

Football wastes golden opportunity versus Virginia

By Alex Myers
Assistant Sports Editor

Losses are always tough to take. Collapses are even tougher. The Deacs' 27-24 defeat against Virginia Sept. 27 falls somewhere in between the two categories but slightly toward the latter.

After retaking the lead on a field goal with 7:00 to play, the Deacs had UVa. on its heels. When junior defensive end Jerome Nichols made the biggest defensive play of the season for Wake Forest to get the ball back, it appeared the Cavaliers had been knocked off their feet.

Nichols, reading the play beautifully, followed sophomore running back Wali Lundy out of the backfield, stepped in front of the pass and returned it 36 yards to the Virginia 16-yard line.

Momentum was clearly on the Deacons' side and a touchdown would all but lock up a huge upset victory.

It wasn't meant to be, though, as the offense stalled and left Head Coach Jim Grobe with a tough decision to be made on fourth and two.

Instead of taking the almost guaranteed three points and extending the lead to six by kicking the field goal, Grobe decided to go for the dagger.

"For us, we're thinking four downs anytime we cross the 40-yard line," Grobe said. "We're a team that generally does a pretty good job in short yardage—we had today. We thought it was a time for us to get a first down and punch it in."

Wake Forest fans could only watch in dismay as for the second time in three weeks, a Deacon running back was stuffed on a fourth down play. The ball went back to Virginia, which proceeded to drive the ball down the field to set up the 53-yard, game-tying field goal by sophomore Connor Hughes with 1:51 left.

The Deacs still had another shot to win, but sophomore quarterback Cory Randolph ended the drive with a foolish interception when he tried to force the issue instead of just throwing the ball away. More

importantly, the errant throw and the ensuing run back gave Virginia exceptional field position at the Wake Forest 33.

"As soon as Cory threw it, we knew we were in trouble," Grobe said. "That's just a rookie mistake. He was trying to make something happen."

A few plays later, with 10 seconds remaining, Hughes knocked home another kick, this time from 38 yards, giving Virginia a stolen victory and leaving the Deacs stunned.

The loss moved the Deacs' record to 3-2 overall and 1-1 in ACC play.

The game also marked the end of a brutal stretch of five consecutive games versus quality opponents—a run the team will be glad to take a break from with the upcoming bye week.

"The last five weeks, we've been through murderers' row," Grobe said. "We're emotionally worn down."

Wake Forest's inability to capitalize on UVa.'s mistakes was a key stat in the game.

The Deacs only scored seven points off Virginia's five turnovers.

"We had so many opportunities in every phase to win the football game," Grobe said. "We just made too many mistakes to win."

Besides his costly error, Randolph had a great game, finishing with 218 yards on 17-for-31 passing. He also ran and threw for a touchdown.

Wake Forest had a balanced rushing attack once again with four players amassing at least 20 yards, led by sophomore running back Chris Barclay with 65 on 15 carries. Sophomore Cornelius Birgs chipped in with the Deacs' other rushing touchdown.

On the defensive side, Nichols played another outstanding game, registering two tipped passes to go along with his huge interception.

Senior cornerback Eric King was solid as usual, registering a team-high 11 tackles and forcing two key fumbles in the first half.

The Deacs will now get some time off to recover from the sting left by this loss.



Jonathan Tauber/Old Gold and Black

Junior wide receiver Jason Anderson makes a lunging grab off a spectacular pass from sophomore quarterback Cory Randolph in the third quarter against UVa. Sept. 27. The 43-yard touchdown catch gave the Deacs a lead, but it wasn't enough as the team lost 27-24.

They will be back in action Oct. 11 at Groves Stadium, where they'll try to avoid a different sting from the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets.

"Overall, we're a team that just needs to keep working to get better," Grobe said. "We have a chance to be a better football team than we were."

Men's soccer slips up again, falls 1-0 to No. 1 Maryland

By Peter Bergman
Old Gold and Black Reporter

Wake Forest men's soccer suffered yet another gut-wrenching loss, falling to No. 1 Maryland 1-0. That makes two straight games the Deacs have been shutout, they fell to Old Dominion 2-0 Sept. 21, which had previously not happened since the 2001 postseason. The loss drops the Deacs to 4-3 on the year, 0-2 in the ACC.

However the biggest story of the match was not the match itself, but rather the surprising return of senior All-American forward Jeremiah White. White caught a vicious elbow to the face in the Deacs 2-1 loss Sept. 13 and required emergency surgery to repair the broken zygomatic arch facial bone.

Initial prognosis was that White would be out eight weeks minimum, but he defied the odds. After having successful surgery Sept. 24, White spent the week recovering. However, in the days leading up to the game, the doctors changed their initial prognosis and medically cleared White to play, provided he wear a protective face mask.

While White did not start the game, he made his debut in the 66th minute with Head Coach Jay Vidovich looking to infuse the attack. The Deacons had been out shot 11-9 to that point, but then out shot the Terps 3-1 after white came in the game.

On getting back into the action, White remarked, "It felt really good. I was trying my hardest to do everything I could to get back as quickly as possible."

