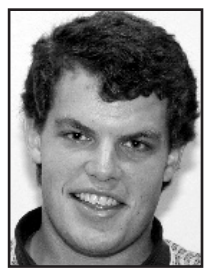


Memo to fans: It's just a game!

What do you get when you mix one part bad football, one part domestic argument, and one part drunk Alabamian? Apparently the answer is attempted murder.

It seems one Joseph Logan of Pinson, Ala., was fairly upset after the Crimson Tide, up



OUTSIDE THE ARENA

Mike Scott
Senior Reporter

31-10 midway through the third quarter, lost to Arkansas 31-34 in what was a fairly spectacular collapse.

Now, there are many places in this country where it is said that football is a religion. But in Alabama, (and I'm not joking here) there are people who actually pray to former Head Coach Bear Bryant. So the fact Logan was upset was nothing of note.

But Logan apparently failed to deal with his anger in what psychiatrists would call a "healthy way". Heck, Logan failed to deal with his anger in what Mike Tyson would call a healthy way.

According to an Associated Press report, Logan, who it shockingly turns out had been drinking, began "slamming doors, tossing boxes and throwing dishes in the sink," after 'Bama's loss.

For some reason, it was at this point that Logan's 20-year-old son Seth decided to ask him for a new car. The elder Logan decided to end the argument in a quick, efficient and reasonable manner - he went to his car and grabbed his 9mm pistol, grabbed his son by the collar, placed the gun against his forehead and threatened to shoot him in the head. As if that wasn't enough, Joseph Logan then followed through on his threat, pulling the trigger on the loaded gun.

Amazingly, Seth Logan was able to move his head just as his father fired the gun, and the bullet apparently "whizzed past him." Joseph Logan was charged with attempted murder and domestic violence and released on \$7,500 bail.

There are so many things about this bedtime story from hell that warrant a comment, I'm not really sure where to start. First off, how is this guy released on \$7,500 bail? I know we're talking about Alabama here, but come on. You're telling me a guy who tried to blow his kid's head off because he was ticked at Mike Shula's coaching performance isn't a danger to society? What does it take to be held without bail in that state? Possession of a nuclear weapon?

Surprisingly, a fairly poignant comment on the situation comes from Keanu Reeves. In the movie *Parenthood*, Reeves' character made the following remark: "You know, Mrs. Buchman, you need a license to buy a dog, to drive a car - hell, you even need a license to catch a fish. But they'll let any (idiot) be a father." It's frightening to think that people like this guy are actually allowed to procreate.

This situation also brings up a phenomenon that has become commonplace in our country. Why is it that behavior that would be considered borderline criminal in normal settings suddenly becomes justified if sports are involved?

If I started screaming curse words at my waitress at Chili's because my chicken fingers were dry, I'd probably be arrested and locked up in a padded cell. But if I shout obscenities at referees or opposing fans in Groves stadium people laugh and cheer.

This is in no way to say that I've never gotten upset over a game or booed a ref. But there's a line that exists in everyday society that for some reason suddenly disappears when sports are involved. Whether it's in the stands or on the intramural fields, being involved in a sporting event is not justification for suddenly turning into a psychopath.

I love sports, and I care about them more than I probably should. But I also realize they're just sports. I know plenty of people who are as nice as they can possibly be in everyday life, but you put them on a basketball court and they exhibit more rage than Pat Buchanan at a diversity rally.

There's a reason these things are called games, and if you don't realize that, you need to.

Whether you're cussing out the other team or their fans during wins, screaming at your team during losses, or getting in a fight in every intramural or pickup game you play in, acting like a psycho isn't cool, clever or funny. It's mean, stupid and classless, and the fact that sports are involved doesn't change that. You aren't being a good fan or an intense competitor, you're just being an ass. And you probably ought to stop.

You might just be one loss away from grabbing a 9mm pistol.

Baseball back in action as practice starts

By Jason Mazda
Assistant Sports Editor

The Wake Forest baseball team held its first fall practice Sept. 26, followed by intrasquad scrimmages Sept. 27 and 28.

While the Deacs lost almost all of their stars from last year's team, they could get a boost from the return of All-ACC second baseman Nick Blue, who sat out last season due to a shoulder injury but hopes to return this season as a fifth-year senior.

Blue was sorely missed last year as the Deacs, led by junior third baseman Jamie D'Antona and junior pitcher Kyle Sleeth, as well as a plethora of seniors, fell far short of meeting lofty expectations, failing to even qualify for the NCAA Tournament.

