

Deacs looking for salvation against tough Yellow Jackets

By Sean Blue
Sports Editor

Facing their final regular-season game, the Deacon football team will be playing its most important game of the season.

A victory Nov. 20 would make the Deacs bowl eligible for the first time since 1992 and also secure the first winning season under Head Coach Jim Caldwell.

This task will not be easy, though. The Deacs will be squaring off against Georgia Tech, ranked second in the ACC and 12th in the nation. Tech also has one of the most potent offenses in the nation, averaging 510.7 yards per game and 41.6 points per game.

However, the Deacon defense is one of the best in the nation, ranking second in the ACC and 22nd in the nation in total defense and second in the ACC and 19th in the nation in scoring defense. The Deacs are only giving up 307.8 yards per game and 18.3 points per game.

Georgia Tech has also struggled recently losing to Virginia Nov. 6 and barely defeating Clemson Nov. 13. Although Georgia Tech has a potent offense, their defense has been suspect.

The Yellow Jacket defense is eighth in the ACC in total defense and scoring defense giving up 400 yards per game and 28.8 points. The Deacon offense, though, is only averaging 307.8 yards per game and 21.7 points per game. The Deacons offense has come alive the last few weeks, scoring

104 points in their last four games for an average of 26 points per game. In three of their last four games they are averaging 33.6 yards per game.

The Deacon offense has been led by their running game for most of the season, but they have been relying more on their passing attack recently for a more balanced attack.

The Deacs will need a strong running performance against Georgia Tech for a victory to be possible. The running attack will tire out Tech's defense and also eat up the clock and keep Tech's offense off the field. Senior Morgan Kane will be looked to as the rushing leader, but senior Ben Sankey and sophomore Ovie Mughelli will also need to contribute on the ground.

A strong running attack will also open up the passing attack and allow the Deacs to move the ball more efficiently and score more often, which will be crucial to keep up with Georgia Tech.

Defensively, the Deacs have a lot of work ahead of them. They will not be able to shut down the Yellow Jacket offense, but they need to stall it. The Deacs must prevent the deep passes and keep Joe Hamilton from scrambling too much. Tech will pile up some yard and some points, but the Deacs can keep the Yellow Jackets from pulling too far ahead.

The Deacon offense and defense rarely play well at the same time, having only accomplished this task twice this year against mediocre N.C. State and Alabama-Birmingham. It will take a total team effort against Georgia Tech for the Deacs to pull out a victory and salvage their season.

Harriers

Continued from Page B1

Winning the ladies competition was North Carolina with a 66. Close on their heels was rival N.C. State with a total of 79. Individually, the meet was won by Trish Nervo who led the Tar Heels to victory with a time of 17:03.

The men capped off a very strong season in style with their fifth place finish in Greenville with a total of 180 points. The men were led by sophomore Michael Altieri who clocked in at the 31:14 mark to finish 30th overall. Surprising everyone was freshman Ed Acosta who finished second for the Deacs and 33rd overall with a time of 31:20. Just behind him was sophomore Chris Estwanick at 34th with a time of 31:25. Junior Stephan Pro placed 41st with

a time of 31:33, and sophomore Garrick Hill clocked in at 31:41 to finish 41st. Sophomores Sean Nagorny and Philip Wiles rounded things out for the Deacs, finishing 74th and 75th, respectively.

"I was definitely pleased," Pro said. "For us to have finished any higher we would have had to run out of our heads. It was a solid performance."

N.C. State, the second-ranked team in the nation, was victorious in the men's competition. They dominated the event with a low score of 40. Behind them was William & Mary finishing second with a score of 69. William & Mary's Matthew Lane was the overall winner of the meet with a time of 29:37.

Janelle Kraus, the only Deac who extended her season this weekend, is excitedly looking ahead to next week. It is her opportunity to achieve her goal of becoming an All-American in her last meet in a Deacon uniform.

"Right now I'm leaving it open," Kraus said. "I'm just

going to go out there and do my best and see what happens from there."

"The main goal for Janelle now is to be an All-American," Bennett said. "That's top twenty-five in the nation and she has bigger goals than that, but that's the main goal."

As Kraus moves onward to the championships, the women's team is reflecting on what was a strong season. The Deacs had one solid first place finish at the Greensboro Invitational and several strong second place finishes at larger meets. Despite a lack of depth, the team competed strongly throughout the year. It accomplished several of its goals but unfortunately finished the season in disappointment without an at-large bid to nationals.

