.

Phillipp has seen limited action for the Deacons this year because of a deep and talented team vying for the few open spots.

Phillipp recorded his first collegiate victory March 25 over Maryland's Jon Murchison 6-4, 6-7, 6-2.

Phillipp has also played for four Junior Davis Cup teams.

Women's tennis goes 1-1 on the week

By Jessica Reigle
Old Gold and Black Reporter

The Demon Deacon women's tennis team was unable to hold onto the winning streak they were enjoying, falling to Duke, the third ranked team in the country by a score of 7-2 April 6. This marks the Deacs' first Atlantic Coast Conference loss of the season, giving them a record of 9-9 overall and 3-1 in the ACC.

The Deacons started out their match series successfully, notching their ninth consecutive win over the North Carolina Tar Heels March 31 by a score of 6-2. Outstanding doubles play clinched the match for the Deacs, who won at both the No. 1 and No. 3 doubles spots.

Sophomore Mariel Verban continues to demonstrate incredible talent for the Deacons, winning her 32nd match of the season by crushing Carolina's Jessica Zaganczyk 6-2, 6-1 at the No. 1 singles spot.

Verban currently holds the No. 10 ranking nationally.

Deacon freshman Janet Bergman, freshman Maren Haus and junior Annemarie Milton also contributed wins for the Deacs, claiming victories at the No. 2, No. 3, and No. 5 singles spots respectively.

Haus and sophomore Jackie Houston paired up at No. 3 doubles to secure the match victory for the Deacons, beating Carolina's pair of Sarah Hawkins and Caroline Hill 8-5.

The Deac's winning streak abruptly came to an end April 16 as they battled No. 3 Duke, and they were eventually defeated 7-2.

Most of the matches were close, but the Deacs just could not pull together the extra few points that they needed to win.

"The matches were close, we just didn't come out on top," said Haus, who is confident that Duke is indeed a beatable team.

"We will face them again in a few weeks and will be better prepared," she said.

Houston claimed one of the Deac's two victories, beating No.

45 Karen Goldstein at the No. 4 singles spot by a score of 6-4, 6-3. This marks Houston's fourth win in five outings.

Milton also clinched a win, playing hard to beat Duke's Kathy Sell (No. 48) 6-4, 4-6, 7-5 in a difficult match.

It seems that in general, the Deacs think that they played well, but lacked the extra energy they needed to push them over the top. "The whole team fought really hard," said Bergman, who says that she is playing a lot better than she did at the beginning of the season and will continue to work on improving her forehand and overall confidence.

The Deacs also continue to display strong confidence and team spirit following the sudden recent resignation of head coach Lew Gerrard.

"This has brought us closer as a team, and we are all pushing each other to work harder," Haus said.

The 19th ranked Deacons return to action April 11 when they travel to Atlanta to face Georgia Tech.



Freshman Maren Haus clocks a forehand in her match at the Leighton Tennis Stadium. Haus won her match against UNC.

Football looks to be prepared for fall

By Sean Blue
Sports Editor

The Deacons have begun anew, putting a season that failed to meet the preseason hype behind them and concentrating on the upcoming season.

The football team began its spring practice March 20 and will wrap up the 15-practice schedule with the spring game, an intra-squad scrimmage, at Groves Stadium April 17.

This year's team is still without a promising recruiting class that boasts quarterback C.J. Leak, one of the top high school quarterbacks in the country.

Despite not having this recruiting class yet the Deacs still look promising and are already creating some new preseason hype.

The Deacons return one of their most experienced teams under Head Coach Jim Caldwell.

Of the returning players, 27 are seniors and 49 are lettermen including 14 starters.

The Deacons lose seniors Desmond Clark, the ACC leader in receptions and one of the most talented receivers to ever don a Deacon jersey, and Brian Kuklick, the Deacs' all-time passing leader and fourth in ACC history.

Clark will be replaced as the go-to guy by junior Jammie Deese, who is set to surpass Clark's records set this year with a solid season next year.

Leak and junior Ben Sankey will compete for the starting quarterback position and will most likely push each other to their fullest potential, which will only benefit the team.

Junior Dustin Lyman and senior Kelvin Moses will return for one more season at the linebacker spot. Lyman and Moses were two of the best players at their position in the ACC before being sidelined to injury last season.

Moses missed the entire season because of preseason surgery, but was able to qualify for a medical red-shirt and return for one more season.

Senior Abdul Guice will return for one more season at linebacker, too. Guice was second on the team in tackles last season. Freshman Ed Kargbookorogie was the first true freshman to start under Caldwell and looks to be a promising linebacker and possible replacement for standout Mark Makovec.

