Deacons place 10th in S.C.

By Mike Scott
Sports Editor

The Demon Deacon women's golf team took a minor stumble coming down the stretch in the Lady Gamecock Classic, dropping two spots in the final round to finish 10th out of a 15-team field with a score of 63-over 927. This marks the worst finish for the Deacons so far this season.

"I think we're all disappointed in how we played, particularly the last day," Head Coach Dianne Dailey said. "It was just one of those days where everybody had a bad day. The conditions were good, it just was one of those situations where we just didn't have a low score that day. We understand that we need to be in the 295-300 range anyway, so we need to do a little bit better.

"I think the greens were difficult for us this week and we didn't putt as well as we needed to and we're going to be working on that this week to get better. We have a good team, we have a lot of talent, we have a team that will do better in the future I think."

Freshman Ashley Hoagland impressed at the 5,993-yard, par 72 University Club, as she shot rounds of 74, 76 and 78 to finish at 12-over-par 228, putting her in 30th place. Junior Nuria Clau, ranked No. 8 entering the tournament, slipped back in the final round, firing scores of 74, 75 and 80 to finish in 32nd place at 12-over-par 229. Dailey has been impressed with Hoagland's play.

"Ahley (Hoagland) is playing very well," Dailey said. "This is only her second tournament, she was injured in the fall and wasn't able to play for us, but she's come back, she's playing very strong. I know she was disappotined in her last day's round, but overall she's a hard worker, she has a good overall game and I think she'll be a really strong player for us.

"I'm really pleased that as a freshman she's stepping up and she'll be playing No. 1 for us at Georgia."

Junior Maria Beautell also cracked the top forty, firing scores of 76, 77 and 80 to finish at 17-over, placing her 36th. Senior Kate Brenny shot a 27-over 243 to finish 65th and Veronica Prado-Lacoste shot a 39-over 255 to place 78th.

The Deacons finished behind ACC rivals Duke (first place), North Carolina (eighth place) and Florida State (ninth place). Duke's Niloufar Aazam-Zanganeh took medalist honors.

"We were diappointed that we finished behind all three of the ACC schools, but I don't think that's indicative of how we'll play in the future," Dailey said. "In the past we have been able to beat North Carolina and Florida State. They didn't beat us by a lot and if we had played just a little bit better that last day I think we would have been there, and I think overall our team is stronger than those two teams.

"Duke is a very strong team, they're No. 1 in the country, and we're going to have to play extremely well to beat them."

The Deacons return to action March 22-24 in Athens, Ga., at the University of Georgia's Liz Murphey Collegiate.

"We're going to be working in practice on the different areas of weakness of each of the students and trying to make those stronger and trying to maintain the strengths of each of the kids," Dailey said.

"We'll be working with each of the students individually to work on the things that they were weak on this last week and see how we can do. We're going to be working to get better.

"They're not happy with how they played, because I think we're a better team than what we showed, so we'll regroup and go again this next week."

Danielle Fisher/*Old Gold and Black*

Bringin' heat

A member of the Diamond Deacons pitches against Georgia. The Deacs took one game from the Bulldogs, a College World Series team last year, before falling in a rain-shortened contest March 20.

NCAA Tourney: Flashes, Tigers and Salukis — oh my!

By Jordan Webster
Senior Reporter

Saluki: any of an ancient northern African or Asian breed of tall, swift, slender hunting dogs, having long narrow heads, long silky ears and a smooth silky coat.

Just in case you were wondering. Because prior to 11th-seeded Southern Illinois' unforeseen run through 6th-seeded Texas Tech and 3rd-seeded Georgia to an East Regional semifinal in this year's NCAA tournament, I'd never heard of a Saluki. They were dogs, all right, but of a different breed – *under*dogs. But the Salukis will join 15 other, more likely, members in the Sweet 16 and participants in regional semifinals, held March 21 and 22 at sites throughout the country.

Last weekend's first and second round matchups dwindled the original field of 65 to 16, and if your bracket even vaguely resembles what has transpired thus far, you probably did one of two things: 1) fastened your sheet to the wall, blindfolded yourself and played pin-the-tail-on-the-winner, or 2) cheated.

Granted, there are your regulars among the teams that have survived thus far. Three top seeds are left, but Duke, Maryland and Kansas have been penciled in as virtual locks to be playing on the season's final weekend since Thanksgiving, so their membership in the Sweet 16 is hardly a surprise.

A trio of No. 2 seeds – Connecticut, Oklahoma, and those foul Oregon Ducks – remain as well, along with two No. 3-seeds in Arizona and Pittsburgh.

But then there's Southern Illinois. The Salukis captured the regular season crown in the Missouri Valley Conference but fell to Creighton in the conference tournament, and was actually sweating it out on Selection Sunday. Probably one of the last two or three teams to snag an at-large bid, now the Salukis, led by 6-foot-8 forward Jermaine Dearman, who has scored 42 points in his team's two tourney wins, are two games from Atlanta.

Southern Illinois will face Connecticut, the Big East tournament champs, in their regional semifinal, and the winner will meet either top-seeded Maryland or 4th-seeded Kentucky in the East Regional Final for a berth in the Final Four. The Terps are the favorites to roll to Atlanta and, barring a miracle, they should make their second straight Final Four appearance.

The only team seeded lower than Southern Illinois that survived the first two rounds is Missouri, a talented Big 12 team that aptly clawed its way into the field as a No. 12 seed in the West Region. The Tigers were expected to be one of the nation's top teams this year, but the fact that their seed was lower than their preseason national ranking – eighth – demonstrates just how little Head Coach Quin Snyder's squad had done to justify such lofty expectations in the regular season.