"It was torture," Blue said. "After being ranked as high as 2nd in the country the year before and returning the same team in 2003, we had so much confidence going into the season. Things just got worse and worse as we went down the drain as a team, and it would have been nice to try my hand at keeping us afloat. I just wanted a chance to give our team some spark."

The intrasquad scrimmages signaled the beginning of a major makeover for the Deacs. Sleeth and D'Antona both left school after their junior seasons. Sleeth, who shares the NCAA record for consecutive wins without a loss, was the third overall pick of the Major League draft, signing a reported \$3.35 million contract with the Detroit Tigers.

D'Antona, Wake Forest's career leader in home runs and RBIs, and the ACC's leader in those categories last season, was a second round pick of the Arizona Diamondbacks. Another junior, Adam Hanson, arguably the Deacs' top reliever last season, signed with Cleveland after being selected in the 42nd round.

As for the departed seniors, centerfielder Adam Bourassa was picked in the sixth round by the Texas Rangers. Rightfielder Ryan Johnson was chosen in the 13th round by the San Diego Padres. Other senior regulars who will be missed include starting pitcher Seth Hill, outfielder Ryan Hubbard and first baseman Jeff Ruziecki.

In addition to the three juniors

they lost, the Deacs also lost two high school signees to the pros. Catcher Brandon Yarbrough signed with the St. Louis Cardinals after being selected in the fifth round, and outfielder Nick Ewen signed with the Florida Marlins after being chosen in the 46th round in 2002. Also, former Deacon signees Rocco Baldelli and Chris Narveson, both of whom chose to go straight from high school to the pros, would be seniors this year. Baldelli is a Major League Rookie of the Year candidate for the Tampa Bay Devil Rays, while Narveson is a minor league pitcher for the St. Louis Cardinals.

"You hate to lose them before they get to school, and we lost two more of them (this year)," Greer said. "We're missing seven people. We're going to have to shuffle around a little bit."

Despite losing the first five hitters in their batting order, their ace pitcher and their closer, the Deacs are optimistic about the 2004 season.

"I don't see this as a rebuilding year at all," Blue said. "My guess is that on paper it will look that way for a while because we lost so many big names. But as we saw last year, a team full of big names does not mean anything unless we can pull it together as a team and put up wins."

Blue added that the chemistry of this year's squad is better than that of any Deacon team he has played on.

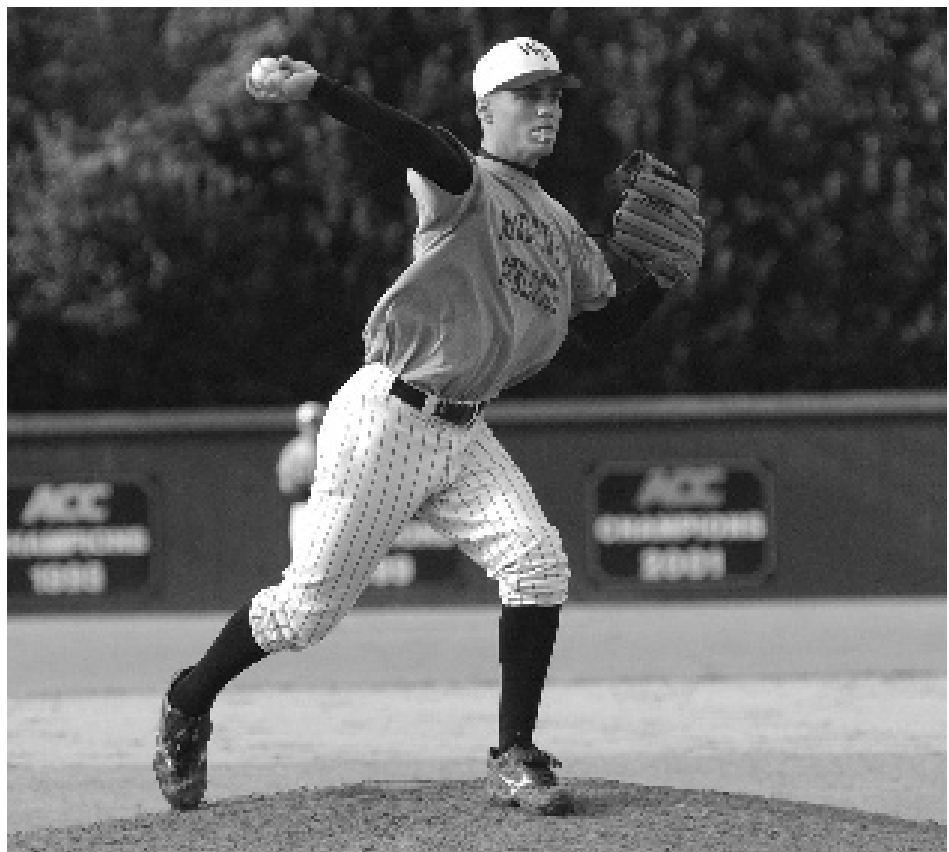
The infield should be solid, with Blue as the centerpiece.

