

Club ice hockey team's season comes to an end

By Don Pogoda
Old Gold & Black Reporter

Of the club sports' seasons here that are the most enduring, the club ice hockey team's has to be one of them. With their first game on Oct. 1, the team's season lasted throughout the remainder of the fall, the entire winter and recently concluded in the spring.

Suffering a hard 5-3 loss April 4, the Deacs finished second in the Piedmont Hockey Association for the second straight season.

"It's kind of sad that the season's over," club president senior Max Langfitt said. "But looking back on the year, this was probably the most talented team we've had and the most fun I've had playing hockey during my four years here."

The club ice hockey team plays in the PHA, a men's ice hockey league here in Winston-Salem in which games are played at the Annex, right next to Joel Coliseum.

The PHA season consists of 24 games throughout the year and seven teams with players from around the Triad.

The regular season begins in mid-October with playoffs usually ending at the beginning of April.

Aside from playing in the PHA, the Deacs also played exhibition games with collegiate teams as well. This year alone, in which the Deacs played more games than ever before, the team traveled to Durham, Charlotte, Chapel Hill, Greensboro, Fort Bragg and Nashville.

"There's no doubt in my mind that next season will be the best Wake has ever had," sophomore Chris Lee said, "and I'll also say that next year, we are beating Duke."

With 27 players, Langfitt and vice-president senior Tyler Jordan did an exceptional job balancing the playing time. Each player was given the chance to play in the PHA and exhibition games.

The team consisted of three players in the MBA program, six seniors, five juniors, five sophomores, and a class of eight talented freshmen. Most of the players come from the north east, but some come from as far north as Canada and as west as Colorado.

After closing out the season with a record of 21-11-2, the Deacs captured the PHA Regular Season Title for the third consecutive year. And the team is only getting better.

"I'm really excited about this upcoming season; we've got a strong roster with very talented players," Lee said. "Within the next few years we'd like to ... really make a dent in the hockey community."

In the annual All-Star game, seven Deacs were elected to play: Langfitt, MBA student Sean Lawrie, junior goalie Dave Pappano, sophomores Lee, Jason McCarty, and Parker Blackiston, and freshman Tim Chilleri.

McCarty led the team in goals, with 17 on the season, and in points, with 41.

Although the Deacs will lose their senior leadership and experience, their talent continues to grow. During the PHA season, all the games have free admission at the Annex and are worth watching.

If you are interested in joining the team, contact Chris Lee, who will be taking over the team next year, at leeca3@wfu.edu or send an e-mail to icehockey@wfu.edu. To see the team's webpage, visit <http://www.wfu.edu/Student-organizations/icehockey/>.

