

# DEACON NOTES

## Demon Deacons jump into both national polls

After opening the season 4-1 and reaching the final game of the Preseason NIT the Demon Deacon basketball team was ranked in both of the national polls debuting Nov. 26.

In the Associated Press Poll, the Deacons were ranked 25, while the ESPN/USA Today Coaches Poll had the Deacs at 23rd.

The team rose in the rankings thanks to their strong showing in the tournament, beating UNC-Wilmington, Arkansas and Fresno State before falling to Syracuse in a close final game. Both the semi-final and final games were held in New York City at Madison Square Garden.

After beating the Deacs, the Orangemen rose in the polls substantially, coming in at No. 11 in the AP and No. 10 in the coaches poll.

The Deacons return to action Dec. 4 when they travel to Lawrence, Kan., to face the Kansas Jayhawks in a rematch of last year's thrilling Deacon victory.

## Deacons earn end-of-week, end-of-year ACC honors

A plethora of Demon Deacon football players were on the receiving end of ACC honors as the conference handed out Player of the Week honors Nov. 26 and All-ACC honors Nov. 27.

Senior offensive guard Michael Collins was the only Deacon to earn first-team honors for the year, as he was named first team All-ACC. Junior tailback Tarence Williams, junior defensive end Calvin Pace, senior defensive end Nate Bolling and senior returner John Stone were all named to the second team, while senior center Vince Azzolina earned honorable mention.

Collins, a 6-foot-6, 292-pound Hickory native, is the first Deacon to receive first team honors since 1999, and the first offensive player to earn the honor since 1992. He anchored an impressive offensive line that allowed only 13 times on the season and led the offense to an average of 221.6 yards per game.

Williams, running behind said offensive line, rushed for 1,018 yards and 10 touchdowns in 10 games.

Pace and Bolling served as very effective bookends on the defensive line, with Pace notching 62 tackles, 18 for a loss, and 10 sacks, while Bolling had 73 tackles, 21 for a loss, and five sacks.

Stone averaged 26.7 yards per kickoff return and also scored once on a 93-yard return against Georgia Tech.

Stone and Collins, along with freshman defensive back Caron Bracy, also earned ACC Player of the Week honors Nov. 26 for their play in the Deacons' 38-35 victory over Northern Illinois Nov. 24. Collins was named Offensive Lineman of the Week, Stone was named Specialist of the Week and Bracy was named Rookie of the Week.

Bracy, a six-foot redshirt freshman out of Jacksonville, Fla., recorded six tackles against the Huskies.

## Future bright with four new Deacs entering fold

Men's Head Basketball Coach Skip Prosser announced Nov. 21 that he had received national letters of intent from four current high school seniors to join the Deacon squad next year.

The four recruits are 6-foot-9 Eric Williams of Wake Forest's Rolesville High, 6-foot-2 Justin Gray, a native of Charlotte playing at Oak Hill Academy, 6-foot-5 Richard Joyce, who hails from Mt. Airy but plays with Gray at Oak Hill, and 6-foot-9 Chris Ellis, from Marietta, Ga.'s Marietta High. Ellis is the son of former NBA three-point specialist Dale Ellis.

The four will look to replace the five seniors that will graduate from the team after this season.

# SCHEDULE

**Thursday, November 29**  
Women's Basketball at Western Carolina, Cullowhee, 7 p.m.

**Tuesday, December 4**  
Men's Basketball at Kansas, Lawrence, Kan., 9 p.m.

**Wednesday, December 5**  
Women's Basketball at North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 7 p.m.

# Volleyball ends season on winning note

By Vanessa St. Gerard  
Old Gold and Black Reporter

The Deacon volleyball team ended its season with two victories at the Turkey Classic held at the University of Alabama, to end the 2001 campaign with a 20-11 overall record, and 10-7 in the ACC.

After being knocked out of the ACC Tournament with a first-round loss to Florida State, the Deacs traveled to Tuscaloosa, Ala., to play in the inaugural Turkey Classic from Nov. 23-24. There, the Demon Deacons faced the Alabama Crimson Tide and the Middle Tennessee State Blue Raiders.

The Deacs came back to defeat Alabama in the first game of their contest. The Crimson Tide led 25-22 before the Deacons rallied with five straight points to go up 27-25.

The Deacon squad held onto the lead and won the first game 30-28. In the second game, the Deacs had a 10-point lead at 20-10 before Alabama went on a 14-4 run to tie the game at 24. Alabama led at 28-27, but the Deacs went on to score three straight points to win the match 30-28.