Despite the inspiring return of White, it was an all too familiar result, with the Deacs losing another hard fought match where opportunities were missed and mistakes made. The Terps stalwart forward Sumed Ibrahim provided the only goal of the match, sliding a ball past senior Will Hesmer in the 28th minute.

The best of the Deacs many opportunities came with less than 10 minutes to play, when freshman Wells Thompson and senior Tomy Szczypiorski let loose on rapid shots towards the net, but Maryland goalkeeper Noah Palmer was there both times.

The win propels the Terps to 9-0, 2-0 in the conference. Though it was a bitter loss, once again many Deacs looked for the positives and remained

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Jeremiah White
Senior

optimistic.

"I'm proud of our performance, we played really well," coach Vidovich said. "The scoreboard doesn't show it but we had some quality chances and I thought the end result could have easily been different. We had a lot of guys step up their play tonight, particularly the young guys. All in all, it was a pretty good effort and good performance, if not a good result."

Of biggest concern for the Deacs is the offense, which has produced a measly four goals in the last five games.

Hopefully White's return will change all that, and he for one is not dwelling on the past. "When we get scoring opportunities we need to shoot it, you can't score if you don't shoot. It will come though, I'm positive about that," White said.

White's confidence aside, the Deacs play the seven of their next nine games at home, after spending much of September in hotels.

The Deacs have not lost a regular season game at Spry Stadium in over two years. Next up for the Deacs is a home date with N.C. State Oct. 5, and a chance for the team to begin their climb of the ACC rankings.

As for White's status, he has been medically cleared to play, and the Maryland game went well for him, so he is hopeful he will get to see even more action. "I have been practicing all week, and I feel good, so hopefully I will be a go for N.C. State."

That is good news, because if the Deacs are to get back on track and compete in the ACC, they will need to find some way to resurrect this offense, and White just may be the key.

Deacon Notes

Former Deacon baseball player Adam Bourassa was named Easton National Defensive Player of the Year. Bourassa was selected by Collegiate Baseball magazine, who described him as a "sensational NCAA Division I outfielder who made a number of spectacular catches during his career at Wake Forest." Last season as a senior, Bourassa committed only three errors in 53 games, and was considered the best defensive player in the Northwest League over the summer. Currently, Bourassa is in the minor league system of the Texas Rangers, who selected him in the sixth round of the baseball draft in June. At Wake Forest, Bourassa was an All-American and was twice named to the All-ACC team.

Junior Goalkeeper Kenna Healy was selected to the Soccer America National Team of the Week, after impressive back-to-back wins against then No. 12 California and No. 5 Pepperdine. In Wake Forest's current seven game winning streak, Healy has registered four shutouts and allowed only three goals, for a goals against average of .43. In addition to the honor from Soccer America, Healy was also named ACC Women's Soccer Player of the Week. She is the first Demon Deacon to win the award this season.

The Wake Forest University athletic department in association with the Official College Sports Network has unveiled a re-designed www.wakeforestsports.com, the school's official athletic Web site. The site, which details everything from player rosters to schedules to archives, was redesigned with fans in mind. The new site utilizes the latest in digital technology and design to go along with the athletic department's official content. Also, the site is now easier to navigate, with expanded efforts to provide alumni, fans and media with complete information about all Deacon sports. These efforts include live game broadcasts, up-to-date scores and statistics, ticket information and chances to interact online with players

Deac of the Week



Jeremiah White

He's back. On the field that is. Senior All-American Jeremiah White surprised just about everyone this past weekend when he took the field in the second half during the Deacs' 1-0 loss to No. 1-ranked Maryland Sept. 27. White played just 25 minutes, didn't score a goal and didn't even register a shot. However, his presence alone is inspiring considering the fact White was supposed to be sidelined for a minimum of eight weeks after breaking his cheekbone against Virginia Sept. 13. White's abilities mixed with his toughness should be enough to get the Deacs on track in time for the postseason. His courageous comeback should have fans singing "Jeremiah was a bulldog." Or something like that.

This Week	TODAY	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Men's Golf		At Carpet Capital College Rocky Face, Ga.	At Carpet Capital College Rocky Face, Ga.	At Carpet Capital College Rocky Face, Ga.			
Men's Soccer			Vs. N.C. State 7 P.M. Spry Stadium			Vs. High Point 7 P.M. Spry Stadium	
Women's Soccer			At Duke 7 P.M. Durham			At Charlotte 7 P.M. Charlotte	
Field Hockey			Vs. Boston University 1 P.M. Kentner Stadium	Vs. Appalachian State 4 P.M. Kentner Stadium			At Davidson 7 P.M. Davidson
Volleyball			At Florida State 6 P.M. Tallahassee, Fl.				
Men's Tennis		At All-American Chatahoogs, Tenn. All Day					
Women's Tennis		At Wake Forest Deacon Classic Leighton Stadium	At Wake Forest Deacon Classic Leighton Stadium	At Wake Forest Deacon Classic Leighton Stadium			
Women's cross country		At Notre Dame Invitational South Bend, Ind.					
Women's Golf		At Franklin Street Trust Invitational Chapel Hill	At Franklin Street Trust Invitational Chapel Hill	At Franklin Street Trust Invitational Chapel Hill			