

DEACON NOTES

Bates galloping toward National Horse Show

Freshman Lauren Bates, a rider on the Demon Deacon equestrian team, placed second in the Zone Finals April 13 at the N.C. State University Stables in Raleigh, qualifying her for a trip to the National Horse Show May 4-6 in Conyers, Ga. at the International Horse Park.

Bates is the first Demon Deacon to ever advance to nationals, and to do so she had to first advance through the state and regional competitions before reaching the zone competition. The nationals are NCAA recognized and Bates will be competing against varsity teams in Atlanta. Bates competed in the Intermediate Over Fences class, in which the horses jump fences of at least three feet in height.

This is the first year that the university has fielded an equestrian team.

Everett named First Team Academic All-American

Demon Deacon senior Jenny Everett was named a Verizon First Team Academic All-American April 20. Everett was a four-year starter for the Field Hockey Team, and will graduate this May.

This season was especially successful for both Everett and the Deacs, as she scored 20 goals and tallied 20 assists in 22 games while leading the Deacons to a Final Four appearance. Her 20 assists led the ACC.

Everett holds the school career records for goals and points, as well as single-season records for goals, assists and points.

Everett was named first team All-American and All-ACC the past two seasons, while also being named a South Region All-American the past three seasons.

Her 60 points this season placed her fifth nationally, and her 2.72 points per game ranked her fourth nationally.

Prosser to get big assist with Xavier coaches

New Demon Deacon Men's Basketball Head Coach Skip Prosser announced at his April 25 press conference that the four assistant coaches from his staff at Xavier will be making the trip with him to Winston-Salem. Assistant Coaches Jeff Battle, Mark Schmidt, and Dino Gaudio and Director of Basketball Operations Chris Mack will make up the Demon Deacon staff next year.

Battle, a holdover from Prosser's time in 1994 at Loyola College, and Schmidt, who joined the Musketeer staff seven years ago, are the top two assistants, as well as the head recruiters.

Battle was an assistant coach at Delaware State for three years. He played for four years at Marshall University, with the school compiling an 82-38 record in his tenure as a player.

Schmidt played for four years at Boston College and was a member of the 1981-82 team that made the Elite Eight during his freshman year.

Former Deacon signs with New Orleans Saints

Senior Bryan Ray, a member of this year's Demon Deacon football team, signed a contract to play for the NFL's New Orleans Saints.

Ray had 54 tackles for the Deacs this year, including 13 for loss, while also racking up six sacks.

The Saints won the NFC West division last season, and also defeated the defending champion St. Louis Rams in the first round of the playoffs before falling to the Minnesota Vikings in the conference semifinals.

SCHEDULE

Thursday, April 26
Men's Track and Field, Philadelphia, Pa.

Friday, April 27
Men's Track and Field, Philadelphia, Pa.
Baseball at Maryland, College Park, Md., 7 p.m.

Saturday, April 28
Men's Track and Field, Philadelphia, Pa.
Baseball at Maryland, College Park, Md., 7 p.m.

Sunday, April 29
Baseball at Maryland, College Park, Md., 7 p.m.

Wednesday, May 2
Baseball vs. Davidson, Hooks Stadium, 3 p.m.

Deacs have close call at ACCs, finish 3rd

The Deacons, after leading by one going into the final round, fall to a third-place finish, despite three Deacs finishing in the top 10.

By Alex Myers
Old Gold and Black Reporter

In the biggest tournament of the year to date, the Deacon men's golf team certainly didn't disappoint. Playing against some of the top teams in the ACC Championships, the Deacs rose to the challenge and proved to all that they deserve to be mentioned as one of the elite teams in the nation. The 54-hole tournament was held over three days at the par-72, 7,093-yard Disney Magnolia Course in Orlando, Fla.

The Deacs played great golf during the event shooting rounds of 281, 283, and 290. In total, their score of 10 under par was good enough to place them third in the event. This marked the fifth straight tournament in which the Deacs have finished in the top three. However, finishing only one shot out of second after being so close to winning, the Deacs can't help but to think of what could have been. "We are all a little disappointed," said Head Coach Jerry Haas. "We were

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Jerry Haas
Head Coach

right there." Indeed, the Deacons were right there throughout the event. Following the second round of play, the Deacs, at 12 under par, found themselves in first place by a stroke over eventual champion Georgia Tech and four strokes in front of second-place finisher Clemson. However, the combination of sensational playing by the two competitors with the average play of the Deacs on Sunday allowed both Tech and Clemson to overcome the lead that the Deacs had previously held. The Yellow Jackets, led by senior All-American Bryce Molder, were especially impressive posting a 280, the low round of the day by five strokes. With this score, Tech ended up at 19 under par with an eight-stroke victory. This result didn't discourage Head Coach Jerry

Haas' team, though. "We walked away feeling we are just as good as anybody," Haas said. "It was a great experience for us. The more times we get there, the better we will handle these kinds of situations."

