

# Baseball Team Stands 7 and 4

Quaker Baseball team stands with 7-4 record, heads into conference play Tuesday

When you talk about an explosive offensive people do not usually think that you mean baseball. But that is exactly what the Guilford College Quaker baseball team has; an explosive offensive team.

After splitting a double header with Duke on Sunday, the Quakers stand with a 7-4 overall record and have scored 131 runs in 11 games for an average of 12.6 runs per game.

The Quaker baseball team started off the week with a 15-1 win over Salem College and followed the next day with a 21-5 win over the same team from West Virginia.

In the first game with Salem, Pella Stokes was the big gun as he blasted a three run homer for the Quakers. Greg Gambrell, the Quaker freshman left handed pitcher from Goldsboro, North Carolina picked up the win as he struck out 8 batters in five innings.

In the second game with Salem it was Bruce Baden who did much of the damage as he homered, doubled, scored four times and drove in four runs. Charlie Kearns added another homer.

On Friday the Quakers defeated Eastern Connecticut State 12-0 as freshman Jerry Broome went the distance on the mound for the Quakers becoming the first Quaker pitcher this year to do so and also became the first member of the pitching staff to notch a shutout.

Jeff Kirtz did it at the plate for the Quakers as he ripped a grand slam homer and Bruce Baden added a two run homer in the winning effort.

The next day was not quite the same as Guilford fell 9-7 to the same team. After being held at bay for six innings the Quakers ignited in the seventh inning as they picked up a single run.

In the eighth the Quakers picked up three more runs as Mark Guenther started things off with a solo homer.

But in the ninth inning E. Connecticut scored six runs to hand the Quakers their third loss of the year.

On Sunday the Quakers faced the Duke Blue Devils. In the first game Greg Gambrell showed why he is considered the number one pitcher for the Quakers this year as he struck out 12 batters in the seven inning game and allowed only five hits and two runs as the Quakers defeated Duke 3-2.

Gambrell picked up his third win of the year against no losses. Guilford got things going in the third inning as Barry Hussey started things with a base hit. Hussey advanced to second on a wild pitch and Mark Guenther then singled to place runners on first and third. Pella Stokes bunted Guenther down to third, and then came "King Kong," Kirtz to the plate. With a 3-1 count the Quaker designated hitter ripped a double to score both Hussey and Guenther, and place the Quakers ahead 2-0.

In the fourth inning Reggie Teague started off the inning with a walk, Brett Stell, the speedy little freshman from Raleigh, N.C., came in to run for the catcher Teague. Charlie Kearns sacrificed him over to second and then Hussey singled in Stell from second.

In the second game Duke jumped out to a quick 3-0 lead before, King Kong decided to knock the cover off of the ball. The Stanton, Virginia native slapped two homers, one a solo shot and the other a two run blast to try to help the Quakers.

But Guilford fell 10-5 and now stands with a 7-4 record.

Tuesday at 3:00 at Guilford will mark the opening of the 1977 Carolinas Conference race as the Quakers will be facing Catawba College.

Jerry Broome the Quaker strong right hander is expected to start on the mound. The Mebane, North Carolina native has a 2-1 record on the year.

On Wednesday, the Quakers will face another CC foe in Atlantic Christian. Greg Gambrell is expected to start that game for the Quakers.

Thursday and Friday will also see the Quakers at home at Quaker "Stadium," as they face St. Lawrence University on Thursday and Lynchburg College on Friday. All games start at 3:00.



# Quaker Phenomenon Jeff Kirtz

BY JOHNNY MOORE

When the Guilford College basketball team went to Kansas City for the National basketball title last year, after winning the District title there were great banners raised and streamers all over campus. When the football team won their first game in a while three years ago there was great celebrating, but what about last spring when the Guilford College baseball team won the NAIA Area 7 baseball title and became one of the top eight baseball teams in the country in the NAIA?

Well most of the Guilford College student body had gone home for summer vacation and did not even know about it until they came back this fall.

It seemed a shame that such a great baseball team should not also enjoy the benefits as the other Quaker sports.

But, last year is gone and so are a number of those players that made the great season possible. Randy Black, the Quakers fleet-footed centerfielder signed with the Philadelphia Phillies organization, Ray Cooke, the Quakers strong right-hander graduated, Larry Jackson had to retire after notching 12 wins and carrying much of the winning himself, due to old age, and catcher Stan Smith graduated.

Although these players were great ones for the Quakers and Larry Jackson will go down as one of the top three pitchers ever in Guilford history, if he is not the most valuable total baseball player to ever play at Guilford. The Quaker diamondmen still have a lot of good new players.

Greg Gambrell who has a 3-0 pitching record and has 29 strikeouts in 19 innings, is beginning to look like a young Larry Jackson, and it should only be fitting that Jerry Broome a strong right hander wear number 12, a uniform that was worn by the Quakers strong right hander last year Ray Cooke.

But the thing that makes this years team a little more exciting than last season's squad is number 15, Jeff Kirtz.

Kirtz is a junior college transfer from Sandhills Community College, and hails from Stanton, Virginia. A junior, Kirtz has taken over the designated hitting duties for the Quakers and has done quite a good job at it. If stats make a ball player super, then Jeff Kirtz is unbelievable. Through 11 games this is what Kirtz's stats look like.

G-11; AB-44; R-21; H-21; 2B-5; 3B-1; HR-9; SB-5; BB-9; HP-1; SAC-1; SO-5; RBI-31; Batting Average-.477

In comparison the following are Randy Black's stats for the 1976 season. Black was the leading hitter for the Quakers. G-45; AB-179; R-45; H-54; 2B-3; 3B-3; SB-17; BB-31; SAC-3; SO-21; RBI-35; Batting Average-.301

A quick look will show you that Kirtz is only four R.B.I.'s short of what Black had last season and that led the team, and has already tied Black in home runs with 9. Both Black and Baden had 9 homers to lead the squad last year.

Along with all of these super batting figures, Kirtz has also played centerfield for the Quakers and has come in as a relief pitcher in two games.

Kirtz has come along just right for the Quakers, to make an understatement, who were not sure of their offensive strength after losing two of the biggest bats in Black and Smith.

Not only has Kirtz with his great hitting provided this club with offensive power but so have Mark Guenther who is batting over .450, Bruce Baden who has four homers and batting over .480, and Pella Stokes, who has shown a lot of great hitting power this season.

What it all boils down to is the fact that last year's squad went to the final eight team tourney and had an explosive squad offensively, this year's team has a lot more potential and a lot of offense.

On May 31st of last year, the Guilford College student body did not get to see the Quakers play in the World Series of NAIA baseball, but this spring they have the chance.

On Tuesday Guilford will face Carolinas Conference foe Catawba at 3:00 and then on Wednesday the Quakers face Atlantic Christian, two big conference games.

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