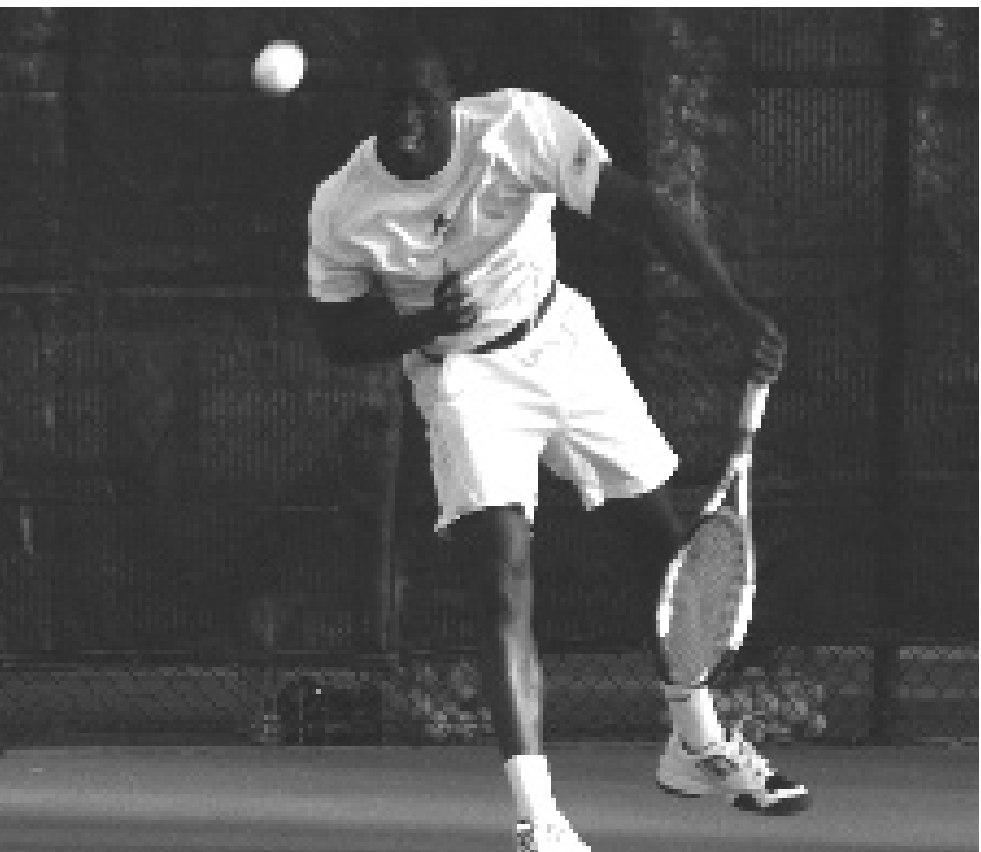


Photo courtesy of the club ice hockey team

The club ice hockey team featured a myriad of students ranging from undergrads to students seeking their MBAs. Moreover, players came from all over the U.S. from as far north as Canada and as far west as Colorado.

Paul defeats 21st-ranked player, moves up 26 spots

By Bert Phillips
Old Gold & Black Reporter



Old Gold & Black file photo

Sophomore standout Todd Paul moved from 82nd to 56th in the rankings after defeating 21st-ranked Jose Luis Muguruza of Georgia Tech.

Despite yet another strong showing, the Deacs lost another ACC match to Georgia Tech April 3 on the road. The Yellow Jackets improved to 10-7 on the season and managed their second ACC win, while the Deacs fell to 4-3 in conference play and 10-5 overall.

That number, 4-3, is also the score of three out of the Deacs' five losses this season. Their play has been stellar, but the team has been unable to consistently put together victories in close matches. "Those 4-3 matches do take a toll," Head Coach Jeff Zinn said. "You either rebound from them or you let them affect you in an adverse way. We have got to have guys step up and get over being nervous in tight situations."

This attitude is something that has not emanated from the Deacs tennis team so far this season, but expectations piled high after a 7-0 start, and now, with losses in four out of five matches, the frustration is mounting.

"Pressure situations are always a part of tennis and you must learn to handle them at this level," Zinn said. "We have some players that handle these situations very well and others that don't."

Against the Yellow Jackets, Tech won the game in singles play, with most of the matches staying close for the duration of the match. Senior Derrick Spice lost a three-set match to David North, 6-4, 4-6, 3-6, while freshman Marius Adamski also lost 6-4, 1-6, 6-3 to Georgia Tech's Jordan Delass.

The bright spot for the Deacs came in the form of sophomore Todd Paul. Playing in the No. 1 spot, Paul beat Jose Luis Muguruza 6-2, 6-7, 6-3. Muguruza was the 21st-ranked player in the nation. Paul's victory was all the more impressive after having beaten Clemson's 18th-ranked Nathan Thompson in the Deacs' March 29 win over the Tigers.

Paul, previously ranked No. 82, shot up the rankings 26 spots to No. 56 after his win against Muguruza.

"He is having a terrific year," Zinn said. "He has continued to excel and get better every match he plays. He has put himself in a position to make the NCAA Individual Championships and that has motivated him."

Moreover, it's not just Paul's physical ability that has gotten him so far in his athletic career.

"He is a great player and is extremely intelligent on the tennis court," Zinn said. "He has a very competitive nature and that

needs to rub off on the other players."

The Deacs' other singles win came from Junior Brett Ross, who beat Marko Rajevac 6-3, 7-5 in the No. 3 spot.

The doubles point also went to the Deacs despite junior Joe Bates and Paul's loss to Muguruza and Sukhwa Young 8-6.

The other two matches were wins, as Spice and Ross beat Rajevac and North 8-2, while Adamski and sophomore Andrew Hamar beat Noah Tyler and Scott Blackmon, 8-2.

The Deacs lost two more singles matches to lose the clinching points, however. Tech's Zachary Rath beat Hamar, and Georgia Gvlesiani ousted sophomore Charles Sartor, both matches by the score of 6-1, 6-4.

Despite their recent close losses, the Deacs still have a more-than-legitimate chance to wreak some real havoc in the rest of the regular season. The team's next match is against North Carolina April 9 at home.

"The UNC match will be huge," Zinn said. "It is Derrick (Spice's) last home match and it has huge implications on the ACC race and where we will be seeded in the tournament. We need to regroup and get a win, every win now is important for postseason play."

Deacs bedeviled by Duke at Bryan National Invitational

Hallstrom leads Deacons to a 12th-place finish in a field of 17 schools including Duke, UNC

By Boomer Kennedy
Old Gold & Black Reporter

For the fifth-straight year, the Duke University women's golf team won the Bryan National Collegiate, finishing 69 strokes ahead of Wake Forest, which ended the weekend tied for 12th. The tournament, which the Deacs won in 2000, was co-hosted by Wake Forest and UNC-Greensboro and was held April 1-3.

