

half, largely in part to turnovers. While the Wolfpack only lost the ball twice in the first half, the Deacons coughed it up 12 times, allowing State to sneak back into the game.

Four points to close the first half and five points to start the second gave N.C. State its first lead, 31-29, at the 16:19 mark. Seven of those points were scored by Justin Gainey, with junior Robert O'Kelley defending him, causing Odom to take him out of the game.

"To be honest, I think we had it too easy early on," Odom said. "N.C. State came out of the shootaround not shooting the basketball well. They didn't make shots. But I knew that was nothing more than a facade. I don't think they intended to do that. I think our defense had something to do with that, but I knew that was not going to last."

"I remember looking at the score 29-18 with two and a half minutes left on the clock during a television timeout, and I challenged our team to lengthen our lead, and I'll never do that again. They came up as I knew the Wolfpack would. They are a hard-nosed team, and they're not going to give in to losing very easily," he said.

Both teams battled back and forth through much of the second half, but State looked poised for victory after a Thornton dunk following junior Rafael Vidaurreta's turnover made it 50-

45 with 2:02 remaining.

But the Deacs scored five straight points, highlighted by a 15-footer from O'Kelley that tied the game at 50. The field goal would be O'Kelley's only basket of the game.

Songaila put the Deacs ahead by one after making 1-of-2 free throws with 19.9 on the clock. With the Wolfpack holding the ball for the last possession and a chance to win, Justin Gainey drove to the basket with time winding down but was fouled. Gainey converted just one of his free throws, tying the game at 51 and sending it to overtime.

"The loss hurt, and it hurt me personally because I had a chance to win it with that free throw," Gainey said.

In the five-minute overtime, Songaila took charge. He scored four points on consecutive lay-ups and another four on consecutive free throws as the Deacs closed the game with an 8-3 run.

"It feels great to be in that situation where you're making key shots at the end of the game," Songaila said.

"The most important thing for me was the confidence my teammates showed in giving me the ball," he said.

Sendek, whose team, like the Deacons, struggled in the second half of the season after starting the year out hot, was disappointed to see his team come out as the loser in a close game.

"It's like a boxing match," Sendek said. "One guy just doesn't cover his head and not throw any punches. Both teams are scoring and playing, and that's the nature of the game of basket-



Chris Carlstrom/Old Gold and Black
Junior Robert O'Kelley slices through the Cal defense and scores in the Deacs' third-round NIT win over the Golden Bears.

ball. There are runs. It's frustrating not to win."

Odom pointed to his team's 46-31 rebounding margin as the reason for its win.

"We continue to rebound the basketball, and that is something we've stressed since the beginning of the year, but we've really gotten adept to doing in the last part of the season," Odom said. "We could not have won had we

not rebounded like that in light of the fact that we turned the ball over 23 times."

Vidaurreta grabbed eight boards, with freshman Josh Howard and sophomore Craig Dawson each collecting seven. Howard also scored 14 points.

Anthony Grundy led the Wolfpack with 14 points and Kenny Inge, Gainey and Thornton each scored 10.

SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL

Standings

	ACC	Overall
Clemson	3-0	23-3
FSU	7-2	28-4
Ga. Tech	4-2	18-8
WFU	5-4	20-9
N.C. State	5-4	16-10
UNC	2-4	24-5
Virginia	2-4	13-14-1
Duke	2-4	11-20
Maryland	0-6	6-18

Statistics

Runs Batted In

	AVG
Ryan Barey, UNC	1.38
Ryan Barthelemy, FSU	1.38
Cory Slavik, WFU	1.31
Danny Borrell, WFU	1.31

Home Runs

	AVG
Dan Conway, WFU	0.31
Ryan Barey, UNC	0.28
Mark Teixeira, Ga. Tech	0.27

Earned Run Average

	ERA
Scott Berney, Clemson	1.02
Ryan Mottl, Clemson	1.19
Scott Siemon, WFU	1.59

MEN'S TENNIS

Standings

	ACC	Overall
UNC	2-0	10-2
Virginia	2-0	12-3
Clemson	2-0	12-11
Duke	1-0	9-4
Ga. Tech.	2-1	8-7
FSU	2-3	10-6

