

## Pressbox: 'Wake Way'

Continued from Page B1

a much improved Duke team. In a sport where the small school size should hurt Wake Forest the most and they are now 4-3 on the year and on their way to another winning season.

Wake Forest also had one of its teams continue an unbeaten streak this year as the Deacon men's soccer team, ranked No. 2 nationally, squeaked out a 1-0 victory over No. 11 South Carolina to run their record to a perfect 9-0-2.

Ten was the magic number for the field hockey team as they extended their winning streak to 10 games with a 10-1 drubbing of Appalachian State.

Away from home, seventh-ranked women's soccer also continued their winning ways with a clutch double overtime win over Florida State, who apparently the gods were against this weekend. Volleyball notched a victory over N.C. State and finally, women's cross-country ran to its third victory of the season.

In a recent edition of *Sports Illustrated*, Wake Forest was named the 39th-best sports program in the country. Though this ranking was based on other factors besides the teams' success, it shows that this school has established itself as having a strong all-around sports program. This ranking will undoubtedly continue to get better, as this fall Deacon teams have elevated their play to another level.

Currently, the Deacs boast six teams ranked nationally in the Top 20 that are competing during the fall season in some form. Five of these teams are in the Top 10. Statistics like these don't lie; the Deacs are figuring prominently in the national collegiate sports scene. These stats also don't count the perennially strong basketball and baseball teams that we will look forward to watching in the winter and spring seasons.

All of this is pretty impressive for a school with around 4,000 students. This small school feel was never more evident as students spilled into the diminutive Reynolds Gym to witness Midnight Madness on Oct. 12. While other schools kicked off the start of basketball season in huge arenas or in the brand new, glimmering Comcast Center as in the case of the University of Maryland, Wake Forest's opening ceremonies were held in a much humbler setting.

This is exactly what makes this school's sports program special though: its intimacy. In contrast to bigger schools like Maryland and North Carolina's celebrations, fans watching in Reynolds could actually feel like they were a part of the action. When it was over, students exited out of the gym by walking on the court that the players had just competed on. Students could easily even mingle with their heroes of the hardwood as they left. This was a far cry from the situation at a bigger school where the players are merely names and not people who can be approached.

At Wake Forest we actually see our athletes around campus on a daily basis. Almost every student has probably had multiple classes with a member of a sports team. Perhaps you've been involved in a group project with Josh Howard or participated in a science lab with Scott Sealy. The point is, at Wake Forest our players are truly student-athletes and part of the community that we find ourselves a part of everyday as students. As a result, we as students are all closer to our athletes, who can compete with those from any other school, than we would be on almost any other campus.

So while schools like Texas, Oklahoma, Miami and Georgia receive huge attention for their football teams, Wake Forest will continue to hover under the radar of receiving national coverage. Deac athletes show just as much talent and experience the same emotions as those who played in any of the huge nationally televised games this past weekend yet they sometimes don't receive their just due. Maybe this is what suits the school best though. Deac competitors in all sports have proven in the past that they can succeed without the national focus being on them and Homecoming was just the latest example of this.

# Volleyball: Baker earns 50th coaching win

Continued from Page B1

with 12 and junior outside hitter Sara Beth DeLisle had 10. Also, senior setter Ashlee Phillips recorded 47 assists and sophomore defensive specialist and setter Tawni Schulte led the team with 14 digs.

With the victory the team climbs into a fourth place tie with the Clemson Tigers in the ACC at 4-3.

Baker is very excited at the position



Phillips

the team is in right now.

"The ACC is a challenging conference, with two teams in the Top 25," she said.

She added that the past two wins are very "positive moments," for the

team, and she is excited about the possibilities. "This could be the catalyst, which could push us into the second round of the ACC tournament," Baker said.

