

Women's tennis triumphs at Deacon Invitational

By Gerard McMahon
Old Gold and Black Reporter

The Demon Deacon Invitational brought more triumph to the Wake Forest women's tennis team as the squad captured a pair of singles titles and a doubles title at Leighton Tennis Stadium Oct. 4-5.

The Demon Deacons started strong with a combined 9-4 record on the first day of the tournament, not including a match that junior Danielle Schwartz was winning before an injury forced her to retire.

The second day of the tournament brought more success for the Deacs as the dynamic duo of junior Karin Coetzee and senior Aimee Smith won yet another Flight A doubles title.

Freshmen Ashlee Davis and Alex Hirsch each won the title in their respective divisions with victories in the title matches against opponents from the University of Virginia.

The impressive victories for the Deacon newcomers are especially rewarding for Head Coach Brian Fleishman.

"Alex and Ashlee shined this weekend," Fleishman said. "They really showed me a lot. These two players will contribute greatly to our success this year. They showed me that they can go out and take care of business."

The victory was especially important for

"(Ashlee Davis) is now working on her attacking game by coming to the net and when we get this better, she is looking at All-American status by the end of the year."

Brian Fleishman
Head Coach

Davis since she was able to capture her first-ever collegiate title with her parents in the audience.

"I am very excited to get my first collegiate tournament win under my belt," Davis said. "I know that I have a lot more in me, but I believe that with my hard work, and with the help of Brian, (Assistant Coach) Janet (Bergman) and my teammates, that will be revealed during the season. I am just trying to improve more and more everyday."

Fleishman could not help but look forward to the vast potential that Davis has shown thus far.

"Ashlee is a very powerful player and it showed this weekend," Fleishman said. "She is now working on her attacking game by coming to the net and when we get this better, she is looking at All-Ameri-

can status by the end of the year."

The singles title was significant for Hirsch in a different way – it was her first singles match in the past six months after just recently returning from an injury. Fleishman and Hirsch agree that while she is headed in the right direction, her best tennis lies ahead of her.

"This weekend was a great weekend for tennis," Hirsch said. "Although I did not feel like I played my best tennis, I definitely improved in each match throughout the weekend."

In addition to the inspiring victories by Hirsch and Davis and the continuing exceptional doubles play of Coetzee and Smith, sophomore Sandie Knight and senior Elizabeth Proctor also played well, placing third and fifth in their respective divisions.

Knight also teamed with freshman Blakely Offutt to capture third place in the Flight B doubles division.

"The 2003 Deacon Classic was a huge success and growing experience for the women's tennis team," Coach Fleishman said. "We improved individually and as a team. Smith, Proctor, Knight and Offutt all competed well this weekend. All of these girls look like they are having a good time on the court and they are working on getting better everyday."

"I believe all of the girls are ready for the regional, but since the regional com-



Lisa Katerman/Old Gold and Black

Sophomore Sandie Knight and the Demon Deacons represented the university at the Demon Deacon Invitational Oct. 4-5 at Leighton Tennis Stadium.

mittee must vote in the girls, now we have to wait to see who gets in."

The team's next event is the regional qualifier, which will be hosted by Wake Forest.

Although Fleishman entered the entire team, the regional committee will only select the individuals who earned their way into the draw on the merit of their play throughout the fall season.

Borhart records triple-double in huge victory at FSU

By Adam Alterman
Old Gold and Black Reporter

There is no other way to put it: the volleyball team captured a huge win in Tallahassee, Fla. Oct. 4.

"As long as I've been here we haven't beaten Florida State away," redshirt sophomore Valerie Rydberg said. "It was an amazing turning point for us to beat them on Saturday."

The Deacs defeated Florida State three games to one. The win improved Wake Forest's conference record to 3-1 and 13-3 overall.

The match between these two ACC teams saw sophomore setter Erin Borhart record her first career triple-double, an accomplishment not common in

volleyball. Borhart had 14 kills, 13 digs and 37 assists. Additionally, Borhart had .435 hitting percentage for the match.

"I was never really aware that it was a rare feat," Borhart said. "I'll have to give the credit to my coaches because they always say that we should keep doing something until it doesn't work anymore, in this case the whole team was using their shots."

Borhart attributed the successful night to her teammates, echoing the strong unity and chemistry that the Deacons have formed this season.

"My teammates played a huge factor in this," Borhart said. Without their passes and digs I wouldn't even be able to set the ball. Also, the hitters are the ones who put the balls away. Also, I think I honestly

just got lucky at Florida State. Usually teams begin to pick up on my tipping so it becomes less effective throughout the game. But Florida State didn't seem to make any adjustments to it."

Borhart's feat and the Wake Forest win serve as a big achievement for the Deacs as Tallahassee has historically been place of struggles for the team.

The quicker, more up-tempo style of play by Wake Forest allowed the Deacs to take advantage of a slower Florida State team.

"They kept trying to delay the game by huddling in between points," Rydberg said. "But we tried to keep the speed fast and it paid off."

The Deacs beat the Seminoles in game one 30-18. After falling behind to Florida State early in the

first game 10-6, the Deacs rallied behind the serving of Rydberg, as they scored nine straight points to take a 15-10 lead.

In game two, the Seminoles won a see-saw battle 30-27. The Deacons responded by winning the third game 30-19 in which they hit .364. In the fourth and final game, the Deacs captured a 30-23 victory to win the match.

Rydberg had 19 digs, eight assists and six services aces, in addition to a match-high 15 kills.

Next up, Wake Forest plays host to No. 5 Georgia Tech at 7 p.m. Oct. 10 in Reynolds Gymnasium.

"We have to be on top of our game to beat Georgia Tech," Rydberg said. "They're a strong team but they're beatable."

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