"Having Nick back this year will be very important due to all the experience he brings to our young team," junior pitcher Tim Morley said.

Blue said that last year, his problem was he tried to come back too quickly after having surgery on his shoulder in the fall. Accordingly, he took this summer off and worked on just strengthening the arm.

"Right now my arm is probably about at 80 percent," Blue said. "But I am confident that by the time I get to 100 percent my arm will be stronger than it ever was before my surgery."

Joining Blue in the infield will be junior shortstop Ben Ingold, a third-year starter, and sophomore Chris Getz, who started in place of Blue at second for much of last year. Senior Brad Scioletti, one of the team's best



Jennifer Holland/Old Gold and Black

The 2003 Demon Deacon baseball team played together for the first time in intrasquad scrimmages Sept. 27 and 28 at Hooks Stadium.

hitters last season, could play first base, but that position is still open.

The Deacs have the luxury of two catchers who have seen significant action for them. Junior Ryder Mathias, a key contributor on the 2001 team that was ranked as high as No. 2 in the nation but did not play much last season due to injury, is expected to be back at full strength. Sophomore Steven Malinowski, who started last year as a freshman with Mathias out, is also back.

In the outfield, seniors Doug Riepe and Steve LeFaivre were solid hitters last season, and both will be leaned upon heavily this season.

Despite losing Sleeth, Hill and Hanson, the pitching staff could be the Deacons' biggest strength this season.

Juniors Morley and Brian Bach each started 10 or more games last season for the Deacs, and this could be a breakout season for both. Sophomore Kyle Young, who was undefeated in six starts last season, could also be a solid starter

for the Deacs this season.

"We need to build a consistent starting rotation and have a durable bullpen," Morley said.

The bullpen is promising. While losing Hanson, the Deacs bring back senior Indy Wilkinson, junior Daniel Davidson and sophomore Kirby Wedekind.

While some positions appear to be set, Greer was non-committal about his lineup. He said that, while the scrimmages were fun and allowed the players a chance to practice together, it will be a long time before decisions are made concerning the lineup. Between the returning players, the incoming freshmen and a few transfer players who figure to contribute, the Deacs hope to put together a team that can return the Deacs to the upper echelon of college baseball.

"We are out to prove that last year was a fluke," Blue said. "Wake Forest baseball deserves to be mentioned with the best teams in the country."

Coetzee steals the show at Virginia Tech

By Gerard McMahon
Old Gold and Black Reporter

The Wake Forest women's tennis team had another good showing this past weekend in the Virginia Tech Invitational Sept. 27-28, as the team took home a singles title and a doubles title.

The Demon Deacons started the tournament strong as five women advanced to the semifinals en route to a 12-2 record in singles play on the first day. The most impressive of these was Karin Coetzee, a junior ranked 51st in the preseason ITA rankings, and the top seed in the tournament.

Coetzee, who placed third overall in the St. Mary's Classic last week, lost only four games in her two sets over the first day of the tournament as she captured the Flight A singles title and teamed with senior Aimee Smith in winning the Flight A doubles championship. Including her doubles' play with Smith, Coetzee did not lose a set all weekend.

"It was nice to get some more matches in this weekend," Coetzee said. "It was a relief to close out the singles when I was up as well as finishing off the doubles without allowing our opponents back in the match."

Impressively, Coetzee was able to make a seamless

"The weekend at Virginia Tech was a good test for the team. We had the opportunity to work on concentration and execution."

Brian Fleishman
Head Coach

transition from one form of play to the other.

"Aimee and I have been playing together for quite a while now," Coetzee said. "So our communication is pretty good on the court, which is important for doubles. It's not really an adjustment anymore going back and forth between singles and doubles—one just needs to be more patient during singles to set up the point. It's something we get used to quickly."

