

Look back with the 1992 football class

Matt Parker
Staff Writer

Under first year coach Mike Ketchum, the Guilford College Quakers finished the 1991 season with an 8-2 record and the Old Dominion Athletic Conference championship.

For the sixteen seniors, the championship marked the end of a bittersweet career. When this year's senior class arrived in Greensboro, the Quakers were still an NAIA school but they had phased out athletic scholarships to accommodate the move to NCAA Division III. Despite this, they continued to play a predominantly NAIA schedule against teams with scholarship players.

In their freshman season, and Ketchum's first as an assistant coach, the Quakers finished 2-8. They improved slightly the following year going 2-7-1 as Calvin Hunter assumed his quarterback duties.

Things changed last season when the Quakers joined the NCAA Division III and started to compete on an even field with their opponents. Hunter guided the Quakers to a 7-3 record.

Although Guilford was not eligible for the ODAC championship, they finished with the best record in the league, going 4-1. That gave the Quakers something to shoot for in 1991. When Hampden-Sydney defeated Randolph-Macon 29-28 last Saturday, the Quakers became the ODAC champions, again with a 4-1 record.

Guilford opened the season with non-conference games against Davidson and Methodist. The Quakers gave up only a field goal in these two games, downing Davidson

21-3 behind Max Appleby's two touchdowns and blanking Methodist 34-0. Guilford opened its conference schedule on the road against Hampden-Sydney. Placekicker Ty Clodfelter booted a field goal in the closing minutes to give the Quakers a 24-21 victory.

Week four's opponent was Charleston Southern. The Quakers scored at will on the first year program, building a big, early lead and then coasting to a 40-6 victory and a perfect 4-0 start. Guilford traveled to Salisbury State the next weekend to face the Seagulls. The defense turned in their second shutout of the year as the Quakers again built an early lead and then coasted to a 20-0 win.

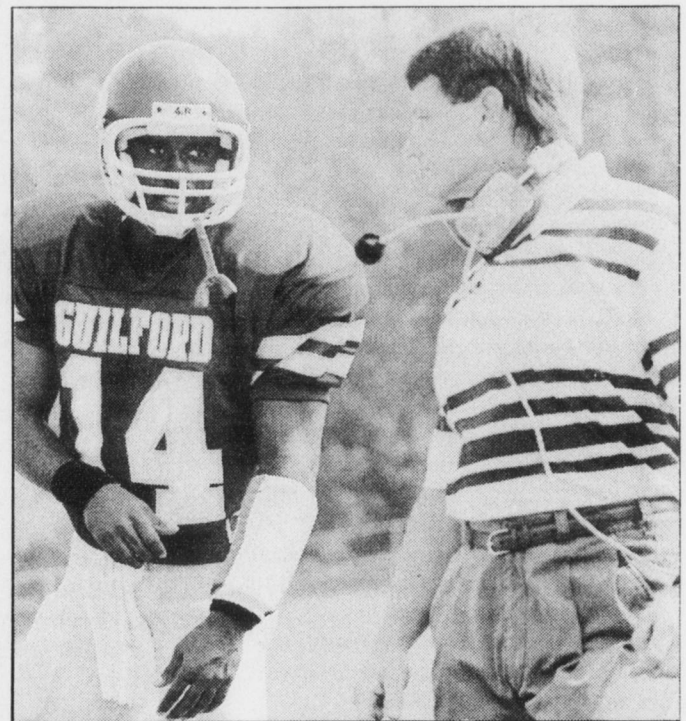
The perfect record would be put to a severe test in week six. The seniors wanted this one badly, having lost to Ferrum College (their next opponent) in each of their three previous meetings. However, the Quakers lost as the Panthers exploded for 61 points en route to a 61-13 victory.

It took the Quakers three quarters to regroup the next week in Bridgewater, Virginia. Junior Bron Thompson finally provided the inspiration in the fourth quarter of a scoreless game. Thompson ran for a 66-yard touchdown and was on the receiving end of a 46-yard pass, putting the Quakers up 14-0. The final score was 14-6, but more importantly the Quakers had survived their slight letdown.

Emory & Henry, the defending ODAC champs were the week seven opponent. The Quaker defense forced four fumbles on the Wasps final five possessions to set up Ty

Clodfelter's game-winning field goal with less than a minute to play. Trailing 16-14, Clodfelter was good from 36 yards out, giving the Quakers a 17-16 victory and putting them in the driver's seat for the Championship.

