

# Women's tennis opens season at St. Mary's Classic

## Coetzee defeats 36th-ranked player in the nation in Knoxville

By Allison Soule  
Old Gold and Black Reporter

The women's tennis team has already set out to prove that this year's team will not settle for last year's 4-23 record.

In their first tournament of the season, the Demon Deacons traveled to Knoxville, Tenn. for the St. Mary's Health System Women's Tennis Classic Sept. 19-21. Seven of the eight team members participating in the tournament won at least two of the three singles matches they competed in, and doubles play ended with a unified effort that yielded four wins and four losses.

"The entire team did great," Head Coach Brian Fleishman said. "There were no low points in the tournament and I was really impressed with everyone's efforts."

Perhaps the most successful player of the tournament was freshman Blakely Offutt, who dominated all three of her matches and won the eighth flight championship.

"I was really nervous," Offutt said. "It was the first tournament of my college career, and yeah, that was scary."

Offutt defeated Taylor Parker of North Carolina State, Lindsay Bryan of Ohio State and Claudia Farace of Tennessee. She said Bryan was her most challenging opponent.

"She was really consistent and really made me learn to be patient so I could stay in the point," Offutt said.

Offutt attributed her consistency to her teammates.

"Having girls in practice that are so much better than me makes me have to step up my game in order to say with

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Brian Fleishman  
Head Coach

them," Offutt said. "We all push each other to get better."

One player who does a lot of the pushing is top-seeded junior Karin Coetzee. Over the weekend, Coetzee recorded a personal best by defeating Jessica Roland of Texas A&M (7-5, 6-0), the 36th-ranked player in the nation.

The only setback Coetzee suffered was against North Carolina's Aniela Mojzis, the 31st-ranked player in the nation. After taking the first set 6-3, Coetzee seemed to lose concentration and also made a few alterations to her game. These actions proved detrimental to the match.

"I changed my game plan," she said. "And I couldn't manage to get it back—I was going for winners instead of working the points more."

Despite the second day setback, Coetzee dominated the third day of competition by defeating Roland and placing third overall in the first flight.

"(Coetzee) played really well," Fleishman said. "She is the type of player that on any given day she could beat anybody."

Coetzee and Offutt's counterparts performed equally well, all placing in the top five standings of the tournament.

Returning junior Katie Martzolf finished second overall in the second flight standings, claiming victories over Shawna Zuccarini of Purdue (6-1, 6-3) and Helga Viera of Texas A&M (6-4, 6-3). Her only loss was a closely fought battle against Ashley Robards of Tennessee that ended



Lisa Katerman/Old Gold and Black

Freshman Blakely Offutt won the eighth flight singles championships at the St. Mary's Health System Women's Tennis Classic in Knoxville, Tenn. Offutt won all three of her matches to win the flight.

with scores of 6-3 and 7-5.

Freshman Ashlee Davis competed in her first collegiate tournament and finished fourth in the third flight championship.

The other four members of the team each concluded the tournament with fifth place standings: senior Aimee Smith in the fourth flight; junior Danielle Schwartz

in the fifth; senior Elizabeth Proctor in the sixth; and sophomore Sandie Knight in the seventh. Smith, Schwartz, Proctor and Knight each garnered wins the second and third days of the tournament, but had already lost their matches on the first day.

As a whole, the team considered the St. Mary's Classic a success, and like

most first tournaments, it was a learning opportunity.

"It was a chance to see where we stand," Fleishman said. "Our theme this year is 'It's not how you start, it's how you finish,' and that is part of our goal."

The Deacs will be in action next at the Virginia Tech Invitational, scheduled for Sept. 26-28 in Blacksburg, Va.