Should they knock off 8th-seeded UCLA in their regional semifinal, the Tigers' pride, and their season, will have come full circle, returning to one of the top eight teams in the country.

Standing in Mizzou's way, though, are the Bruins, the only team to oust a top seed thus far. They outlasted Cincinnati, 105-101, in double overtime to earn their berth in the Sweet 16. The Missouri/UCLA winner will draw either 2nd-seeded Oklahoma or 3rd-seeded Arizona in the West final. Look for Oklahoma to win out and snare the Final Four berth.

In the Midwest, No. 1 seed Kansas overcame a brief scare from 16th-seeded Holy Cross in the opening round, and then blew out Stanford to earn its spot in the regional semifinals. The Jayhawks will be looking for revenge against 4th-seeded Illinois, as the Illini knocked Kansas out of the tournament last year.

The other Midwest semifinal pits Texas, which beat Mississippi State to move on, and Oregon, which held off our beloved Demon Deacons – more of a M.A.S.H. unit than a basketball team by the end of the game – to advance to the Sweet 16.

Texas is a good team that is overachieving, Illinois is an excellent team that has underachieved, and the Ducks wouldn't be where they are if Demon Deacon Head Coach Skip Prosser hadn't been forced to suit up the 14-year-old in the second row because of his team's bout with injuries. That leaves Kansas, a pretty darn good team anyway. They'll be in Atlanta, too.

Finally, top-seeded Duke remains in the East, after surviving a scare from Notre Dame in the second round. The Dukies will grapple with the 5th-seeded Indiana Hoosiers in the regional semis. Indiana defeated Utah and UNC-Wilmington to earn their date with the defending national champs. On the other end of the East bracket is the final surprise of the tournament, the Golden Flashes of Kent State. A No. 10 seed, the Flashes struck down 7th-seeded Oklahoma State in the first round and hammered 2nd-seeded Alabama in the second, earning themselves a matchup with the third seed, Pittsburgh.

Look for the Panthers to end Kent State's honeymoon and send the Flashes tumbling into collegiate athletics oblivion for at least another year. Then don't be surprised if Pitt, one of the nation's best defensive teams, stymies Duke's offensive juggernaut and pulls the upset to grab the final spot in Atlanta. The Blue Devils have too many holes – foul shooting, rebounding, and the lack of ACC officiating, to name a few – to repeat as champs. Pitt should pound them on the boards, and harass them enough on the perimeter to send the Devils back to Durham for Easter weekend.

Of course, these projections could be entirely incorrect. But at least you know what a saluki is.

2002 NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament

Graphic by Tamara Dunn

SOUTH

1 Duke	84	Duke	84	Duke (29-3)			
16 Winthrop	37						
8 Notre Dame	82	Notre Dame	77				
9 Charlotte	63						
5 Indiana	75	Indiana	76	Indiana (20-11)			
12 Utah	56						
4 USC	89	UNC-W	67				
13 UNC-Wilmington	93						
6 California	82	California	50				
11 Penn.	75			Pittsburgh (27-5)			
3 Pittsburgh	71	Pittsburgh	63				
14 C. Conn.	54						
7 Oklahoma St.	61	Kent State	71				
10 Kent State	69			Kent State (27-5)			
2 Alabama	86	Alabama	58				
15 FAU	78						

Rupp Arena, Lexington, KY

EAST

Maryland	87	1 Maryland	85	Maryland (26-4)			
16 Siena	70						
Wisconsin	57	8 Wisconsin	80				
9 St. John's	70						
Tulsa	82	5 Marquette	69	Kentucky (20-9)			
12 Tulsa	71						
Kentucky	87	4 Kentucky	83				
13 Valparaiso	68						
S. Illinois	77	6 Texas Tech	68	S. Illinois (26-7)			
11 S. Illinois	77						
Georgia	75	3 Georgia	85				
14 Murray St.	68						
NC State	74	7 NC State	69	UConn (24-6)			
10 Michigan State	58						
UConn	77	2 UConn	78				
15 Hampton	67						

Carrier Dome, Syracuse, NY

WEST

1 Cincinnati	90	Cincinnati	101	UCLA (19-11)			
16 Boston U.	52						
8 UCLA	80	UCLA	105				
9 Ole Miss	58						
5 Miami	80	Missouri	83	Missouri (21-11)			
12 Missouri	93						
4 Ohio State	69	Ohio State	67				
13 Davidson	64						
6 Gonzaga	66	Wyoming	60				
11 Wyoming	73			Arizona (22-9)			
3 Arizona	86	Arizona	68				
14 UCSB	81						
7 Xavier	70	Xavier	65				
10 Hawaii	58			Oklahoma (27-4)			
2 Oklahoma	71	Oklahoma	78				
15 Ill-Chicago	63						

San Jose Arena, San Jose, CA

MIDWEST

Kansas	86	1 Kansas	70	Kansas (29-3)			
16 Holy Cross	59						
Stanford	63	8 Stanford	84				
9 W. Kentucky	68						
Creighton	60	5 Florida	82	Illinois (24-8)			
12 Creighton	83						
Illinois	72	4 Illinois	93				
13 SDSU	64						
Texas	68	6 Texas	70	Texas (20-11)			
11 Boston College	57						
Miss. St.	64	3 Miss. St.	70				
14 McNeese St.	58						
Wake Forest	87	7 Wake Forest	83	Oregon (23-8)			
10 Pepperdine	74						
Oregon	92	2 Oregon	81				
15 Montana	62						

Kohl Center, Madison, WI