The Deacs got great play from top to bottom, having three players place within the top 10. For the second straight week, Brent Wanner led the charge for the Deacs firing a four-under par 212 for the week. This gave him a share of fourth place for the tournament. Teammates Bill Haas and Jay Morgan were close behind finishing in ties for sixth and tenth place respectively. Individual honors went to Clemson senior John Engler, who won by two shots over Molder with a score of 13 under par. His 54-hole total of 203 broke the tournament's previous record set by Deacon Gary Hallberg in 1980.

All in all, it was a great learning experience for the young Deacons. While their competitors like the Yellow Jackets and Tigers will all be losing players after this season, the entire Deacon squad will be returning. Knowing this gives the team the confidence that they will definitely have a chance to win this prestigious event again. The team is also convinced that they have a great shot of doing well in the upcoming Regionals. Jerry Haas summed it up best saying, "We walked away

Deacons display new look in spring game

By Mike Scott
Assistant Sports Editor

While the Jim Grobe era will not officially start until Sept. 1, 2001 when the Demon Deacons kick off the 2001 season in Greenville against East Carolina, Deacon fans were treated to a prelude of things to come April 21, as the football team participated in the first Spring Game under the tenure of the new head coach at Groves Stadium.

Anyone who followed the Deacons in recent years noticed something different immediately, even before the first snap came. That would be the offensive formation. After becoming accustomed to the pro-style, run it up the gut, one-yard (maybe) and a cloud of dust offense of former Head Coach Jim Caldwell, the spectators had to be wondering if their wasn't something in the honey mustard sauce they were dipping their chicken wings into. During the entire game, which was a strict offense vs. defense scrimmage, the Deacs were in a one-back, shotgun formation. While rushing plays still outnumbered passing plays by a nearly two to one ratio, the no-huddle offense seemed successful in keeping the defense on its toes as many of the running plays were to the outside of the tackles, including a generous dab of option runs.

Returning quarterbacks rising junior James MacPherson and rising sophomore Anthony Young, split time as they did last year, with both turning in good performances. MacPherson was 9-for-17 passing, accumulating 154 yards and one 15-yard touchdown toss to rising redshirt freshman Jason Anderson. Young, the more mobile of the two, was a little shaky passing, going 4-for-11, but his speed was on display in the new offensive formation as he ran seven times for 51 yards, including touchdown runs of eight and 13 yards. Grobe has said that he does not want to have the two splitting time during the season, and will name a starter, although there is no timetable for when that will occur. MacPherson feels he can only go out and play and let the rest take care of itself.

"Right now, I'm doing all I can, I'm doing my best. To be the starter I just have to play more solidly, a little more consistently," MacPherson said. "Bad plays happen now and then, I feel really confident whether I'm running the option or passing and just as far as being every day consistent and being able to



Elizabeth Schneider/Old Gold and Black

Head Coach Jim Grobe addresses the football team after the annual Spring Game, held April 21 at Groves Stadium. The Deacons will open the 2001 season on the road against in-state rival East Carolina University in Greenville. The Spring Game marks the end of practice for the team every spring.

put the ball in the end zone against whatever team we go out against, and just being confident and being able to lead the team, I think that'll make me a starter."

The Deacs also have a new look on the defensive side of the ball. The new coaching staff has switched from last year's 4-3 defense to a 3-4 scheme, in hopes of increasing the team speed. Due to this switch, many players have been moved to the linebacker spot to fill the increased need there. Leading tacklers for the defense were defensive backs rising sophomore Obi Chukwumah, rising senior Adrian Duncan and rising junior Walter Simmons, with eight, seven and six respectively.

Duncan had two tackles for loss. The defensive backfield also proved to be opportunistic, as both rising senior Chris Justice and rising junior Daryl Shaw both came up with interceptions. While things looked promising, Grobe still sees area that need work.

