

## Lax: looking good despite losses

BY JOHN "ASTOR" ANKNEY  
Staff Writer

This season will mark Randy Mercer's fifth year as head coach of the men's lacrosse team. It may be his hardest yet.

The men's lacrosse team needs to rebuild after several key players graduated last year. With 15 first-year players and only one returning senior, Mercer is still optimistic. "This is going to be an interesting season because we're so young," he said.

There is some returning experience, though. On offense, juniors Fran Randall and Chad Tripp will be returning. The team's only senior, Josh Beaumont, will lead the team from the defensive end.

Another defensive leader will be junior Tim Gerbracht, who says the coming season looks "promising." He also thinks the team's attitude has improved. "We've got a positive attitude and we're working hard."

One of the major changes this year is the loss of goalie Steve Diamond. Mercer is confident, however, that Diamond's replacement, freshman Anthony Roman, can get the job done. Roman shares this attitude, saying, "It's going to be tough trying to fill his shoes. I don't want to live under his shadow...I just want to build a name for myself."

Other freshmen to watch for are Frank Cole at midfield and Quentin Packard on defense.

One thing lacrosse fans can look forward to this year is a full schedule. With only four away games this sea-

son, there are plenty of opportunities to catch the Quakers in action. The only thing missing in the schedule is the annual Guilford Invitational Tournament. Mercer says the event was canceled this year due to scheduling conflicts.

### Season update

BY ALLISON STRIZAK  
Staff Writer

Crunch went the sound of shoulder pads as the small white ball was stripped from an opposing player and scooped up by Guilford. In a game of little finesse and lots of aggressive physicality, Guilford lacrosse played a turbulent home game on Saturday against Villa Julie, a team ranked *and* in the ODAC.

It was a wet gloomy afternoon. Rain fell with soft vengeance on the small but defiant crowd who braved the conditions.

They hugged the bleachers and yelled support from behind multi-colored umbrellas.

The third quarter rang in with a six to six tie. The fighting got intense with players slopping through a field of red clay soup.

Because the ground kept slipping from under them, they toppled over one another with domino-like precision fending for possession of the small white ball.

The score board volleyed back and forth throughout the game announcing upcoming victory.

While painted in a layer of mud, the Quakers trudged on.

With well-practiced precision Guil-

ford passed the ball effectively, despite the loss of steady footing.

Matt Synowicz led the team in scoring followed by Fran Randall and Chad Tripp, with the offense plugging away at the opposing goal.

Anthony Roman, the Quaker goalie, effectively obstructed most attempts made on goal, proving an efficient combination with the blocking defense, who continuously drove Villa Julie from their defending goal.

These alliances provided effective for a Guilford victory with a score of nine to seven in the final quarter.

When asked how they felt the game went, player Mark Wilson, smiling from behind a mask of red dirt responded, "I enjoyed it. It was a pretty rough game I thought."

While Fran Randall, looking down



The Quakers hope to utilize an attacking offense.  
PHOTO BY CHRIS CARLSTROM

on his mud-ridden body remarked, "I think it went nasty, it was disgusting."

Coach Mercer on the other hand, felt it was a good victory.

Commenting on the game, Mercer said, "We're glad we won that's for sure and we've just got to make sure we keep getting better."

### Men's Lacrosse Schedule

Washington & Lee 2/25 3:30 pm\*  
Potsdam State 3/4, 3:30 pm  
Kenyon 3/7, 1 pm  
Shenandoah, 3/11, 1 pm  
at Roanoke 3/18, 3:30 pm\*  
Villa Julie 3/21, 2 pm  
Eastern Connecticut State 3/35,  
3:30 pm  
at Virginia-Wesleyan 3/28, 2 pm\*  
Hamden-Sydney, 4/4, 2 pm\*  
at Lynchburg, 4/8, 4 pm\*  
Randolph-Macon, 4/11, 1 pm\*  
at Marymount 4/18, 2 pm  
Greensboro 4/25, 2 pm

\* - ODAC conference games

### Women's Lacrosse Schedule

Mercyhurst, 3/5, 4 pm  
Pfeiffer, 3/17, 4 pm  
Greensboro 3/22, 3 pm  
Virginia Wesleyan, 3/28, 2 pm\*  
at Roanoke 4/2, 4 pm\*  
Sweet Briar 4/4, 1 pm  
Hollins 4/4, 2 pm\*  
at Lynchburg 4/8, 4:30 pm\*  
at Bridgewater 4/11, 2 pm\*  
Limestone 4/13, 4 pm  
at Longwood 4/16, 4 pm  
at Randolph-Macon 4/18, 2 pm\*  
ODAC Quarterfinal 4/22  
ODAC Finals 4/25-26

\* - ODAC conference games



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