The defense returns all four starters at defensive line and two previous starters who missed last season due to injury.

Junior DaLawn Parrish will lead a talented and experienced secondary that showed great improvement over last season. Parrish led the team in tackles last year with 75 tackles.

The Deacons biggest problem last year was their running game, which will look to take great strides to improve on last season's

65.4 yards per game average. Sophomore Morgan Kane and junior Chris McCoy will most likely be the primary ball carriers, but senior Kito Gary will also contribute.

On the offensive line, the Deacons will lose only senior Jeff Flowe, a standout for the Deacons. Flowe will likely be replaced by junior Marlon Curtis, who played center last season. Sophomore Vince Azzolina played well at center last season when Curtis was injured and will be looked to fill that spot this season.

Junior Matt Burdick will return to handle the Deacs' place kicking and field goal kicking duties. Senior Tripp Moore, one of the top punters in the ACC the last two years will be graduating and leaving a hole to fill for the Deacons. The early prospect appears to be red-shirt freshman Matt Brennie.

Next season should be productive and exciting for the Demon Deacs especially if they can avoid the injury problem that plagued them last season.

Women's track runs at Duke

Olympians among the competitors faced by Deacon runners

By Jordan Webster
Old Gold and Black Reporter

The Demon Deacon women's track team participated in another highly competitive invitational April 2-3 at Duke University. Although the field included a number of non-collegiate runners, among them several Olympians, the Deacs performed well, led by their middle and long-distance runners.

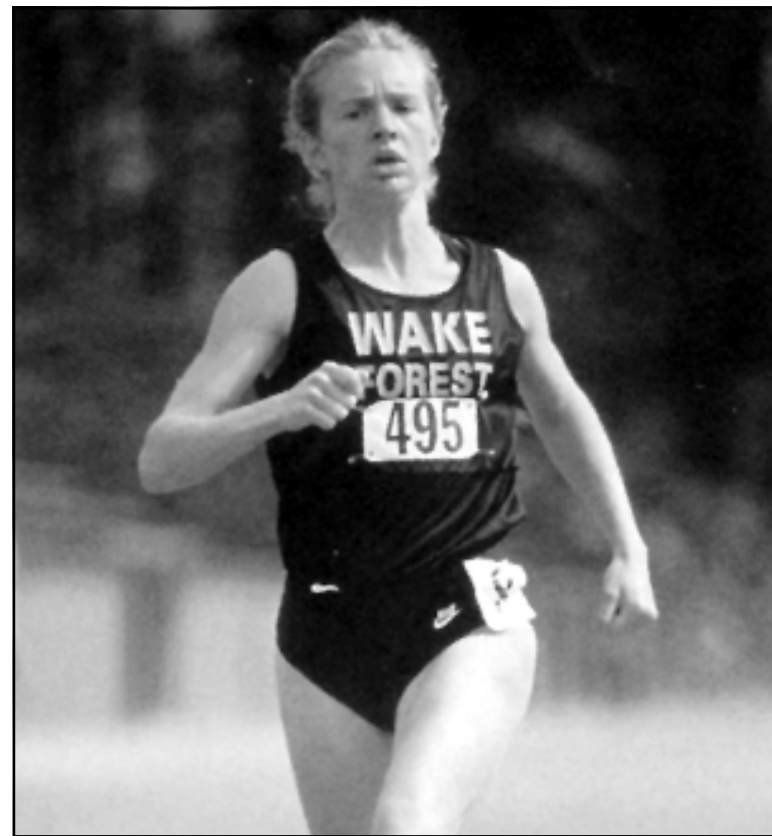
The Deacons' best effort came in the 800-meter run, with junior Jill Snyder finishing ninth and junior Alison Anibaldi taking 11th. However, the fastest runner in the world, a competitor from Mozambique, captured the individual title in the 800-meter, and she was followed by a collection of top runners sponsored by clubs. Only one collegiate runner defeated Snyder, whose time of 2:09.05 qualified her for the top spot on the team this season. Anibaldi's time of 2:09.64 was a personal best.

Sophomore Kelly Brady also ran a personal and team best in the 1,500-meter, crossing the finish line in 4:26.70, good enough for ninth place. An Olympian also won this event, but Brady's time is the second best in the conference this year. Erin Haugh placed 19th with a time of 4:38.95.

