

Baseball

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Slavik continued his hot hitting as he went 5-for-6 and scored four runs. Freshman Ryan Johnson and junior Matt Price drove in two runs apiece as they both belted home runs. Junior Scott Siemon continued his impressive pitching as he surrendered only two runs over six innings to pick up his second win on the season as the Deacs cruised 30-4.

"When the runs start piling up, it gets harder to focus," Siemon said. "After the game's over you feel like pitching wasn't even a factor."

While Slavik, Price and Johnson all had big games offensively, the day belonged to junior first baseman Danny Borrell.

Borrell drove in seven runs en route to becoming the first Diamond Deacon to hit for the cycle since Josh Itzoe in 1995. The junior from Sanford, North Carolina, went 5-for-7 on the day, including blasting two home runs.

"It's the first time I've ever done that. I didn't even know about until I got in the dugout and all the guys were telling me congratulations," Borrell said. "It was one of those days where you go out there and the ball seems like a watermelon."

After crushing the Wildcats, the Demon Deacons welcomed the Virginia Tech Hokies to Hooks Stadium for a weekend series. The Deacons took the first game of the series on Saturday

behind a strong relief effort by senior pitcher Eric Schmitt. Borrell struggled on the mound for the second consecutive start as he yielded four earned runs and lasted only four innings. Schmitt relieved Borrell in the fifth and proceeded to throw four scoreless innings as he yielded only one hit and struck out six to pick up his second win of the season.

While Schmitt was holding down the fort, Borrell and junior center fielder Cory Sullivan led the Deacon offensive attack. Sullivan went 4-for-5 and scored three runs and Borrell hit his fourth home run of the year and drove in three runs as the Deacs won by a score of 11-7.

After struggling past the Hokies in the first game, the Deacons dominated on Sunday as they cruised to a 13-0 victory.

Sullivan continued his offensive explosion as he went 3-for-4, scoring two runs and had one RBI. Junior Dan Conway also made sure that the Hokie pitching staff remembered his name as he launched his third home run of the season and drove in three runs.

Freshman Ben Clayton continued to stake his claim as the ace of the Deacon staff by pitching six scoreless innings and yielding only five hits while striking out six Hokie batters. The freshman from San Leandro, California, picked up his third win of the season and lowered his ERA to a Pedro Martinez-like 0.50 on the season.

"I guess that's what happens when you keep the ball down and hit your spots," Clayton said.

After sweeping the Hokies, the Deacs traveled to Davidson for a rematch of



Natalie Worley/Old Gold and Black

Sophomore Chase Voshell dives back toward the bag at first to avoid being picked off. The Deacons beat Virginia Tech twice, Feb. 26 and 27.

the 30-4 blowout. The Deacons didn't score 30 this time, but did cruise to a comfortable 18-6 victory. Siemon went three innings to record his third win of the season, as five Deacon pitchers combined to contain the Wildcats. Sophomore Jamie Athas lead the Demon Deacon offensive attack as he launched his first home run of the year and drove in three runs.

Sullivan continued to pace the Deacons from his leadoff position as he went 2-for-5, scoring three runs and driving in one on the day. After getting off to a slow start, the junior transfer from Cypress Junior College is now batting .419 and has scored 17 runs in 10 games on the season.

"I've just been relaxing. It was my first chance as a Division I player and I kind of pressed at the beginning of the season," Sullivan said.

The Deacs will be faced with more serious competition as they travel to Minnesota this weekend to take part in the Hormel Foods Classic in Minneapolis. The Diamond Deacons will take on Georgia, Notre Dame and Minnesota and the Deacs expect nothing less than a strong showing in Minneapolis this weekend.

"I think we're rolling right now. I think right now we can compete with anyone in the country," Siemon said. "We're starting to hit and our pitching is really good."

Pressbox

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believe they have been playing their best ball of the season as a team, and as Darius Songaila has taken his game to another level.

First the Deacs helped themselves to an 18-point victory over a struggling N.C. State Feb 15. Then, Feb. 19, the Deacons seemed to be just a shot away from pulling off another home-court upset against Maryland to regain some momentum before dropping the game 73-67. Head Coach Dave Odom was correct in praising his players after their Feb. 22 loss to Duke when he

said, "I think we are a better basketball team than we were two and a half hours ago."

Certainly the Deacons put forth an exceptional effort at Cameron Indoor Stadium on a night when I doubt any team in the country would have been able to hang with the high-powered offense of the Blue Devils. Then, in this weekend's match-up with Georgia Tech, it looked as if the Deacons were finally becoming as comfortable as they had been early in the season and as they showed again in their upset of UNC Jan. 12.

Despite my fatalistic comments last week about the team's prospect for a postseason bid, there is still the faintest hint of a glimmer of hope out there for the Deacons

... if (and this "if" is perhaps the most expansive use of the word ever used in print) they can assemble their will for a miracle run. We have all seen that the talent is there on certain nights to hang with all but the stiffest competition, and now it seems like the heart that freshman Josh Howard questioned last month is finally there too. So maybe it is just a matter of how much this team wants to keep its season alive.

