

All-Conference soccer star hopes for improvement

◆Dax Baker thinks new coach, teammates will help make this year's men's soccer team a success

BY KELTON G. COFER
Staff Writer

I hate going to meet someone for the first time and not knowing what they look like. You wind up looking like a complete idiot when you call someone by the wrong name.

I'd never seen Dax Baker on the soccer field before I went to talk to him about his many on-field accomplishments. To be honest, I'd never seen Dax Baker at all. With a bit of uncertainty, I threw up a hand to the red-headed guy with the wrap-around shades and the goatee. "Dax?"

"Yea," he replied. Whew!

Dax Baker is a 21-year-old junior at Guilford. He lives off-campus with his mom here in Greensboro. He's a sports management major, and says his greatest accomplishment to date is having his

baby nephew named after him.

On campus, though, Dax is known more for being the turbine that runs the Guilford men's soccer team. Playing in the position of center mid-fieldman, the team's offense depends on his leadership. "I'm not the guy who scores the goals. I'm more the RBI guy," says Dax.

Dax made his mark early on here at Guilford. He made all-conference his freshman year. Next year he hopes to further his list of achievements by going All-American.

A triumph like that would be sure to make two very important people in Dax's life proud. He gives a great amount of credit for his success on the field to his mom and his older brother.

Dax also attributes his improvements on the field to the Guilford coaching staff, specifi-

cally new head coach Liam Behrens. Coach Behrens has been training with Dax as an assistant coach for the last couple years until his recent promotion to head coach. He says that over that time, he has noticed significant improvement in Dax's play. "We're going to push for All-American next year," says Coach Behrens.

As for his long-range goals, Dax hopes to graduate and go on to a career in the A-league professional division, or possibly become a soccer coach. He doesn't rule out the possibility of Major League Soccer, but he says it's a big dream.

Having such a responsible job on the field, Dax notices the other players that contribute to his success. He recognizes senior sweeper Nelson Bowman as a key man on the field. "He's really stepped up his play," says Dax.

Coach Behrens also agrees.

"Nelson covers the ground that Dax can't cover. They compliment each other well," says Behrens.

Dax says that the team looks really good this year, and that the younger players are getting more comfortable already. When asked what his goals for the team as a whole were he said, "We need to win."

Having won only one game last season and with the team's first home game on Tuesday the 23rd against Ferrum, Dax encourages students, faculty and staff to come out to the game. "We need more support from the Guilford community," says Dax.

Dax Baker is sure to be the foundation for taking the soccer team to a winning season. We as the Guilford community owe it to him and to the rest of the team to show our support.

Fearless Forecast

BY ADAM LUCAS
Editor-in-Chief

We finally made it back to .500 last week. The parade is scheduled for next Saturday.

Michigan (-14) over Notre Dame: Instinct says go with the Irish, who will be out to prove they're not as bad as people think. But, we went with them last week and they blew it.

Stanford (-8.5) over Oregon: I don't really understand why the line is this low. The Cardinal (note to Stanford: it's time to come into the 20th century and make your nickname plural) will cover easily.

Central Florida (+16) against Auburn: Auburn always seems to lose this type of game. At the very

least, this one will be closer than the line.

Rich (-22) over Kentucky: Sure, Tim Couch is

good, but he hasn't played a defense the quality of Florida's yet this year. The Gators stay on the hot streak from last week.

Virginia (+14.5) against North Carolina: You know the mental block that Tennessee has against Florida? Carolina has the same one when it comes to the Cavaliers. The Heels will probably win, but it'll be close.

Iowa (-28) over Illinois: In case you haven't been paying attention, the Big Ten has a ton of talent this year. The Hawkeyes win this home game big, and Fighting Illini coach Ron Turner wishes he had taken another job.

Duke (+11) against Navy: What can I say? The Blue Devils are on a service academy hot streak, and might even make this one close. Maybe if they lose by 10 or less they'll tear down the goalposts again.

This Week's Special Pick: Marv Albert over the state of Virginia: I think Marv's going to pull this one out in the end. The credibility of the "secret woman" is hurting just a little bit. After all, who's going to believe anything bad about Peter Jennings? Dan Rather, maybe, but not good ol' Peter.

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