WFU	1-3	8-7
N.C. State	0-4	9-8
Maryland	0-8	4-10

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Standings

	ACC	Overall
WFU	8-0	12-1
Duke	8-0	12-4
FSU	4-1	14-4
Clemson	2-2	10-5
UNC	1-2	6-8
Ga. Tech	1-3	10-5
Virginia	0-1	6-4
Maryland	0-1	6-5
N.C. State	0-4	5-6

THIS WEEK

Fri. March 31
Baseball at Duke, 3 p.m.
Women's Golf at Liz Murphy Collegiate Classic (Athens, Ga.), TBA
Men's Track at Raleigh Relays, TBA
Women's Track at Rice Invitational, TBA

Sat. April 1
Men's Gold at Cleveland Gold-Augusta State Invitational (Augusta, SC), TBA
Women's Tennis at William & Mary, 11 a.m.
Men's Tennis at Clemson, TBA
Baseball at Duke, 1 p.m.

Sun. April 2
Baseball at Duke, 2 p.m.
Men's Tennis at Furman, TBA

Tues. April 4
Baseball at Campbell, 7 p.m.

Wed. April 5
Women's Tennis at Duke, 2 p.m.
Baseball at East Tennessee State, 5 p.m.

Pressbox

Continued from Page B1

13 losses. That could have been us."

If the Irish are using this as their motivation, then so too should the Deacons, especially considering that Deacs were also victors over several top teams this season (including three wins against not one, but two - count 'em *two* - of the Final Four teams).

The teams also have nearly identical records, as Notre Dame stands at 22-14, having notched one more win than the Deacs with an equal number of

losses. Both teams enter the Garden tonight knowing that regardless of the outcome their seasons are over. The point, however, is that both the Deacons and the Irish have won their four games en route to the finals and both are going into tonight's game badly wanting a win.

In a post-game press conference following the Deacons' nail-biting 62-59 overtime win over N.C. State, junior Robert O'Kelley, perhaps the last player on the team one would expect to be feeling confident, sounded shockingly positive.

"This win is a great confidence booster for us, and we're looking forward to winning the championship," he said.

The Deacons should be feeling good about them-

selves, though. On their march to Madison Square Garden they have taken on and defeated a premiere team in the first round in Vanderbilt, two relative unknowns in the next two games in New Mexico and California and an old foe in N.C. State.

Notre Dame, meanwhile, has not really been tested yet along the way to the finals, having posted wins of 10 points or more in each of their games, including a 73-53 blowout against Penn State in their March 28 semifinal game.

Their inside game with first team All-American Troy Murphy and outside shooting provided by fellow sophomore David Graves will be a formidable offense to deal with.

The Deacons have shown that they are capable of

shutting down scorers all season, however, particularly when teams rely on big men to put up points in the paint. Juniors Rafael Vidaurreta and Josh Shoemaker have been somewhat overlooked for the particularly effective job the two have done with this task. Although there are still a few uncertainties for the Deacs going into the championship, we can be sure that the finals will certainly be an intense matchup with heaps of pride riding on the outcome for both teams.

Whether the Deacs come home from the Big Apple as victors or runners-up, they should be proud of their late-season accomplishments and I think I speak for the entire campus when I congratulate them on a job well done. Go Deacs.



Winston-Salem Warthogs Baseball
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Thirsty Thursday's are BACK!

Celebrate the end of the school year with your friends at Ernie Shore Field.

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Students get \$1.00 off with valid Student I.D.

Thirsty Thursday's this semester:

- April 6 - Season Opener
- April 20 - Kinston
- May 4 - Myrtle Beach
- May 25 - Myrtle Beach

All Game Times are 7:15 P.M.

Games are played at Ernie Shore Field, located on Deacon Blvd., across the street from LJVM.

For ticket, schedule, or group information call 759-2233

JOB FAIR

Old Town Club
1375 Old Town Club Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27106
336-723-5533

Good opportunity for College Students & Teachers!
Old Town Country Club is having an employment job fair on
Saturday, April 22, 2000
2:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Immediate interviews for the following positions:

Part-time and Full-time positions available. Pre-employment drug testing and criminal background check. Random drug testing.

- * Banquet Service Staff
- * Al a carte Staff
- * Kitchen
- * Valet
- * Housekeeping/Banquet Houseman
- * Pool Snack Bar Attendants
- * Pool Lifeguards/Swim Coaches (must be certified)



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