

Women's basketball team undergoes difficult week

By Vanessa St. Gerard
Old Gold and Black Reporter

The women's basketball team recently started its season with two exhibition games to prepare for its first regular season game coming up Nov. 19.



Curtis

The Demon Deacons took two losses Nov. 9 first with the announcement of former Assistant Coach Stacy Cox's death, and later on that day, the team succumbed to FTC-Diego

of Hungary, 79-48.

The day was obviously an emotional one for the Deacs, but they still chose to play the scheduled game against FTC.

"The team showed a lot of heart and fortitude to come in and not give up," said Head Coach Charlene Curtis. "The announcement was very devastating to them. They showed how a team could stay united regardless of adversity. This only shows that since they are able to face adversity off the court, they can do the same on the court."

The Demon Deacons suffered from cold shooting in their first on-court appearance of the 1999-2000 season at Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum.

The team hit just 32 percent from the floor (16 of 50) and sank just one three-pointer of 16 tries.

Junior forward Olivia Hardy led the Deacs with 12 points, and junior forward Kristen Shaffer added 10.

Senior guard Alisha Mosley grabbed a team-high five rebounds.

The Deacs bounced back later on in the week as they defeated the Low Country All-Stars in a close match, 70-69.

The Deacons fell behind by 13 points in the first half but used a 20-8 run to close the gap to 38-37 at half time.

"We didn't quit," Curtis said, "and we took advantage of the team's lack of size."

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Charlene Curtis
Head Coach

The game stayed tight throughout the second half, with the leading changing five times.

Trailing 62-64 with just over a minute remaining, junior guard Janae Whiteside hit a three-pointer off an assist from Mosely to put the Demon Deacons ahead for

good.

The Deacs shot 43 percent from the floor, registering 26 of 61 attempts, and hit 52 percent of their second half shots.

The Deacons dominated the game, out-rebounding the Low Country team 51-39. The Deacons, however, suffered at the foul line, missing 16 of their attempts.

Sophomore center LaChina Robinson added a team-high 15 points, and Dardy and Whiteside tallied 12 and 11 points, respectively. Junior Brenda Mock Kirkpatrick recorded a double-double with 10 points and 14 rebounds and also added three blocks.

The Demon Deacons open up

the regular season Nov. 19 as they host the Fairfield Stags in Reynolds Gymnasium at 7 p.m.

"Our starting line-ups don't match up size-wise so we're going to have to make up the difference," Curtis said. "We will have to set the tone with defense and come out aggressively."

The Nov. 19 game will be the opening game for both teams and marks the first time ever that the Deacs play the Stags.

Next week, the Deacons will spend their Thanksgiving break competing against Davidson, Arizona State and Richmond Nov. 23, 26 and 28, respectively.

The Arizona State and Richmond games will be held at home in Reynolds Gymnasium.

Basketball team beats All-Stars in front of 'big' recruit

Songaila led the Deacons to a rout of the Lithuanian All-stars with a 25-2 run the second half.

By Paul Gaeta
Senior Reporter

After three weeks of preseason practice, Demon Deacon Head Coach Dave Odom wasn't pleased with the overall play of his team.

In fact, on Nov. 9 Odom stopped practice early because he felt his players lacked the proper focus and intensity.

Well, the Demon Deacons took a big step in pleasing their head coach when they overcame a sloppy first half and crushed the Lithuanian All-Star team Alytus Alita 86-55 Nov. 12 at Joel Coliseum.

The victory was the Deacons' second of the preseason.

The team opens the regular season Nov. 20 when it hosts Campbell University.

"I was very pleased with the second half and obviously not very pleased with the first half," Odom said. "I thought that not only did we not play like a team, but we did not look like a team in the first half."

"Good things that good teams at this time of the year do, we're not to that point yet. But after a good halftime ses-

tion, we came out with much better intent defensively and played well," Odom said.

In fact, the Deacs led Alytus Alita only 47-38 going into halftime. The team, however, used an impressive 25-2 run to start the second half giving the Deacons a 72-40 lead with just under 10 minutes left in the game.

The All-Stars were obviously outmatched in manpower during the run, which forced them to play with less aggression on the defensive end.

At the 13:24 mark, 6-foot-8 forward Tomas Rimkus fouled out, leaving the team with no substitutes, while on the floor, two other players already had four fouls.

The Deacons took advantage of Alita's foul trouble, as sophomore forward Niki Arinze scored five points and junior Josh Shoemaker, and freshman Josh Howard each scored four points during the 25-point run.

"The story of the game was the beginning of the second half," Odom said. "With that run, sometimes you can look at it and say its just bad offense. But I think our defense rose to the occasion and became much more committed to what they wanted to do."

The Deacon defense held Alytus Alita to 33.3 percent from the field and just one of eight from behind the arc in the second half.

The All-Stars had shot 57.7 percent from the field in the first half.

Sophomore forward Darius Songaila, a native of Marijampole, Lithuania, paced the Deacons with 15 points and 10 rebounds.

