

Soccer and fans putting pieces back together

By Peter Bergman
Old Gold and Black Reporter

The Wake Forest men's soccer team rebounded from their 1-0 loss to top-ranked Maryland to notch their first ACC win of the year, a 2-0 result against N.C. State in front of a near record crowd Oct. 4. The Deacs also beat High Point Oct. 7, 5-1.

The victories bring the Deacons' record to 6-3 on the year, 1-2 in the ACC and extend their home-unbeaten streak to 24 games. This stellar streak could be in large part due to Wake Forest's notoriously outstanding fan support, which continued against the Wolfpack, when an overflow crowd of 3,586 fans witnessed the win.

The fan support, which was the second largest crowd in the history of Spry Stadium, never ceases to amaze Head Coach Jay Vidovich, who acknowledges the positive effect the crowd has on the game. "Wake Forest has some of the best fans in the country," Vidovich said. "From the Vincente Bastidas supporter group to the regular students and community. They are the reason for the 20 straight wins at home, they add energy and provide a certain level of confidence."

Wake Forest controlled the game from the outset, dominating time of possession of the ball in the first 15 minutes. The Deacs gained a sizable advantage in the 16th minute, however, when Wolfpack defender John Queeley was ejected from the game after a series of vicious tackles on freshman midfielder Steven Curfman. The attacks, which came in a 45-second span, drew hearty boos from the crowd and a red card from the referee.

This left the Deacs with a man advantage for the rest of the match and they took advantage.

With N.C. State packed in on defense, the Deacs controlled the midfield and advanced in the offensive zone frequently, ending the game with 28 shots to the Wolfpack's eight.

Senior Jeremiah White finally broke the ice with three minutes to go in the first half, using his blazing speed to get past the defense before getting taken out by the goalkeeper, resulting in a penalty shot. White calmly buried the shot in the lower right corner and the Deacs went into halftime up 1-0.

The second half was much the same, with the Deacs getting opportunity after opportunity to put the Wolfpack away,



Photos by Jonathan Tauber/Old Gold and Black and Brian Westerholt/Sports on Film
Graphics by Elliot Nickels

The mens soccer team suffered losses to Old Dominion and Maryland, while senior speedster and superstar Jeremiah White got knocked out with an injury to his cheekbone. However, thanks to the constant support and energy from the Deacon faithful, the team is back on track with a 2-1 victory over N.C. State and a 5-1 win over High Point.

who aside from the occasional counter, sat back on their heels. Senior Vincente Bastidas finally brought comfort to the crowd in the 77th minute, when he chipped a Justin Moose cross over the goalkeepers head and drove the nail in

the coffin. Finally coming alive was the Deacon offense, which scored twice for the first time since Sept. 16. N.C. State, however, was playing with only 10 men for most of the match.

Added White on the offense, "We're

getting better, we are getting a lot of shots, which is good. We just need to put more away and work on getting it in the back of the net."

Next up for the Deacs is a road match with South Carolina Oct. 12 before

returning home to face off against Long Island Oct. 15. Starting with Long Island, the Deacs play five of their six games at home, which should be beneficial considering the recent support of the Deacon faithful.

Racism? Limbaugh's comments spark debate

By Jason Mazda
Assistant Sports Editor

I'm sure most people have heard by now about Rush Limbaugh's resignation (which was basically forced) from ESPN's Sunday NFL Countdown. Limbaugh was dead wrong when he said that the reason Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Donovan McNabb is overrated is because "the media has been very desirous that a black quarterback do well."

Obviously, Limbaugh is wrong. McNabb may be over-hyped by the media, but it is because he is an exciting, young, playmaking quarterback, not much different from Chad Pennington of the New York Jets, a white quarterback who has been hyped a lot.

My problem is that, in the dozens of arguments that I have read and heard in print, on television and on the radio, no one has bothered to make the point I just made. No one bothered to simply say, he was wrong, and this is why.

All we heard were accusations of racism, and Limbaugh was basically forced to resign because of these accusations.

While Limbaugh's opinion was obviously not a very accurate one, he did not use racial slurs. This is not John Rocker we're talking about.

Anyone who watched the show live knows that, while he unconsciously offended many people, Limbaugh's remarks were not hateful. Two of the other panelists on the show, Michael Irvin and Tom Jackson, were two black men, and while Jackson said later that the remark made him feel uncomfortable, I don't believe Limbaugh would have made the comment if that was his intent, seeing as how his banter with them was friendly throughout the show.