Head Coach Brian Fleishman added, "Karin is an amazing player. Her game is getting better every day. Karin's doubles play is helping her singles. She and Aimee are improving everyday in doubles. They are communicating much better and trusting each other on the court."

Not to be forgotten in the excitement of Coetzee and Smith's victories, freshman Blakely Offutt continued

her remarkable play. After winning the eighth flight singles championship at the St. Mary's Classic, Offutt responded by advancing all the way to the Flight C finals this weekend, where she lost a match for the first time in her Wake Forest career.

"The younger players are beginning to get adjusted to college tennis," Fleishman explained. "Offutt had another good weekend but came up just short in the finals of her draw. Blakely hits the ball with so much pace that she overpowers her opponents. She is working hard everyday to improve and help the team."

In addition to the exceptional play of Coetzee, Smith, and Offutt, junior Danielle Schwartz and senior Elizabeth Proctor also had outstanding weekends, finishing second and third, respectively, in Flight C. Schwartz also teamed with freshman Alexandra Hirsch to place third in the doubles bracket in Flight C. Aimee Smith and sophomore Sandie Knight each placed fifth in their respective divisions.

"The weekend at Virginia Tech was a good test for the team," Fleishman said. "We had the opportunity to work on concentration and execution."

The team next plays in the annual Demon Deacon Classic Oct. 3-5.

Bersagel places fifth at Griak Invitational

By Justin Kalny
Contributing Reporter

Deacon runners are beginning to make a statement across the country.

At the Roy Griak Invitational, held in St. Paul, Minn., Sept. 27-28, both the women's and men's cross-country teams competed against over 200 collegiate and high school teams and 2,000 competitors.

Although neither team finished first, both squads had admirable showings, with the women finishing eighth and the men finishing 22nd.

Although very pleased with the performance, women's Head Coach Annie Schweitzer-Bennett did notice some areas in which the team could improve.

"I felt that as a team we were a little off-stride," Schweitzer-Bennett said. "It was our first meet for three of our runners, and I think that they did pretty well, but there are some things we need to work on."

"At the Notre Dame Invitational this weekend, I think our main emphasis will be not getting beat off the line,"

she said. "It will be a great opportunity to get our feet wet and prepare for Pre-Nationals."

Among the standout individual performances, junior Annie Bersagel had the best showing on the team, finishing fifth out of 250 competitors.

Senior Annie Sherman, freshmen Michelle Sikes and sophomore Hanna Bremler also finished in the top 50, finishing 38th, 48th and 49th, respectively.

Like their coach, members of the team also found some areas that needed work.

"I think we are in better shape than the race proved. We have put in a lot of work in the preseason and have had some really good workouts," Sherman said. "I think improvement will come naturally as the season progresses and we all have some more races under our belt."

Nevertheless, teammates did see some positives from the runners at the meet.

"Our newcomers are incredibly strong and consistent performers," Bersagel said. "There was a very tight finish

among the top teams at this invitational, so each member played a really critical role in our overall placing."

As the season progresses, the Deacon women hope to continue to improve and look forward to the ACC Championships.

"We know what we need to work on and we'll be ready when the rest of the ACC teams come to compete on our trails Nov. 1," Bersagel said.

As for the men, Head Coach Scott Hall used the 22nd-place finish as a way to evaluate his team's progress in the still young season.

"Obviously our finish was a little disappointing," Hall said. "We had some of our runners perform about as expected, but we also had some sub-par performances."

Hall attributes part of the reason for the disappointing finish to the change in number of competitors.

"At the Wake Invitational we only had a couple of teams compared to the over 200 teams at the Roy Griak Invitational," he said.

"When you look at the runners who finish 120-220th at a competition as

big as this one, they're all basically equal."

Hall wants the team to focus on sticking to the game plan, having more mental toughness, staying positive and being more responsible in preparation for the ACC Championships. Right now he's not even looking toward Nationals.

"Before we start looking at the NCAAs, we have to run more competitively at Pre-Nationals," Coach Hall said. "I think our guys will improve if we stick to our guns and stay patient. It's simply a maturation and gelling process."

The best individual performance on the men's side was sophomore Sean Stevens, placing 62nd.

"As a team, we did not perform as well as we would have hoped, but we are working on that," Stevens said. "Our team is working toward a final goal, and this is just a small step."

The men do not compete again until the ACC Championships Nov. 1, while the women travel to South Bend, Ind. for the Notre Dame Invitational Oct. 4-5.