

Potpourri

A Slice of Life from the Butcher

Seconds to lose

By Butch Maler

All right you Oriole fans—go ahead.

Mock me all you want as I stroll through campus, pointing fingers and laughing about Baltimore's season-long run hovering around the top of the American League East perch. Sure, the O's have fared better than expected, much better in fact, than many had predicted.

Flashback to March, when a certain Guilfordian columnist offered his educated guessing skills for the sake of baseball prognostication in this campus newspaper.

The Blue Jays and White Sox would win the AL with the Bucs and Reds to meet in the NLCS, he surmised. Currently, Pittsburgh and Toronto lead their Eastern Division races, but the Chisox and Cincinnati seem destined for second place.

Incidentally, I placed the Baltimore Orioles at the bottom of their division, not thinking much of their cosmetic youth rally.

Rally around, they did.

Behind the young gun of Mike Mussina, the resurgence of Rick Sutcliffe, the sideburns of Brady Anderson, the bat and glove of Mike Devereaux, the catching of Chris Hoiles and the lineup card in which Cal Ripken, Jr.'s name was always etched, Johnny Oates' club has played little brother to Toronto all season long, following the Jays wherever they went. And as of this past weekend, the O's stood in second, only a smidgen behind.

Sports fans, that's as good as last place.

Sure, sure, Baltimore is not Seattle—the worst team in the AL—and has a couple dozen more wins to prove it. But if the season ends today, both clubs would be going home to watch the playoffs on TV. After 162 games, only one team in each major league division advances into post season play.

All other teams, be they in anywhere from second to seventh place, fall short of the playoffs.

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As a freshman, I attended one

meeting of Guilford's Fellowship of Christian Athletes group where John Lilly, then a senior, shared with us for a couple minutes.

In his last game as a Quaker wide receiver, "Lils" caught a pass inside his opponent's five-yard line. Having never scored a touchdown in his career at Guilford, he was more than anxious to cross the goal line.

Turning toward the end zone, Lilly was met just short of the stripe and was tackled a foot-and-a-half away.

18 inches.

That's how close he was. 18 inches. And the game ended with John failing to score in his career.

Lilly took time to reflect his plight, considering the situation in a broader scope. And then he told the group about it.

"You know, I got to thinking. I was so close, missing the goal by only 18 inches. That's as far as it is from your head to your heart. And unless you have Jesus in your heart, that's how far you miss heaven. I don't want to be that close and

miss it."

* * *

Let's say we line everyone at Guilford up on the coast of California and told them to swim to Hawaii. Some people might tire a few hundred yards from shore, some a few miles from the sand.

But everyone would drown. No one would make it to Hawaii. What's the difference between the person who swam miles to the one who couldn't make it by the first set of waves? The end result was the same.

All swimmers, may they drown close to or far away from shore, would fall short of Hawaii.

Comparing ourselves against others is useless. We all drown. Our measuring stick is God. And Isaiah 40:12-14 (NIV Bible) gives some riveting pictures of His awesomeness:

Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens? Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket, or weighed the mountains on the scales and

the hills in a balance? Who has understood the mind of the Lord, or instructed him as his counselor? Who did the Lord consult to enlighten him, and who taught him the right way? Who was it that taught him knowledge or showed him the path of understanding?

No one but the Lord God Almighty. So we fall short.

And all of the "good deeds" in the world can't save us. Religion can't. Neither can meditation, yoga, sports, aerobics, writing about Christianity, etc. There is only one Name by which we are saved—Jesus Christ.

And if you don't know Jesus Christ as your Savior?

You don't have a second to lose.

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

—from Romans 3:23, 6:23, NIV Bible

Sports calendar

Saturday, September 19

- Volleyball v. Hollins, HOME, 11 a.m.
- Women's soccer v. Virginia Wesleyan, HOME, 2 p.m.
- Football v. Hampden-Sydney, away, 1:30 p.m.
- Men's soccer v. Roanoke, away, 2 p.m.

Monday, September 21

- Volleyball v. Elon, away, 6:30 p.m.
- Women's soccer v. Lynchburg, away, 4 p.m.

Wednesday, September 23

- Women's soccer v. Greensboro, away, 4 p.m.
- Men's soccer v. Washington and Lee, away, 4 p.m.
- Volleyball v. Washington and Lee, away, 4 p.m.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND COME SUPPORT THE TEAMS!

NFL Contest

Can YOU beat "The Greek"?

Test your NFL prognosticating abilities against (arguably) Guilford's most knowledgeable sports mind—that of sophomore Eric "The Greek" Pappas.

Each week, ten National Football League games will be listed here and all you have to do is write who you pick as the winner of each game on the entry form, turn it in by the deadline, and wait. Each entry will be compared to Pappas' picks, and all of those who correctly predict more games than Pappas will be entered into a drawing. From this drawing one winner will be selected, and he or she will receive certificates for two dozen glazed doughnuts from Krispy Kreme. If no one defeats Pappas, he gets the doughnuts.

All students, as well as faculty, staff, and other members of the Guilford community, are encouraged to enter.

The deadline for entries is 11 p.m. Saturday. Place entries in the box located at the Information Desk

in the lobby of Founders Hall. Only one entry per person will be accepted. Participants can only win once this semester—if you win, please do not continue to enter.



Pappas Photo by Tina Copeland

Entry Blank	
Game 1: Denver @ Philadelphia	Winner: _____
Game 2: San Francisco @ New York Jets	Winner: _____
Game 3: Tampa Bay @ Minnesota	Winner: _____
Game 4: Cleveland @ L.A. Raiders	Winner: _____
Game 5: Detroit @ Washington	Winner: _____
Game 6: Phoenix @ Dallas	Winner: _____
Game 7: Kansas City @ Houston	Winner: _____
Game 8: Pittsburgh @ San Diego	Winner: _____
Game 9: New Orleans @ Atlanta	Winner: _____
Game 10: New York Giants @ Chicago	Winner: _____
Tiebreaker—Predict the total score of: Seattle @ New England	Total Score: _____
Name: _____	
Address (box #): _____	
Phone: _____	



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