"I don't think Rush was malicious in intent or

tone," host Chris Berman said.

The problem was that Limbaugh's comments had to do with race, and apparently free speech does not apply to situations like this.

Again, I am in no way condoning Limbaugh's statements. They were idiotic and uninformed.

What I am doing is condemning the response from a society that preaches tolerance, yet has repeatedly been quick to censor any opinions that have to do with race. And that is exactly what ESPN and every other person or organization that urged the network to fire Limbaugh did.

While he condemned Limbaugh's comments, black *Philadelphia Daily News* columnist John Smallwood's comment that "association with racism is very bad business" is a perfect assessment of the case here. As soon as someone called Limbaugh's comments racist, there was a rush to condemn and censor him. And that is just not right.

Atlanta Braves outfielder Gary Sheffield alleged a few years ago that white baseball players had an advantage over blacks in regard to making teams as marginal players. "You better be a star, or you're not making this team," Sheffield claimed. "They don't want a black player sitting on the bench making money. You got to be white."

Sheffield's comments were almost the exact same in nature as Limbaugh's allegations that certain players are given favor in a sport because of their race. I don't think many people agreed with Sheffield's assessment, but he faced hardly any backlash for his accusations. Most people just brushed off his comments as inaccurate but certainly not punishable.

Is the opinion of one Philadelphian, yours truly, not enough?

A Philadelphia Inquirer poll asked fans "Are you satisfied with Rush Limbaugh's resignation from ESPN's pregame show?" 44 percent of the

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Haas & Co. disappointed with 11th place finish

By Alex Myers
Assistant Sports Editor

The men's golf team took a small step backward on its road to establishing itself as a contender for a national championship this past weekend at the Carpet Capital Collegiate Classic, held on The Farm golf course, a par 72, 7,010-yard layout. The Deacs finished a disappointing 11th place in the prestigious event with a field of 18 of the nation's top teams, including team winner Florida.

The Deacs were looking to improve on their previous team finishes of seventh and eighth places at the event Oct. 3-5, but they never got things going. Perhaps this result isn't very meaningful, though, considering last year's team, which was ranked in the Top 5 in the country all year, finished 11th at the Carpet Capital as well.

Senior All-American Bill Haas turned in another great effort, finishing in a tie for fifth place individually with a three round, 6-under-par total of 210. However, no other Deacon even placed in the Top 40. Haas was disappointed with his score considering how well he played. However, after winning once and finishing no worse than 12th in three events, he is satisfied with his play overall this season. "I've played pretty well," Haas said. "I'll be happy if 12th is my worst finish all year."

On the first day of competition, the Deacs got off to a rough start that they were never really able to overcome. In the first round, they shot a 16-over-par 304, leaving the team in 14th place. The high total was due in large part to several poor individual rounds. Freshman Sean Moore opened up with a 7-over-par 79, while sophomore Kyle Reifers and junior Doug Manchester each carded eight-over 80s.

"Anytime you have to count an 80, that hurts," Head Coach Jerry Haas said. "If someone just

"I've played pretty well. I'll be happy if 12th is my worst finish all year."

Bill Haas
Senior

shoots a 74 instead, we're only a couple shots out of second."

Over the course of the next two rounds, the team played much better. In round two, the Deacs cut their total down 12 shots to a 4-over 292, as Moore bounced back to fire a 1-under 71, the first sub-par round of his collegiate career. After 36 holes, the Deacs found themselves in 12th place. They then moved up another spot on the last day when Reifers posted a career-best score of 68, leading Wake Forest to a 2-under 286—their best round of the year so far. Coach Haas noted that the way the team finished was very encouraging and that although the team has slipped down to 17th in the rankings, he is still optimistic.

"(The ranking) is about right at this point," Haas said. "I like what I've seen though. We're getting better."

After Haas, Reifers finished next highest on the team when his low final round vaulted him into 42nd place with a 6-over total of 222. Freshman Chad Wilcox posted scores of 73, 78 and 75 to wind up at 10-over and in a tie for 60th place.

Moore was unable to back up his 71 in round two and stumbled in with an 80 in the final round. His inconsistent scores of 79, 71 and 80 left him in a tie for 71st at 14-over. After rounds of 80 and 83. The Deacs will face another tough test at the Jerry Pate National Collegiate in Birmingham, Ala. Oct. 13-14.