"I think we were disappointed a bit in our scores, but overall the students gave their whole effort," Head Coach Dianne Dailey said. "I think the students worked really hard, and I think we made some mistakes that we'd like to get back, but that's what we're going to be working on this week."

Team members echoed Dailey's thoughts and are quickly putting the tournament behind them.

"I think overall, as a team, we were not very pleased with our play this weekend," sophomore Mandy Goins said. "However, we definitely learned some things that will help us in the ACC tournament."

On the tournament's first day, April 1, all five Deacons, fired rounds under 80. The team score was compiled from the best four scores each day, of the five players.

Freshman Laura Crawford posted a one-over-par 73 in the tournament's first round, a score which turned out to be a weekend's best for the Deacs.

As the day came to a close, Crawford found herself tied for 16th-place overall, thanks to 15 pars in the first round.

Senior Christine Hallstrom converted three birdie opportunities and finished with a first-round 76, while sophomore Maggie Simons opened her weekend with a 77.

Goins also contributed a first-round 77, while junior Julie McKenna fired a 79. Goins and McKenna both finished with 13 pars in the first round.

Wake Forest shot 303 as a team in the opening round, 19 strokes behind leaders Duke and Georgia - good for ninth-place after day one.

"I was really proud of all the girls because we went out there and gave it all we had on every shot," Simons said. "I felt good about my ball-striking, but just needed to sharpen up my short game and putting."

The Deacs' solid first-round play did not carry over as well into the tournament's second day.

Simons was the lone Deacon to shoot below 80 in the second round, firing a 78 and moving

her into a tie for 40th place in individual competition.

Hallstrom shot 81 in the second round, while Goins finished with an 83. McKenna also posted an 83 while Crawford fell out of the top 20, following a second-round score of 89.

After a team score of 325 in the second round, the Deacs found themselves 51 strokes behind Duke, which led the tournament after two rounds.

"We had a little bit of everything that second day," Dailey said. "We had 30 mph winds, we had hail and we had rain. It was just a miserable day to be out there."

"When you have those kinds of conditions, it's very tough to keep your focus and your concentration, and to know how to play the different shots."

After an 81 in the tournament's third round, Simons wrapped up a team-best three-day total of 236, 20 shots-over-par. Goins posted a third-round 79 and finished with a three-day total of 239.

Simons and Goins were the lone Deacons to crack the tournament's top-50 as Simons finished tied for 41st-place and Goins finished tied for 48th-place. Simons was also among the tournament leaders in par-4 scoring, posting a par-4 scoring-average of 4.27.

A final-round of 83 gave Hallstrom a three-day total of 240, while Crawford posted a three-day score of 243 following a three-round 81. McKenna added a three-day total of 249 after firing an 87 on the tournament's final day.

Hallstrom finished tied for 54th-place, Crawford finished in 64th-place and McKenna finished tied for 73rd-place.

As a team, Wake Forest shot 952 in the three-day event, tied for 12th-place with rivals North Carolina. Conference powerhouse, Duke fired an 833 to take home the title while fellow ACC schools Virginia and North Carolina State finished eighth and 10th, respectively.

"The conditions were so poor and the students really didn't complain," Dailey said. "They hung in there, and it was just a rough weekend overall for us."

The eighth annual Bryan National Collegiate, played at The Champions Course at Bryan Park in Browns Summit, featured 17 schools, including five from the ACC.

"I thought this tournament was especially tough mentally," Goins said, "but I was proud of our team for hanging in there even though we weren't playing our best."

The Deacs have this weekend off, but will compete the following weekend, April 15-17, in the ACC Tournament, hosted by the Carmel Country Club in Charlotte.

"As a team, I think we're just going to try to learn from our mistakes and look forward to the conference tournament," Goins said. "We definitely feel like we can play with anyone and are expecting to come back from the ACC tournament with a win."

Dailey, too, is looking to rebound at ACCs after tweaking the team's play.

"Overall the students are hitting the ball well, but we need to continue to work on our short game," Dailey said. "We just need to make things sharper than they were this past weekend, but I definitely think we can win, and I know the students think they can win."

The Deacons capped off an impressive spring season and consistently performed well in all of their four tournaments.

Of their match-play, the team finished in the top-10 standings in three of the four tournaments, not to mention blowing away the competition and taking first place in the SunTrust Lady Gator Invitational March 4-6.

In addition to their first place finish, the team had fourth, sixth and ninth place finishes, as well as their 12th-place tie in their last tournament, the Bryan Invitational.



Hallstrom