

Sports

Catch-Up on Lacrosse

Guest Editorial

by Geoff Miller
Lacrosse Coach

Despite what many observers may think, a lacrosse game is not a bunch of maniacs running around unrestrained, or a legalized opportunity to mug someone. Quite the contrary. Although I'm prejudiced, I feel it's a game which requires the strength and toughness of football, the quickness of basketball, and the stamina of ice hockey or soccer. Most importantly, it's an intellectual game that necessitates instantaneous adjustments, decisions, and reactions. It's a thinking man's game and for the fan to fully appreciate lacrosse it's advisable to have a skeleton knowledge of the rules and objectives.

The game is played with ten players on the field at one time for each team; 1 goalie, 3 defensemen, 3 midfielders, and 3 attackman. The purpose of each team is to score by causing the ball to enter the 6'x6' goal of its opponent and to prevent the other team from getting possession of the ball and scoring. The field is 110 yards long, and unlike all other sports except hockey, there is room (15 yards) for play behind each goal.

The game begins with a face-off where the ball is placed between two players' sticks and the other players are restrained until the whistle blows. This is an important feature of the game because whichever team wins the most face-offs (a face-off is held

after each goal is scored and at the beginning of each quarter) will have possession of the ball the most and therefore have more scoring opportunities. A fan seeing the game for the first time is struck by the fact that players from both teams stay behind the midfield line when the ball is at one end. The offside rule is simple: both teams must keep at least three players (and a goalie at the defensive end) on each side of midfield at all times. The penalty for a player stepping over is to remove that player from the game for 30 seconds.

The offensive flow and ball movement of lacrosse is similar to basketball. Ball movement, picks, cutters, and one-on-one moves are all essential elements. Like ice hockey, midfielders are substituted frequently because they run so much and play both offense and defense. Defensively there are ways to try and stop the offense. Defense players use long sticks to help them take the ball away from the offense. A stick check on your opponents stick or glove or forearm is legal. An uncontrolled swing or "slash" is not (1 minute penalty). Body contact, from the knees up to the shoulders and from the front is legal when the ball is within 5 yards of the player being checked. A trip, check to the head, unnecessary roughness, illegal body checks, etc. are all 1 minute penalties.

Lacrosse has been touted as "the fastest game on two feet." When shot hard, the ball can reach the speed of 85-95 miles per hour. It's a fast-paced and ex-



citing game. I sincerely hope that our student body will come out to our home games this spring and not only support our team but also come to understand why it's the "fastest game on two feet!" If you have questions, please ask. Any of us on the staff or team would be delighted to respond.

Undefeated in the Division

by Doug Drotman
Staff Writer

The 1983 Guilford baseball team opened the season poorly but has improved suddenly. After starting with losses to Duke 8-0, and to AT University 10-7.

and 8-3 the Quakers put together back to back victories against conference rivals.

In the first victory of the season versus Elon, J.R. Richardson got the complete game victory yielding only 3 runs on 5 hits in 9 innings. The offense was led by Harlie Miller (2 hits in 4 at bats, including a double) and Aldine Payne (2-4, 1 double and 2 rbi). Then after several rain outs, the Quakers met top ranked conference rival Wingate. Pitcher Dan Madden (8.3 innings pitched, 2 earned runs, 6 hits allowed) was superb in controlling the ferocious bats of Wingate. Vic Fucci (2 hits, 4 at bats, including a 2 run homer) not only was impressive at the plate but also came in to get Madden out of a ninth inning jam and pick up a save. Jerry Kidd (3-4) also had a fine game.

Statistical leaders for the Quakers thus far after 5 games are: Harlie Miller (10-19, .527 ave, 1 hr, 3 rbi), Jerry Kidd (8-22 .364 ave, 3 doubles) and Barry Whitlock (7-21, .333 ave). Pitching leaders are Dan Madden (1-2, 2.89 era) and J.R. Richardson (1-0, 3.86 era).

'Winning Attitude' for Tennis

by Andrew Duncan
Staff Writer

The Guilford College men's tennis team won two matches last week, upping their record to 6-7, after some very tough early season losses. The team, according to head coach Ray Alley, has kept a winning attitude and has continued to work hard in practice as well as in matches. This attribute may be important for the team in giving them confidence during some important coming matches.

Last week's highlights included victories over Concordia College and High Point College. Concordia came to Greensboro from New York after having finished

eighth in last year's N.A.L.A. tournament. The Quakers overpowered the Concordia team and played with consistency in gaining the 7-2 triumph. The team was led by Markku Salokannel, who has played, according to Coach Alley, very well since the Spring trip to Florida, and the number 2 doubles team of Gavin Behrens and Dan Wheatley who have been the most consistent pair on the team. The other victory of the week was the defeat of High Point College which was a hard fought 5-4 victory over a pesky Carolinas Conference foe.

Coach Alley feels that the team's swing through Florida during Spring break has helped the team because of the strength of

the competition which Guilford faced. The team beat Jacksonville during the trip, but did lose to Flagler, who is ranked number 1 in the N.A.L.A. Alley feels that playing teams such as Wake Forest, UNC, UT-Chatanooga and Rollins has helped the team to find (College) weaknesses and subsequently help them to become better tennis players. The coach seems to feel that, with improved tennis and a little bit of luck, Guilford might have a chance against the superior talent of Atlantic Christian, who is number 1 in the conference and the defending district champion.

Upcoming matches include West Virginia on Sunday at 1:30, as well as Harvard and Atlantic Christian. The West Virginia win

here last year was one of the best matches of the year for the team and hopefully the team will be able to duplicate last year's performance, even though the Quakers won't have Scott Nichols and Howard Goodstadt, both of whom have graduated. The match against Harvard will be a big one on Friday April 1 because a victory here might be a confidence boost against Atlantic Christian who the Quakers play on Saturday April 2nd at Wilson, N.C.

If the Quakers can overcome their greatest weakness which quite clearly is inexperience then the team might reestablish itself as a strong contender to return to Kansas City, where the team finished seventh, three years ago.