The seesaw battle continued in the third game. The Deacs were ahead 27-25 late in the game before scoring three straight points to finish off a three-game sweep of Alabama.

Senior outside hitter Trina Maso de Moya posted a game-high 18 digs, while sophomore middle blocker Jessica Hauff posted a team-high 12 kills for the match.

As a team, the Deacs tallied 46 kills, 14 blocks and six aces.

On the second day of the tournament, the Deacons once again swept their opponents. The Deacs defeated the Blue Raiders in three games, 30-22, 30-24 and 30-25.

Maso de Moya collected game highs in both kills and digs, posting 17 and 18, respectively. She also served up a career-best seven aces in her final collegiate match.

Sophomore outside hitter Sara Beth DeLisle tallied 12 kills, 15 digs and a team-best .364 hitting percentage while senior middle blocker Margaret David-

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Valorie Baker  
Head Coach

son recorded 10 kills and two block assists.

The win over the Blue Raiders marked the Deacs' 20th victory of the season, which also marked the fourth consecutive time the Demon Deacons have finished with a 20-win season.

"I am very pleased to have another 20-win season, for a predominantly young team." Head Coach Valorie Baker said.

"We had a lot of leadership presented by our senior class who statistically and emotionally supported the team throughout the year. I would have liked to have won in the ACC Tournament, but we were able to compete and win

two good matches to end the season."

On Nov. 16, the Deacons entered the ACC Tournament ranked fifth in the conference. Fourth-ranked Florida State hosted this year's tournament and faced the Deacs in both teams' first round of play.

The Deacs were swept in three games by the Seminoles, 23-30, 26-30 and 27-30.

Maso de Moya led the team with 16 kills and 14 digs, while Davidson added 11 kills for the Demon Deacons.

"I was a little disappointed with our overall team performance," Baker said. "We had individuals that played a good match but as a team, we didn't pull together enough to overcome the competition. Florida State played a great tournament and that showed in their play."

The Seminoles went on to face the No. 2 Tar Heels in the championship match, where they lost 1-3.

Seniors Maso de Moya and Davidson earned All-ACC honors when they were selected for the first and second team, respectively. Along with defensive specialist Amber Rieg, the Deacon team graduates three seniors.



Maso de Moya

# Deacons downed by No. 1 Connecticut

By Matt Gallagher  
Old Gold and Black Reporter

So, there's a reason why Connecticut is ranked No. 1 in the country in women's basketball.

The Huskies descended upon Lawrence Joel Coliseum Nov. 26 to face off against a Demon Deacon squad which was coming off three solid outings--and had a 2-1 record to show for their efforts. Nevertheless, Connecticut breezed its way through the game, rolling to an 88-38 victory.

After opening up a 35-6 lead in the first half by canning 15 of their first 16 shots, the Huskies never looked back, and saw all five starters reach double figures.

"All of your team's weaknesses are glaring against a team like Connecticut," said Deacon Head Coach Charlene Curtis. "I have to put that game aside. Hopefully, we learned a lot."

Sophomore forward Eafon Hill led the Deacons with 10 points and sophomore forward Tracy Alston chipped in with 10 rebounds and five assists, but overall the Deacs were out-rebounded 46-33 and shot 24 percent from the field for the game.

The Huskies ran their record to 6-0 while the Deacons fell to 2-2.

The Demon Deacons opened their regular season with two solid home victories over Appalachian State and Radford, held Nov. 19 and Nov. 21, respectively.

Sophomore guard Tonia Brown carried the team to a 70-66 victory over Appalachian State, and cemented the victory with a clutch three-pointer with just over two minutes to play to make the score 68-66.

Brown had 19 points on the night, while junior forward Tiffani Listenbee exploded for 15 points and nine rebounds. Hill scored 15 points and recorded four blocks.

Defense was the key for icing out the victory over the Mountaineers, as the Deacs forced 19 steals, led by sophomore Bianca Brown, who swiped five.

No such late-game heroics were needed two days later against Radford, as the Demon Deacons dominated every facet of the game, seizing a 79-65 victory.

Senior center LaChina Robinson led the charge, pouring in 15 points and hauling down 20 boards. Brown added 13 points as the team roared out of the gates to a 43-23 halftime lead and never looked back.

For the first road trip of the season, the Deacons traveled to Alabama-Birmingham on Nov. 24. UAB's Head Coach Jeannie Milling was searching for her 400th career win, and found it against the Deacs with an 80-61 victory.

Hill led the team with 17 points in the losing effort, and Robinson had 11 points and eight rebounds.

