

Quakers Edge Elon 84-82

by Chris Benfey

Some of my friends were surprised last week when they didn't find an article in the Guilfordian about the High Point game. Guilford lost, of course; but how can you expect a team to win if its games aren't even covered in the school newspaper?

This week we won. See what a difference an article can make?

A thousand people squeezed into a steaming Alumni Gymnasium to watch the Quakers cream the Christians. It didn't happen though. Guilford led by twenty twice in the first half, only to have Elon reduce a 44-24 bulge to a more respectable 51-39 figure at the half.

One of the digits on the scoreboard refused to function throughout the game. The less attentive Quaker fans weren't sure if their team was up by ten, twenty, or whether - heaven help us - the score was tied. At 40-20 the scoreboard read 00-20.

Drechsler was instrumental in opening up the big lead. He has a fine first half, picking up seven quick points with around six minutes remaining. At that time Elon called a time-out. The Christians were none too pleased with the judgements of the officials. "Wha d'ya do with calls like that?" one of the players whimpered.

There were plenty of fouls called in the first half. The Elon players even managed to commit a few against one another to the great delight of

the Guilford fans. Both teams were shooting one and one with the half only half over.

In an effort to keep the big men from fouling out before the second half started, and at the same time retain the agreeable twenty point lead, Guilford went into a stall with four minutes to play in the half. Sam Kennedy would wait calmly in the corner till someone challenged him. Gary Devlin dribbled around everyone; then, when Elon got tired of chasing him, he'd drive for the basket.

Unfortunately the basket wasn't too friendly to the Quakers. Meanwhile Elon consistently squeezed inside for the short jumper, and cut the lead to 46-31.

The Quaker frustration was eloquently expressed by the Guilford cheerleaders. With three minutes left they tried to form a pyramid, only to have a corner collapse, dumping one of our ladies head-first to the floor.

Guilford fell asleep during the second half. The Quakers missed passes, shots, and turned the ball over consistently. With twelve minutes left in the game they were up by only four, 57-53.

The Elon cheerleaders came bouncing out, executed a flawless pyramid, and the Quakers knew they had to change their sparkplugs to win this one.

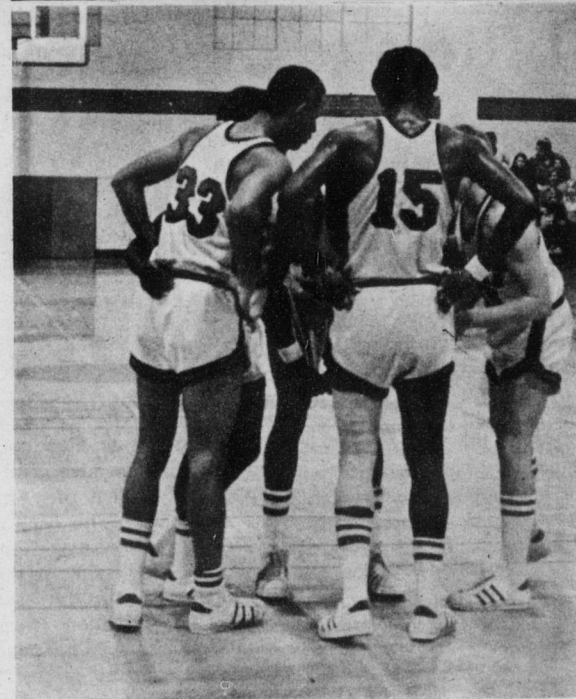
So in came Ray Branch, who'd had some foul trouble in the first half. He popped in a bucket, then another, then broke up a pass, got the layup and was fouled on the play.

With eleven minutes left Branch, almost singlehandedly, had widened the lead to 64-55. Gary Devlin tossed in two long and lovely baskets, and Branch added another. When Branch fouled out, with five minutes left in the game, Guilford was up by a comfortable fifteen, 76-61.

Then Guilford took another nap. With 1:20 remaining in the game, Guilford was up 82-75, and the alarm still hadn't gone off. But that last minute seemed interminable. Elon seemed to make every shot it attempted, including a three point play. Gary Devlin missed the first shot in two one and one opportunities, and suddenly, with 22 seconds left, the game was tied at 82.

The Elon cheerleaders were so nervous that they shook their pompoms in Devlin's face as he stood at the free-throw line. They were gently reprimanded by the officials.

Enter Sam Kennedy. Actually he'd been there all along, and up as high scorer of the game with 23 points. His basket, with a couple of seconds left, sealed the game for Guilford 84-82.



THE GUILFORDIAN Photo by Enos

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Cheerleaders Bemoan Lack of Spirit

by Forrest Hughes

The Guilford College cheerleaders are upon hard times. According to Barb DiBoise, captain, the little group needs more support from the community than it is getting just now.

"The community supports the teams, but not the cheerleaders," Barb said. She was worried not only about the spirit of the Guilford College community but also about the ability of the group of women to continue financially on the funds they now have.

From the \$500 allotted them by the Senate, the cheerleaders must provide transportation to and from the away games, food and lodging during over-night games, refreshments for some of the teams during some of their practices, materials for banners, and other expenses. As their budget stands now, the group could not attend The Kansas City national play-offs if the basketball team is able to attend.

Guilford spirit is lacking in the backing of the teams. Guilford has four excellent varsity teams - Women's volleyball, soccer, basketball and football - but "the spirit

on campus isn't equal to the quality of the teams," Barb said. The number of people who join in the cheers at the football games is quite small compared to the number of spectators actually present, and there is not as good a turnout for a college this size as might be expected.

Financial and spirit problems aside, the cheerleaders are working hard. One improvement they hope to make is to add more acrobatics and stunts to their routines. New cheers will hopefully put more excitement into the crowds.

Unlike last year, the cheerleaders will not include men in the current semester. A lack of interest on the guys' parts, lack of money, and a majority rule against them on the women's part were cited as reasons for this omission.

The group has a varied background in cheering. Barb DiBoise cheered in high school and junior high, as did Terry Hughes. Sterling Dobson cheered in high school, and Debbie Jones and Maria DeCanio had never cheered before they came to Guilford. They list various reasons for having become cheerleaders. Support of the school and the

physical exercise, among other benefits are given.

The try-outs for next year's cheerleaders will be held in the same way as they have in the past. In the spring a sign-up sheet will be available to ensure that all interested persons have an equal chance, and daily practices will be held for a week. At the end of the week the actual try-outs will be held and the squad will be chosen.

The cheerleaders hope for a bigger group and, more support from the Guilford community, this year and in the future.



There will be a preliminary lecture-demonstration of tai chi presented by Phil Pendleton on Wednesday, February 4th, in the basement of the Library. The topic will be the relationship of tai chi to I Ching, the Book of Changes. Please come.



Despite lack of support, cheerleaders "kick on" whopping-up spirit from the Quaker crowd of fans.

Photo by Enos