

Volleyball quietly racking up wins

AMY BROACH
staff writer

Volleyball. You know, the sport where the object is to ram the ball down your opponents throat. Sounds pretty savage, huh? Well, it is, and the Guilford College women's volleyball team is excellent at it.

The Quakers, 10 and 6 heading into the Halloween match-up against Emory and Henry, have had one of their best seasons in recent memory. Senior blocker Angela Lett said, "This is one of the best teams since I have been here at Guilford."

The Lady Quakers are hoping to make this a memorable season in the trophy case as well. The three seniors are looking to win their first Old Dominion Athletic Conference title since they were freshmen. The Quakers also hope that their success will give them a berth in the NCAA Division III playoffs.

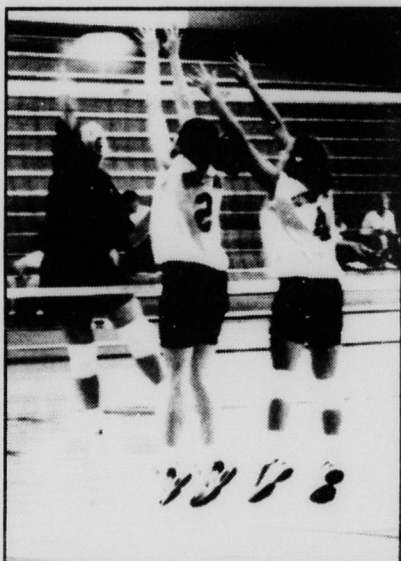
Coach Chuck McCracken credits the women on their ability to approach each match competively and as a team. "The team plays very well together," said McCracken. "Their ability to get along speaks well for their success."

Two experienced team members say that

the teamwork has been good this season. Junior Amy Shores said, "This has been the best gelling group ever. We're not just teammates, we're friends too, and that's what makes it fun."

Lett, who played her final home match in Tuesday's 3-0 thrashing of Sweet Briar, agrees. "The fact that everyone gets along is one of our keys to success," she said.

This year the Quakers have changed their offense, allowing the players to make important decisions on the court as the match progresses. Lett states that "this new offense allows the hitters more freedom with the ball."



Isaac Palant

The Quakers currently rank 6th in the nation in team blocking.

The fresh offense also allows the Quakers to capitalize on one of their strengths: communication. "Communication is one of our keys; it raises our level of play," Lett said. Having good communication among players is imperative, especially to the setter, who can adjust the placement of the ball for the hitter according to the plan of the team's offense.

"Our communication level sets the tone for the game," said Shores, an outside hitter.

While communication is nice, it also helps to have talent. Blockers Angela Lett and Monica Jaszczak, respectively 10th and 16th in the nation in blocks, along with

Laura Nelson, Amy Shores, and Jenn Gowac, have all been leaders in not only team statistics, but conference stats as well.

However, McCracken said, "Players who don't get to play as much still play an important role because they push each other in practice, which creates a competitiveness in the team."

Lett agrees, saying that "This year's team is the most overall rounded team that I have played on."

These factors will have to be present in the next few games for the Quakers to fulfill their dreams. "We will have to play well in the ODAC Tournament against teams like Washington and Lee, Eastern Mennonite, and Bridgewater, (who are conference leaders) to be able to win," McCracken said.

For the Quakers, that means focusing on Emory and Henry and conference powerhouse Washington and Lee, who will act as barriers to the conference title and a berth in the national tournament. But with the talent of this team and their competitiveness, no opponent should be able to squelch the Quakers' thirst.

Quakers win a wild one, 33-32

GEORGE BINNS
staff writer

Looking at Danny Strelkauskas, you'd never guess he was that strong. But last Saturday, the junior quarterback lifted the entire Guilford College football team to an inspiring 33-32 upset victory over Emory & Henry.

Strelkauskas passed for a career-high 318 yards and a Guilford record-tying four touchdowns against the Wasps, who were ranked fifth in the NCAA Division III South Region.

"I'm lucky to have very good receivers to rely on," said Strelkauskas. "The linemen gave me enough time to throw, and the receivers adjusted well."

Junior wide-out William Rochelle caught four balls for a career-high 114 yards and two touchdowns, including a crucial 71-yard bomb in the fourth quarter, the longest play from scrimmage in the ODAC this year.

Receiver Junior Lord continued to dominate opposing defensive backs, catching five passes for 133 yards and two touchdowns.

Despite the pass-catching heroics, the Quakers were in a see-saw battle the whole game.

Guilford, now 3-4 and 2-2 in the ODAC, fell behind 20-7 in the second quarter, but marched back to take a 21-20 halftime lead, scoring on a one-yard run by Strelkauskas and a five-yard touchdown grab by Lord.

Emory & Henry stormed out after halftime to a 29-21 lead, but once again, the Quakers retaliated.

Rochelle's post pattern touchdown cut the lead to two, but after an E&H field goal, Guilford was down by five with less than six minutes to play.

Heroically, Strelkauskas strolled onto the field and drove the Quakers 69 yards on 11 plays, capped by a diving touchdown catch by Lord.

The Wasps had a chance to win the game, but failed on a 45-yard field goal attempt.

Quaker running back Chris Li, who ran for a career-high 60 yards in the absence of leading rusher David Heggie, said, "We all played our hearts out and deserved that win."

Defensive standouts included Ben Kennerson and Dwayne Cherry, who both had 11 tackles, while Scott Sinclair had nine and Brad Smith, eight.

Assistant coach Bryan Garland said, "The guys finally showed us what they've been saying they could do all year."

Assistant coach Brindon Christman added, "The team stepped it up in practice this week, and carried it into the game."

The victory gives the Quakers an outside shot at the ODAC title, and they travel to Randolph-Macon this week for an important conference matchup.

AROUND THE ODAC

Men's Soccer W L T GF GA

Washington & Lee	10	3	0	39	23
Roanoke	9	3	2	37	19
Randolph-Macon	10	4	1	24	13
Eastern Mennonite	10	5	0	40	18
Va. Wesleyan	10	5	1	33	16
Hampden-Sydney	8	7	1	31	21
Emory & Henry	7	8	1	37	37
Lynchburg	7	9	1	34	45
Bridgewater	3	13	0	35	65
Guilford	1	9	1	13	31

Women's Soccer W L T GF GA

Randolph-Macon	15	1	1	61	6
Wash & Lee	11	4	0	47	14
Roanoke	10	6	1	48	20
Lynchburg	12	8	0	62	30
Va. Wesleyan	8	6	2	34	28
R-M Women's	9	8	0	55	41
Guilford	6	8	2	24	48
Sweet Briar	4	6	3	39	43
Hollins	4	10	0	19	69

Football W L PF PA

Emory & Henry	5	2	165	125
Bridgewater	4	3	105	94
Guilford	3	4	137	147
Randolph-Macon	5	2	170	118
Wash. & Lee	3	4	102	150
Hampden-Sydney	2	5	94	181

Last week's results

Sewanee	21	Catholic	45
Wash. & Lee	24	H-S	14
Randolph-Macon	31	Hopkins	17
Davidson	24	Bdgwtr.	0

QB honored

Quarterback Danny Strelkauskas was named ODAC player-of-the-week for his outstanding performance against Emory & Henry. Strelkauskas tied a Guilford record with four touchdown passes and passed for a career-high 318 yards. The Charleston, SC native, is the first Quaker player to win the award since Junior Lord captured it for his performance against Washington & Lee on Sept. 21.