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14th-RANKED FSU ADVANCES IN ACC TOURNAMENT FOR FIRST TIME EVER
Seminole soccer gets past No. 15 Demon Deacons in shoot-out and will face Tar Heels in second round.

DURHAM, NC – The No. 14 Florida State soccer team (12-6-2) pulled off another upset and advanced to the second round of the 2000 ACC soccer tournament after eliminating the second-seeded, and 15th-ranked, Demon Deacons (10-7-2) Thursday evening in Durham, NC. The game ended in a 1-1 tie and Florida State advanced to the next round in a suddenvictory shoot-out.

"This is a very exciting win for our players," said head coach Patrick Baker. "It is very difficult to beat a team as good as Wake Forest twice in one season but our team found a way to move into the second round of the tournament."

Senior co-captains Rachael Watkin and Sarah Crawford carried the Seminoles to their first-ever ACC tournament win with big plays at key moments. Watkin, from Boca Raton, Fla., got the Seminoles off to a great start in the game's third minute. Freshman Summer Corum took a pass from Emma Breland and beat a defender by the corner flag on the near side of the field. She sent the ball to Watkin who blasted a shot past Wake keeper Tracy Chao to give FSU a 1-0 advantage.

"It was important for our team to come out and show well early in the game," said Watkin. "I was excited to get that first goal and start us out in a positive way."

The Seminoles held the lead for 35 minutes before Deacon freshman Katherine Winstead notched her first collegiate goal to even the match 1-1. Winstead took a cross at the right goalpost and was just able to sneak the shot between the post and the outstretched arm of Crawford.

Although both teams had chances throughout the rest of regulation and two overtime periods, neither school was able to put the game-winner in the net. Wake almost ended the match less than one minute into the first overtime period when a loose ball in front of FSU's goal almost led to the game-winner but Crawford was able to get back into position and make the stop.

"After the early goal, I thought we might have one of those nights where everything goes so well," said Baker. "For whatever reason, they were able to get the equalizer and get back in the game. As the match went on, it was back and forth and we were able to dodge a couple of bullets. I was a little nervous going into the penalty kicks since we had only practiced them once this season."

The game went into a shoot-out where the team who converted the most penalty kicks in their five opportunities would advance to the next round. The Seminoles shot first and Marte Vik Edvardsen, who had converted a penalty kick against North Carolina earlier in the season, was unable to convert her third straight PK of the year. Wake's Chao, who played goal during regulation and overtime, converted their first kick to take the 1-0 lead.

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FSU got on the board when sophomore Cindy Schofield beat Wake keeper Winstead, who replaced Chao in net for the shoot-out, to even it at 1-1. Wake's Colleen Bradley came to the line to put the Deacons back out in front but was stopped by a diving save by Crawford. The save kept the shoot-out even and gave FSU the opportunity to get back into the game.

"I was worried for a brief second after Marte missed the first one," said Baker. "When Crawford made the save we were back even and I felt we had the momentum. Crawford stayed focused and when the game was on the line she showed her resolve and stepped up for us."

Crawford gave up only one regulation goal despite facing 12 shots on net. She also made a diving save at the 62-minute mark that could of easily given Wake the eventual game-winner. Her shoot-out save might have been the most important save in the history of Florida State soccer.

"The pressure should be on me," said Crawford. "I am the goalkeeper and the game should come down to the way I perform. That's the nature of the position. Our team did their job and I just tried to give them a chance at winning this game."

The shoot-out remained even as Meredith Jones, Ashley Halter and Heather Dyche matched Wake Forest goal for goal and sent the game into a sudden-victory shoot-out. At this point, whichever team missed a shot would be eliminated if the other school converts their kick.

Watkin stepped up to the line, and the challenge, and placed the ball in the upper left-hand corner of the net and put the pressure on the Deacs to answer the goal or be eliminated for the tournament. Emily Taggart, an All-ACC second team selection, wasn't able to place her shot on goal and the Seminoles advanced in the tournament for the first time.

"The game-winning PK could not have happened to a better player, or more importantly a better person, than Rachael Watkin," said Baker. "I was so excited that she was the one who hit the shot that sent us on to the next round."

Watkin, one of only four fourth-year seniors on the team, had one of the biggest nights of her Seminole soccer career when it was needed the most. Her opening minute goal and sudden-victory penalty kick helped the Seminoles break another record in a season that has already seen so many records fall.

"It was awesome to hit that penalty kick," said Watkin. "I've been here for a while and it was important for me to step up, especially in a game like this."

The Demon Deacons played the match without their leading goal scorer Joline Charlton who was diagnosed with mono prior to the game and did not suit up.

"I thought we played well enough to win the game," said Wake Forest head coach Tony da Luz. "I think the fact that Joline was unable to play might have been the difference in a very close game."

The Seminoles now face the defending national champion North Carolina Tar Heels (13-3) Friday, November 3 at 6:00 p.m. The Seminoles recorded their first-ever win against UNC, by a 3-2 score, at the Seminole Soccer Complex earlier this season in an overtime game that marked the biggest win in the short history of Florida State soccer.

Soccer Box Score (Final) Florida State Soccer

Florida State vs Wake Forest (Nov 03, 2000 at Durham, NC)

Florida State (12-6-2) vs. Wake Forest (10-7-2) e: Nov 03, 2000 Attendance: Weather:	Goals by Period 1 2 OT O2 Tot										
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CAUTIONS AND EJECTIONS:

Officials: Referee: Tim Bower; Asst. Referee: Cory Rockwell; Mike Balson;

Alt. Official: Dave Edwards;

Offsides: Florida State 0, Wake Forest 0.

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