Another bright spot for the Deacons was in several of the field events. Junior Summer Shaw set a school record in the pole vault, clearing a height of 10'2". Shaw's vault garnered her a second-place finish in the event, and it also placed her 15th in the conference.

Deacons also performed well in the throwing events, with Tasha Pickney finishing sixth in the javelin with a toss of 111'10". Becky Maier grabbed 14th in the discus with a personal best of 128'08", and Sandra Jenkins heaved the shot put 37'05", which landed her in 14th too.

Head Coach Frances Goodridge was once again pleased with the



Junior Jill Snyder captured a ninth place finished in the 800-meter. She was beaten by only one college competitor, as the other participants were professional runners.

effort of her squad. "This was another huge invitational," Goodridge said. "We competed very well, even with several Olympians and other club runners participating."

Goodridge especially praised Snyder and Anibaldi for their performance in the 800-meter. "Jill finished behind only one collegiate runner, which is excellent. Both Jill and Alison ran with some of the best runners in the world."

With the conference schedule about to begin, Goodridge is comfortable with her distance runners. They will need contributions from other areas though, and Goodridge is looking to pick up points from the field events. "We're seeing improvement mainly because we have a technical coach now," Goodridge said. "Plorat Tahiri has been working with our field ath-

letes, and we're beginning to see improvement." Tahiri is a native of Albania who has lived in the United States for several years because of violence in the area. "We've kind of been benefiting from the unrest in that area," Goodridge said. "We're pleased to have Plorat assisting us."

Junior standout Janelle Kraus did not participate in the invitational meet. Kraus ran the 10,000-meter in the Raleigh Relays the previous week and could not come back and compete this week.

The Deacs will be in action again this weekend, hosting a small meet involving Davidson, UNC-Asheville, and UNC-Greensboro. This is the last meet before conference play begins. "We'll use this meet to polish up," Goodridge said. "It will be very low key."

Baseball ends

skid at Va. Tech

By Drew Sprague
Old Gold and Black Reporter

The Demon Deacon baseball squad snapped a four-game losing streak by defeating Virginia Tech, 8-4,

on the afternoon of April 6 at English Field in Blacksburg, Virginia.

The Demon Deacons responded to a disappointing three-game sweep at the hands of Florida State over the weekend by jumping on top of the Virginia Tech Hokies early and maintaining the lead throughout the contest.

As has been the case for the squad several times already this year, someone was waiting to step up to the plate when the Deacs needed a hot bat to carry them.

In this game it was Senior catcher Andrew Riepe, who paced the Deacons with a 4-for-5 day including two doubles and three runs scored.

The victory pushed the Demon Deacon record to 20-10 on the year and the Hokies fell to 16-11.

Sophomore Scott Siemon (6-1), the Deacon starter, registered the win by hurling 6 1/3 innings and allowing only three earned runs.

The Deacon starter gave up seven hits and a walk and struck out four.

Sophomore Danny Borrell closed out the game by tossing 2 1/3 innings of hitless ball to pick up his first save on the year.

Virginia Tech's Brendan McCullers (1-1) swallowed the loss by allowing five runs on seven hits in three innings of action.

The Deacs jumped to a 2-0 lead in the second inning thanks to a pair of RBI singles from junior outfielder Stephen Sullivan and senior outfielder Scott Daeley.

The Demon Deacons extended the lead to 5-0 in the third when Sullivan and Riepe tagged two RBI doubles and sophomore third baseman Corey Slavik plated a run with a RBI ground-out.

Sullivan, Daeley, Slavik and Borrell each had two hits on the day for the visiting Winston-Salem squad.

The Hokies munched into the lead as Eric Shiflett plated a run with a RBI single in the third and drove in another with a double in the fifth cutting the score to 5-2.

Shiflett paced Virginia Tech with a 2-for-3 day.

The Demon Deacons added another run on a sacrifice fly from senior first baseman Jon Palmeri, which scored sophomore second baseman Jason Aquilante.

The Hokies managed to cut the lead to 6-4 and looked to mount a late inning comeback until sophomore Danny Borrell was called upon to extinguish the rally.

The Deacs added a pair of insurance runs in the top of the ninth inning compliments of a three-bagger from the third baseman Slavik to make the score 8-4.

The Demon Deacons will be back in action today. They will take on Appalachian State on campus at Hooks Stadium this afternoon at 3 p.m.



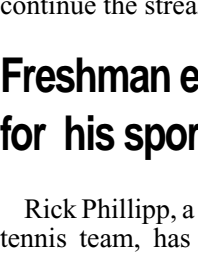
Clouston



Munoz



Phillipp



Riepe