"I thought it was an up and down season that had its great moments," Bennett said in retrospect. "We didn't have the luxury of having ten girls all

at the same level like other schools had. Every kid we had though did all that they could. I really felt like they, as a team, wanted it. We did what we needed to do to get to nationals, but unfortunately, a poor system is holding us out."

"As always, we'll be back and trying to win the ACCs again next year," Bennett said.

The men are looking back proudly on what was a solid season. Coming into this year the expectations were not exceedingly high. The team was young and inexperienced. Its coach left at the beginning of the season and it was forced to battle back amidst controversy. The Deacs overcame all of that, nonetheless, and had a season that more than exceeded its expectations.

"We really accomplished what we wanted to," Wiles said. "We got a lot of confidence, and in the next couple of seasons, we will only get better. The season was definitely a success."

Wake Forest Demon Deacons

Series History: Georgia Tech leads 16-5
Last Meeting: Georgia Tech 63-35 (11/21/98)

1999 Record: 5-5 (2-5 ACC)
Head Coach: Jim Caldwell
Record at Wake Forest: 22-54
Career Record: 22-54
Total Starters Returning: 15

Offense

Formation: Multiple
Players to Watch: QB Ben Sankey, WR Jammie Deese, RB Morgan Kane

Defense

Formation: Multiple
Players to Watch: LB Dustin Lyman, LB Kelvin Moses, DT Fred Robbins

Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets

1999 Record: 7-2 (5-2 ACC)
Head Coach: George O'Leary
Record at Georgia Tech: 35-23
Career Record: 35-23
Total Starters Returning: 15

Offense

Formation: Multiple
Players to Watch: QB Joe Hamilton, WR Dez White, WR Kelly Campbell

Defense

Formation: Multiple
Players to Watch: DE Greg Gathers, S Chris Young, LB Nick Rogers

Be a part of the action...

INTRAMURAL BASKETBALL

Registration for the Spring Semester
Begins: Monday, November 22
Ends: Friday, December 3

Corec, Men's &
Women's Divisions

Register in Room 214
Reynolds Gymnasium

OFFICIALS OF THE WEEK

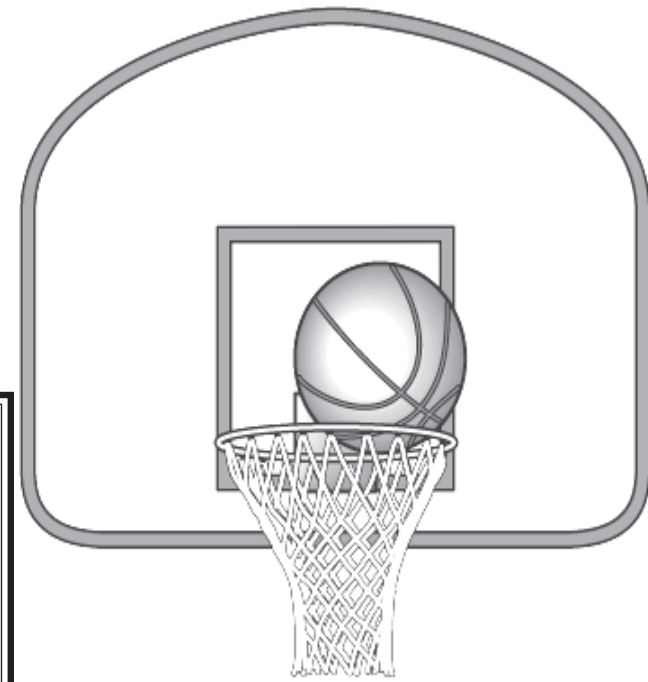
Congratulations to the following individuals who have done an outstanding job as intramural officials this past week.

Soccer

Theron Shreve
Kevin Greer
Chris Aoyama

Volleyball
Josh Heinzerling
Jeremy Zeman

Don't be left out!!
(Get your team together
before Christmas Break)



Check Out What's Happening In Campus Recreation

M - TH 3 - 11 pm
Fri 3 - 8 pm
Sat/Sun 1 - 5 pm

Equipment Available for Checkout in
Reynolds Gymnasium

Badminton	Table Tennis Table	Volleyballs
Bocce	Pylons	Rollerhockey Sticks
Bowling Pins	Portable Volleyball	Tennis Balls (Purchase)
Croquet	(Rental Free)	Frisbees
Frisbee Golf Cages	Basketballs	Weight Training Belts
Horseshoes	Footballs	Ping Pong Paddles/ Balls
Racquetball Racquets/Balls	Kickballs	
Softball Bats/Balls/Gloves	Soccer Balls	
	Water Polo Balls	

Check out our website www.wfu.edu/athletic/intramural