The young Deacons, who have started three sopho-



Stephen Tatum/Old Gold and Black

Junior forward Tiffani Listenbee takes a shot against in the Demon Deacons' 70-66 victory over Appalachian State on Nov. 19. The Deacs stand at 2-2 on this young season.

mores and one junior thus far, and have seven underclassmen on the roster, have frustrated Curtis with their inconsistent early season play. "Our young players have to continue to mature to provide steady play," she said. "We have to be a better rebounding team ... but, in the end, we will be a better team (than last year)."

The squad took a heavy blow when Hill, one of the team's few steady performers, injured both her feet. She

fractured one foot and has a stress fracture in the other. She will be sidelined for at least two weeks, according to Curtis.

The Demon Deacons next head to Western Carolina Nov. 29 for a non-conference meeting before heading to Chapel Hill Dec. 5 to face North Carolina in their first conference game. The Tar Heels have a 5-1 record and are ranked 24th in the nation.

# Deacs fall to American in NCAA Tournament

By Margaret McKenzie  
Old Gold and Black Reporter

A 3-0 defeat at the hands of American University in the NCAA Tournament brought the 2001 season to an end for the men's soccer team. Despite playing at Spry Stadium and enjoying a first-round bye, the Deacs could not capitalize on the home field advantage in the second-round game on Nov. 25.

Perhaps feeling rusty after more than a week's layoff from game action, the Deacons could not generate enough scoring opportunities. The best chance for the Deacs came with eight minutes left in the first half. Senior midfielder Christian Lonteen was free inside the penalty box, threatening to score, but American's defense quickly responded and Lonteen lost the shot opportunity.

American's first goal came early in the game at the 11:30 mark. Andrew Herman crossed the ball into the box from the right side, finding Adam Rosen. Rosen recorded his ninth goal of the year when his shot slipped past sophomore goalkeeper William Hesmer into the bottom right corner of the goal.

The Eagles added two insurance goals in the second half. Controversy surrounded the second goal in the 67th minute. Herman gathered a pass at the 25-yard line and dribbled in for the goal, but the Deacons argued that Herman had used his hands in controlling the ball. The argument yielded a yellow card for Hesmer and junior defender Aaron Thomas was given a red card. After Thomas was ejected, the Deacs were faced with the daunting challenge of playing one man down for the remainder of the game.

After the ejection, American was able to easily control the ball and stay on the attack. The Deacon defense responded, but with just under 10 minutes remaining American organized an efficient attack, adding a final goal by Rosen.

The Deacs spent the week prior to the NCAA Tournament in Clemson, S.C., competing for the ACC crown, but were unable to advance past the second round.

In the first round the Deacons faced in-state rival Duke, defeating them 2-1 in an overtime shootout. In a game dominated by defense, neither team scored in the

first half and it was not until the 72:27 mark that Duke scored the game's first goal. Trevor Pera sent the ball to the center of the field, where Demetrio Sanchez controlled the ball. Sanchez's shot came from just inside the penalty box, giving Duke the lead.

The Deacons responded five minutes later when Thomas scored just his second goal of the year. Sophomore midfielder Vicente Bastidas crossed the ball into junior defender Bobby Gehring. Gehring tapped the ball to Thomas six yards out, leading to the tying goal.

Regulation ended with the game knotted at 1-1. Two overtime periods yielded no goals and the game was sent into penalty kicks. In the first round both Kevin Wickart and Sanchez's shots were blocked. The second round resulted in Brian Carroll's successful shot into the center of the goal for the Deacs, but Duke responded when Donald McIntosh sent his shot on the ground into the right corner. Both Thomas and Duke's Kevin Sakuda missed their third round shots. The Deacs gained the advantage in the fourth round when Basti-

das sent his shot into the back of the net and Hesmer blocked the shot by Duke's Pera. Scott Sealy sealed the victory for the Deacs when his shot went into the upper middle section of the goal.

The Deacons' defense was once again strong in their second round game against Virginia, but the Cavaliers edged the Deacs 1-0 in overtime.

Neither team scored in regulation, but Virginia's Virginia's Kyle Martino scored the winning goal less than two minutes into the overtime period. The goal resulted from a unique, unforced error from the Deacons. Looking to clear the ball, the Deacon defense passed the ball back to Hesmer in goal. Hesmer, however, slipped on the wet field in Riggs Stadium. Martino gathered the loose ball and sent a shot into the open goal.

Despite Hesmer's six saves, the Cavaliers advanced to the ACC title game where the Clemson Tigers eventually upset them 1-0.

White and Thomas were both named to the first team All-ACC Tournament team and Hesmer and Carroll were named to the second team. The Deacons finish the season 13-6-2.