"We've got some problems," Grobe said. "I think inside linebacker is still a concern,

although I do think we got a lot better. Certainly only having two centers and two quarterbacks is a major concern. I wish we had more competition at those two positions. One position that I felt pretty good about was our wide receiver position, depth wise, but then (rising senior) Ira Williams breaks a bone in the back of his hand, (rising junior) Fabian Davis sprains his ankle playing volleyball. I think that probably if you looked at us right now we need a little more depth at quarterback and at center and then we need a couple of those inside linebackers to kind of step up and say, 'Hey, I'm the guy.'"

Two position players also came up big for the Deacs on offense. Rising junior Tarence Williams, the team's leading rusher last year, continued that role by rushing for 89 yards on 17 carries. The name behind Williams on the rushing list, however, was a surprise. Rising senior John Stone, a wide receiver, was second behind Williams in rushing yards for the day, gaining 84 on only six

carries.

This stat is a good representative of the way the new coaching staff seemed to want to get Stone, a track star who is taking this year off to focus on football, more touches than he got last year. He also had three catches for 34 yards, astoundingly averaging more yards per carry than per reception. Stone is happy with his new, more prominent role.

"Of course, when they get the ball in my hands I'm going to love that," Stone said. "I'm just trying to do the best I can for the team, and, compared to last year, running track I think hurt me a little bit. This year, I'm on the field with the guys and trying to get acclimated with the new coaches and I think they're really giving me a good shot at it."

All in all, while there is still plenty of work to be done, the day was a success for the Deacs, and it gave every indication that Grobe and the team will be looking to improve greatly on last year's 2-9 campaign. They will get that chance starting Sept. 1 in Greenville.

Deacs break records, but fall short of hopes

Women's track breaks school records in the shot put and mile relay, but disappoints with an eighth-place finish overall.

By Jim Gleitman
Old Gold and Black Reporter

It seemed as though history repeated itself this past weekend as the women's track team traveled to Orlando, Fla. for the ACC Championships. The meet, which is held outdoors, is difficult for the Deacs because it eliminates some distance events and adds sprint events. The women's track team has always been known for their distance runners, which has made these outdoor meets difficult.

They did however, have strong showings from their distance runners and in addition broke two more school records. Junior Sandra Jenkins set a school record in the shot put with a toss of 45' 8-1/2" and senior Sara Day placed third in the 5,000-meter run with a time of 16:37.75. The Deacs also set a school record in the mile relay. Freshman Jamie Grayzer led the Deacs in the heptathlon by finishing fourth place with 4,604 points. Freshman Nikeya Green and senior Summer Shaw finished fourth and fifth in the 800-meter run with

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Annie Schweitzer-Bennett
Head Coach

times of 2:08.68 and 2:09.58, respectively. Senior Kelly Brady took fifth place in the 1,500-meter run with a time of 4:30.21.

After such strong performances in the previous weeks, one might feel an eighth place finish was somewhat disappointing. According to Head Coach Annie Schweitzer-Bennett it was.

"I was a little disappointed," Schweitzer-Bennett said. "We could not foresee ourselves placing any higher than seventh, but we didn't have as many solid performances as we would have liked."

To say that this meet was a disappointment or not is decided in how you look at the situation. The team currently consists of 16 or so freshman and is mainly

comprised of distance runners. However, the team has proven before that these characteristics are not to be taken as excuses.

In looking ahead to the NCAA Tournament Day is the only automatic qualifier and the team is looking to get others into the meet. Within the next month Schweitzer-Bennett is going to try and get Green, Shaw and fellow freshmen Courtney Lancashire and Shauna Danos into the tournament by finding events for them to set qualifying marks.

After analyzing this weekend's meet it is clear that the Deacs need to add to this already talented team some additional weapons in order to be competitive with the other powerhouse schools of the nation. Next year, Schweitzer-Bennett will have another thrower and one of the best long jumpers in the nation joining her squad. "We are moving in a positive direction. It just takes time, we can't do everything overnight," Schweitzer-Bennett said. "We don't want to just go get another sprinter, we want to get someone like (freshman) Carol (Merritt) that can go out as a freshman and make a National squad."

Up next for the Deacs are the Penn Relays April 26-28. The team is excited about the upcoming event and will try and improve on their performance this past weekend.