# Soccer falls to Monarchs, set to face No. 1 Terps

## No. 5 Demon Deacons shut out, 2-0, by Old Dominion, dropping record to 4-2

By Peter Bergman  
Old Gold and Black Reporter

Left in the wake of Hurricane Isabel for the fifth-ranked men's soccer team over the past weekend were a cancelled and a postponed game, the latter resulting in another heartbreaking loss. The Deacs fell to sixth-ranked Old Dominion 2-0 to drop their record to 4-2 on the year.

Originally the Deacs were to travel to William and Mary Sept. 19 and then to play Old Dominion the next day. However, due to the effects of Isabel, the William and Mary game was cancelled altogether and the Old Dominion game was pushed to Sept. 21.

While the school had just reopened and there was still no electricity, the 2 p.m. kickoff went on as re-scheduled, with the field in surprisingly good condition. The first half was back and forth, with both teams exchanging blows like prizefighters.

Head Coach Jim Vidovich explained, "The game was very interesting. It was very attack oriented,

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Wiggy Saunders  
Senior

very punch counter punch. Going into halftime, we felt we had a majority of the attack and were very confident."

The second half continued in much the same fashion, as Old Dominion sat back in their defense waiting for their opportunities to strike. Unfortunately for the Deacs, those opportunities came first in the 66th minute, and then again in the 89th minute, a backbreaker that left the team with a bad taste in their mouths.

"We are a much better team than ODU but they buckled down, sat back and waited to counter, which unfortunately in this case worked," senior defender Wiggy Saunders said. "They caught us on two counters and were solid in the back, not to mention that their keeper came up with some big saves."

All the Deacs can do now is look back on missed

opportunities, which make the loss all the more frustrating. "They found a couple of holes in us (in the second half) and we couldn't buy a goal. We had plenty of opportunities," Vidovich said.

Saunders added, "We had the majority of the game and had enough opportunities to steal this game on the road. I know that if we were given the opportunity to play them again, the result would be different."

Offensively, the Deacs have only managed to score two goals in their last two games.

Since the loss of senior All-American forward Jeremiah White for eight weeks, the attack has faltered, as nobody has been able to step up in his absence.

However, many believe the defense needs to shape up as well for the Deacs to have continued success. "We have to concentrate on our defense, and hope that our fighting power is still there. The whole team needs to fight together to find a way to score," Vidovich said.

For most other teams, there would be a chance to regroup with a break in the schedule or a match against a weak opponent. This is not an option for the Deacs.

There is no relief in the near future for the Deacs, as they next travel to Maryland for their long-awaited showdown with the country's No. 1-ranked team. The Terps are 7-0, their best start in 35 years.

Despite this, the Deacs are not intimidated by the Terps, and are in fact excited to go in and shake up the top of the polls.

"We have had a lot of success against Maryland in my previous three years here. They have all been hard-fought contests, but we have always found a way to come out with a result against them. I don't see why this year will be any different," senior goalkeeper William Hesmer said.

In fact, the Deacs have beaten Maryland four straight years, dating back to a loss to the Terps in 1998.

Last year, the fourth-ranked Terps came into Spry Stadium in what was anticipated as one of the biggest matches of the year. The Deacs dismantled them, outshooting Maryland 13-9 and winning the match 3-0.

The Deacs showed that night that they could play in the biggest matches, however this year the tables are turned, with the match in Maryland and Maryland as the favored side.

It is said that winning cures all, and this very well could be the case with the Maryland game for the Deacons.

"I think every game is important with our schedule, especially in the ACC," Vidovich said. "That being said to get a result on the road against a high quality opponent would be a tremendous boost to our team."

# Pressbox: College football, NFL off to exciting starts

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have already been dropped from the Top 10 and another, Michigan, is barely hanging on at No. 10. So much for preseason rankings.

Meanwhile, the NFL season is off to a running start, literally. In recent years, the NFL has seen a shift to more pass-oriented offenses.

This year, however, those who have run the ball have had the greatest success. In fact, teams that have had more than 30 rushing attempts in a game are a staggering 33-1.