"That's a hard game for him because he loves his native country of Lithuania so much," Odom said.

"To compete against them like that is not easy, but the flip side of that is that he wanted to show good because he wanted them to know his time over here has been well spent."

Arinze and junior point guard Robert O'Kelley chipped in with 13 and 14 points, respectively.

One off the court highlight was the presence of Holy Name Central Catholic High School (Worcester, Mass.) senior Neil Fingleton.

The 7-foot-6 center from Durham, England, is the Deacons' top recruiting target and visited the campus for a second time over the weekend.

Although the crowd was sparse at Joel Coliseum, those who were there did their best to convince Fingleton to be a Demon Deacon.

Some fans brought English flags, and the Freakin' Deacons led cheers of "We Want Neil" during the game.

Fingleton is rumored to have narrowed his choices to Boston College, North Carolina and Wake Forest.



Chris Carlstrom/Old Gold and Black

Junior Robert O'Kelley looks to drive to the bucket in practice. The Deacons play their first regular season game Nov. 20 against Campbell University.

Pressbox

Continued from Page B1

His excuse was that some things happened that hadn't happened before. Well, duh, Sherlock.

Very few teams give up 34 points in the first quarter. Also, not many quarterbacks throw three interceptions in the first half. Yeah, I guess some things happened that hadn't happened before.

However, one thing did happen that has happened before. Caldwell pretty much assured himself of another losing season, his seventh consecutive. By the way, this is his seventh season with the Deacs.

Maybe the athletic department should start paying attention and look for another coach. The talent level is there. This team has the ability to win games. It's the coaching that's lacking.

The team is unprepared. They are not fired up when they need to be. They execute poorly in critical situations. The Virginia game is an example of a team not being ready to play.

The Deacs could have won their game against Maryland but they didn't execute when they needed to. Even the Clemson game should have been won by the Deacs.

The last time I wrote an article criticizing the football team like this, I received death threats.

Perhaps this time they could concentrate on football and try to salvage yet another disappointing season instead of acting on their childish impulses.

I'm not saying they have to beat Georgia Tech. They just need to show up for the game and be ready to play. End the season on a strong note and get rid of the sour taste left in the mouths of all the fans after the Duke game.



Chris Carlstrom/Old Gold and Black

Sophomore Chris Lonteen looks to score in the ACC Tournament. The tournament was played at Kentner Stadium Nov. 11-14.

Soccer

Continued from Page B1

N.C. State tried in vain to get the equalizer, and came close to doing so near the end through Nick Olivencia, but his shot hit the side netting.

"Wake Forest is an excellent team," N.C. State head coach George Tarantini said. "We did everything they could. Their backs played really well, and I thought No. 5 (Thomas) had an outstanding game. Playing Wake Forest is like a French movie — I could tell you the end all over again," he continued somewhat enigmatically.

The Demon Deacons advanced to the second round to play Virginia, seventh seed for the first time in ACC history, fresh off their upset of second-seeded Maryland.

The Deacons pressed early, but were caught when, in the second minute, Cavalier goalkeeper David Comfort cleared the danger.

Three Virginia attackers were in an offside position, but a streaking Ryan Trout was judged to be onside coming from his midfield position and play was waved on.

Trout's last touch looked to take him a bit too wide, but he slid his shot under Conner from a difficult angle.

Both teams had chances with the Deacons having the better possession, but the final pass wasn't there.

In the 31st minute freshman Adam Hakes crossed to senior Chad Evans in the box. The senior first-team all-ACC defender took the ball on a bounce and his effort flashed just wide.

Just a minute later, with the Demon Deacons again pressuring, a long clearance caught them out. Virginia's Kenny Arena sent a long ball down the right side, and Trout again latched on to it after making a long run from midfield.

Evans recovered to put some pressure on the junior midfielder,

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N.C. State Head Coach

but Trout composed himself and put the ball under Conner again for the second goal.

In the final minute before halftime, the Deacons had a chance to reduce the arrears.

A cross from the right side somehow managed to slide through to Thompson, but he hesitated somewhat and his left-footed shot was hit weakly wide when a right-footed effort seemed the better option.

The second half saw the Deacons forced to push forward and look to get back in the game. Hoping to rally, the Demon Deacons pressed hard for a goal.

That goal came seven minutes into the half.

Stafford left his man for the dead on the right side and cut the ball back to Seale in the box.

Seale took a touch and then laid it off for Lonteen, who stole through the defense and hit a rising shot that gave Comfort no chance.

The Deacons continued to push forward to look for the equalizer, but it was not to come.

The best chances for the Demon Deacons came with five minutes left.

Lonteen took a well-hit freekick that forced Comfort into a nice save, tipping the ball off the crossbar and over for a corner.

Then with one minute left, a rising David Kawesi-Mukooza, but his powerful header found its way through a crowd in front of the goal mouth and into the arms of Comfort.