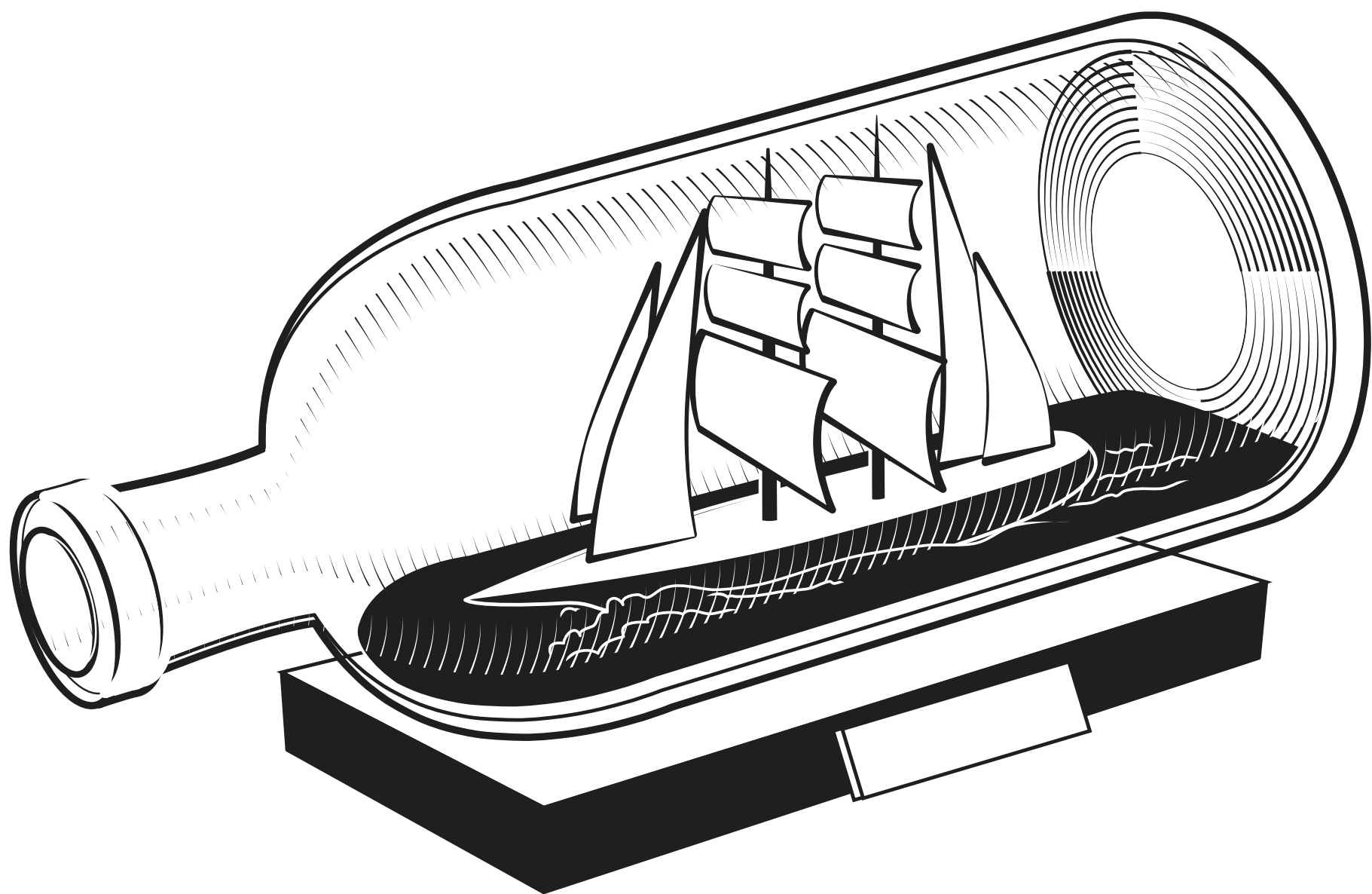
This weekend is a huge point in the volleyball Demon Deacons' 2002 season, as the two teams that are on top of the ACC standings come to town to pay a visit.

The Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets are ranked 20th in the nation and second in the ACC with a record of 19-3 overall,



Williams

5-1 in league play, and the Florida State Seminoles boast a record of 12-6 overall, and are 4-2 in league play. The matches will be held on Oct. 18 and 19 inside the Reynolds Gym at 5 p.m. and 6 p.m., respectively.



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