Clearly you can not judge a team or a coach by record alone, and in reality the 1999-2000 basketball season will be one I remember for years to come, just as memories from last year's season will be stashed away in the corners of my mind, not for the final

scores, standings or statistics, but for the stories that the players and the fans shared along the way. In the end these are the things that make the difference.

So now the Demon Deacons have to decide whether they have it in them to do what it will take to overcome the odds and earn their way the hard way to the NCAAs (by winning the conference tournament or reaching the finals). I'm fairly certain that a run of that magnitude would not be ignored by the selection committee, and even though my better judgement tells me not to say this out loud, I think that it a feat our team can actually accomplish.

There, I said it. I know that there are others out there who agree with me, if not openly, and I can't help it if I don't like giving up. I hope that our team feels the same way about losing, as I think they do.

As I said to begin with, there are two paths in front of this team, and I hope they take the one, to victory, the one less traveled.



Chris Carlstrom/Old Gold and Black

Senior Tim Fuller is accompanied by his parents as they walk to center court on Senior Day, Feb. 27. He was honored as a four-year member of the men's basketball team.

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SCOREBOARD

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Standings

	ACC	Overall
Duke	14-1	23-4
UMd.	11-4	22-7
UVa.	8-6	18-9
UNC	9-6	18-11
WFU	6-9	15-13
FSU	6-9	11-15
N.C. State	5-10	15-11
Ga. Tech	4-11	12-16
Clemson	4-11	10-18

Statistics

Field Goal Percentage	PCT
B. Haywood, N.C. State	.750
Carlos Boozer, Duke	.650
Damous Anderson, FSU	.549
Darius Songaila, WFU	.541

Free Throw Percentage

	PCT
Roger Mason, UVa.	.867
Darius Songaila, WFU	.859
Jason Capel, N.C. State	.857
Shane Battier, Duke	.462

Scoring Defense

	AVG
WFU	68.3
N.C. State	69.6
UNC	69.9
UMd.	70.0

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Standings

	ACC	Overall
UVa	13-3	22-7
Duke	12-4	23-5
N.C. State	11-5	20-7
Clemson	9-7	18-11
UNC	8-8	16-11
Ga. Tech	7-9	14-12
UMd.	5-11	14-13
FSU	4-12	11-16
WFU	3-13	7-20

Statistics

Blocks

	AVG
Schuye LaRue, UVa.	1.6
Brooke Wyckoff, FSU	1.4
Erin Batth, Clemson	1.1
J. Bjorklund, WFU	0.8

Field Goal Percentage Defense

	PCT
Duke	.365
UVa.	.385
N.C. State	.386
WFU	.396

Team Blocked Shot Average

	AVG
UVa.	3.8
FSU	3.4
N.C. State	3.1
WFU	2.8

BASEBALL

Standings

	ACC	Overall
UNC	0-0	9-0-0
Clemson	0-0	5-1-0
Ga. Tech	0-0	5-1-0
FSU	0-0	9-2-0
WFU	0-0	3-2-0
N.C. State	0-0	4-3-0
Duke	0-0	4-6-0
UMd.	0-0	1-5-0
UVa.	0-0	0-3-1

THIS WEEK

Thur. March 2
Men's Tennis vs. South Carolina, 2 p.m.
Men's Basketball at Virginia, 7 p.m.

Fri. March 3
Women's Basketball ACC Tournament, TBA
Baseball vs. Notre Dame, 12:15 p.m.

Sat. March 4
Baseball vs. Georgia, 5:30 p.m.

Sun. March 5

Baseball vs. University of Minnesota, 12:15 p.m.
Women's Tennis vs. University of Florida, 12 p.m.
Men's Tennis at Florida State, TBA

Mon. March 6

Women's Tennis at Spring Break Tournament (Tampa, FL), TBA

Tues. March 7

Men's Tennis at University of Florida, 5 p.m.
Baseball vs. Virginia Commonwealth University, 3 p.m.

Wed. March 8

Baseball at East Carolina, 3 p.m.

Thur. March 9

Men's Tennis at South Florida University, 12 p.m.
Men's Basketball at ACC Tournament, TBA

Fri. March 10

Baseball at N.C. State, 3 p.m.
Men's and Women's Track at NCAA Indoor Championships, TBA
Women's Golf at Casa de Campo Intercollegiate, TBA

Sat. March 11

Men's Golf at Birkdale Collegiate Golf Classic, TBA
Baseball at N.C. State, 1:30 p.m.

Sun. March 12

Baseball at N.C. State, 1:30 p.m.
Women's Tennis vs. Georgia Tech, noon

Mon. March 13

Baseball vs. Pace, 3 p.m.

Tues. March 14

Baseball vs. East Tennessee, 3 p.m.

Wed. March 15

Baseball vs. Columbia, 3 p.m.
Women's Tennis vs. University of Texas, 2 p.m.