Of the 32 teams, only five are still unbeaten at 3-0 and only another two teams are without a loss at 2-0. It's not surprising that three of these five 3-0 squads, the Chiefs, Vikings and Broncos, rank in the Top 4 in rushing attempts per game.

One of these teams, the Kansas City Chiefs, is quietly becoming a Super Bowl favorite. Armed with a Priest who plays more like a God in the minds of fantasy owners around the country, Dick Vermeil has created an offensive juggernaut similar to his championship Rams team just of just a few seasons ago.

Priest Holmes, who people questioned if he could come back fully from a bad hip injury that cut short his last campaign, and the rest of the team have picked up right where they left off and have scored over 40 points in each of the last two games.

To add to that, their defense has looked much improved at the start of this season. Through three games the Chiefs have already forced 10 turnovers and registered eight sacks.

The first start has led *ESPN.com* to place the Chiefs at the top of its power rankings. Fortunately, these arbitrary rankings don't hold as much weight as the ones in college.

The Carolina Panthers, who are 2-0 and own the league's No. 1 defense, are also off to an unexpectedly good start, winning their two games by a combined four points. Of course it hasn't hurt that they've already blocked five kicks.

Other early surprises involve teams struggling to get on track. The Philadelphia Eagles, who have reached the NFC Championship in each of the last two seasons, have looked terrible in starting 0-2. Other sub-.500 teams with aspirations of returning to the playoffs include the Browns, Jets, Raiders, Packers and 49ers. We're not even a fifth of the way into the season, though, and unlike in the college ranks, early slip-ups don't cost you dearly.

Overall, parity across the board has increased excitement level because as the saying goes, your team has a chance "on any given Sunday," or Saturday rather. The closing of the gap between teams has also made the need for a college football playoff system more apparent. But that, as they say, has been and will continue to be discussed at another time and place.

# Rivalry: Deacs set to take stage of prominence

a test of intensity. Senior Kelly Doton is one Deacon that is ready and anxious to face such a challenge.

"I think this is probably our biggest test of the regular season," Doton said. "UNC is going to come out very hard and strong and I think we need to match their intensity. They are not the same team they were last year and I think they have something to prove. I'm approaching this game like any other, preparation wise. I'm always nervous before any game, so if I told you I wasn't nervous, something would be wrong."

Lucky for Averill, things have been right as of late with her team marching through the last three games with a 17-0 scoring margin. However, the Tar heels have been hot as of late, coming off a 10-0 victory against Miami.

While one would be quick to say a scoring frenzy awaits those in attendance, junior Kelly Dostal believes a tough contest lies ahead.

"Well, I definitely hope it is a scoring frenzy in our favor, but I don't think that will be the case with either team," Dostal said. "Carolina is a great team that has made respectable strides this season. They have several excellent players, we are not underestimating their abilities and are not taking this game for granted."

Defeating UNC would spark energy into the Deacs, who must travel to Maryland to face the third-ranked Terrapins, a team they defeated in the

ACC championship game last season. The stretch of road does not appear easy, but definitely exciting to say the least.

In looking at everything associated with and surrounding the the Sept. 26, 4 p.m. game against UNC, Averill believes there will not be much she will have to say to energize and motivate her players.

"To be honest I don't know that I am going to have to say a whole heck of a lot," Averill said. "They know Carolina they know it is one of the huge games and they have a lot of respect and friends. I don't think we will have to say much. However, I will probably hint on a little bit of pride."

The seniors already understand the meaning of pride and have been preaching it to the freshmen this week in practice.

The leadership and experience the upperclassman possess will be invaluable when the Deacs take the field. While the freshmen have yet to experience a game of this magnitude, senior Kelly Doton says it won't be long before they understand the intensity of the rivalry.

"I don't think they know or understand the rivalry there is between Wake and UNC," Doton said. "You have to experience the intensity of the game to realize it. Basically, they know how big a game it is for us because they hear the upperclassmen talking about it. They'll understand what we are talking about as soon as the game is over."