With two games remaining, the seniors, who had gone 4-15-1 in their first two years, had a chance to go 9-1 in their senior season and set a school record for most victories in a season. Playing their only home conference game of the year, and with the possibility to clinch the Championship, optimism was high. Randolph-Macon had other plans, though. Trailing 17-10 in the fourth quarter, senior defensive back Shane Handy scored on a 61 yard reverse punt return to tie the game at 17. The Yellow Jackets later drove to the Guilford one. A strong goal line stand forced a field goal, but the Quakers had less than two minutes to score. With no timeouts left, Hunter was forced to throw sideline patterns. The Yellow Jackets came up with an



file photo
ODAC Player of the Year Calvin Hunter and Guilford Head Coach Mike Ketchum discuss a play call on their way to an 8-2 season.

interception near midfield to preserve the win.

Guilford closed the season on a positive note, avenging last year's only conference loss with a 25-7 win over the hapless Generals of Washington & Lee.

The seniors will leave with a 19-20-1 record, but closed out their careers nicely going 15-5 in their final two seasons.

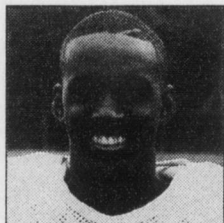
Guilford's masked men profiled: 14 Quaker seniors

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"This is the most fun group I've ever been around, counting all the places I've coached," Quaker Football Head Coach Mike Ketchum said about his senior class. "The nicest thing is that they are so close to one another. We don't have any 'Me, me,' guys. They are good players, but they're better people."

The Class of 1992:

•Calvin Hunter, ODAC Player of the Year. Has rewritten the record books at Guilford. Hunter threw for 4,553 yards and 34 touchdowns and rushed for 1,274 yards and 18 touchdowns in his career, setting new marks for passing yards, touchdown passes, rushing touchdowns, total offense, and tying the record for most rushing touchdowns in a season with 8. In addition, Hunter holds the records for total offensive yards in a season (1,958)



Hunter

and total pass completions (325).

•Rodney Alexander, first team All-ODAC. A four year starter at defensive end, Alexander finished his career with a 3-sack performance against Washington & Lee. Alexander recorded 105 solo and 214 total tackles in his career.

•Adam Costanzo. Moved into a starting spot on the defensive line this year. Costanzo recorded 14 solo and 27 total tackles and one sack this year. For his career, Costanzo had 32 tackles and one sack.

•Jay Derby. Primarily a blocking back, Derby gained 278 yards on 52 carries this season. His 5.3 yard average was tied for the team lead. Derby also had two catches for 11 yards. Derby rushed for 489 yards and one touchdown in his career.

•Paul Grantham. A converted safety, Grantham had 24 solo and 49 tackles from is linebacking spot this year. Grantham also broke up three passes and had one sack. For his career, Grantham recorded 89 solo and 137 total tackles.

•Shane Handy. A defensive back and punter, Handy recorded 43 solo and 59 total tackles this year. Handy broke up 10 passes and

intercepted three others. He scored on a punt return and recovered a bad snap in the end zone for another score this year. Handy punted 55 times for a career-best average of 36.2 yards.

•Jeff Herndon. A two-year starter at left offensive tackle, Herndon also saw some action on the defensive line this year in short yardage situations. Herndon was in on 5 tackles this year. His strength and quickness will be missed on the offensive line.

•Chip Hester. Despite being hobbled by injuries most of the season, Hester still managed to make 22 receptions for 385 yards and 4 touchdowns. Hester had 55 career receptions for 753 yards and 6 touchdowns. Chip had a career long 54 yard reception this season.

•Clarence Inscore, first team All-ODAC. A four-year starter at defensive back, Inscore recorded 42 solo and 59 total tackles. Inscore also deflected 11



Inscore

passes and had a team high 5 interceptions. For his career, Inscore was in on 212 tackles, had 13 interceptions and recovered 5 fumbles. He set a Quaker record in his junior season, averaging 16.0 yards per punt return.

•Andre Johnson. Played defensive back before switching to tight end at Guilford. For his career, Johnson caught 17 passes for 167 yards and 3 touchdowns. His best year was last year when he caught 10 passes for 108 yards and 2 TDs.

•John Lambert. Lambert has started at center the past two seasons, after starting at tackle in his sophomore season. Lambert saw some goal-line action on the defensive line and was in on 4 tackles this year and 6 for his career.

•Shannon Manire, first team All-ODAC. Was third on the team with 64 total tackles this year. He had 3 sacks from his linebacking position and also recovered 3 fumbles. For his career, Manire recorded 94 solo and 172 total tackles, 7 sacks, 1 interception, and recovered 6 fumbles.

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