

Kirby retires

Palombo named interim Athletic Director

CARL FARLOW | STAFF WRITER

The Guilford athletic torch will change hands on Aug. 31, as Marion Kirby retires after five years as athletic director. Head basketball coach Tom Palombo will step in as interim athletic director.

Kirby became Guilford's athletic director in 2002 and has since brought a great deal of growth to the department. The number of varsity teams has increased from 12 to 16 under his guidance and student participation has risen as well.

"Our coaches started actively recruiting," Kirby said. "The best teams have competition for position. I'm pleased that we've been able to become more competitive."

Kirby spearheaded many projects improving Guilford's athletic facilities, the latest of which was the \$1.15 million construction of the Armfield Athletic Center. The center consists of a new press box, stadium seating, and lights for evening competitions.

"There has been tremendous renovation of facilities," said Sports Information Director Dave Walters. "Nearly every athletic facility has received significant



PALOMBO



PHOTO COURTESY GUILFORD COLLEGE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

MARION KIRBY LEAVES AUG. 31

renovation in the past five years."

Before coming to Guilford, Kirby coached football at Page High School and Edenton High School, and also founded the Greensboro College football team. The News and Record named him as one of the Triad's most of important figures in sports in the past 20 years.

"I've seen all the positive changes Marion made," Palombo said. "Right now I'm just trying to feel my way and keep up the positive changes."

Walters highlighted improving departmental budgeting as one of Palombo's immediate goals.

"The number of athletes has increased, so we have had to be creative in the way we manage our budgets," Palombo said.

This move comes in Palombo's fifth

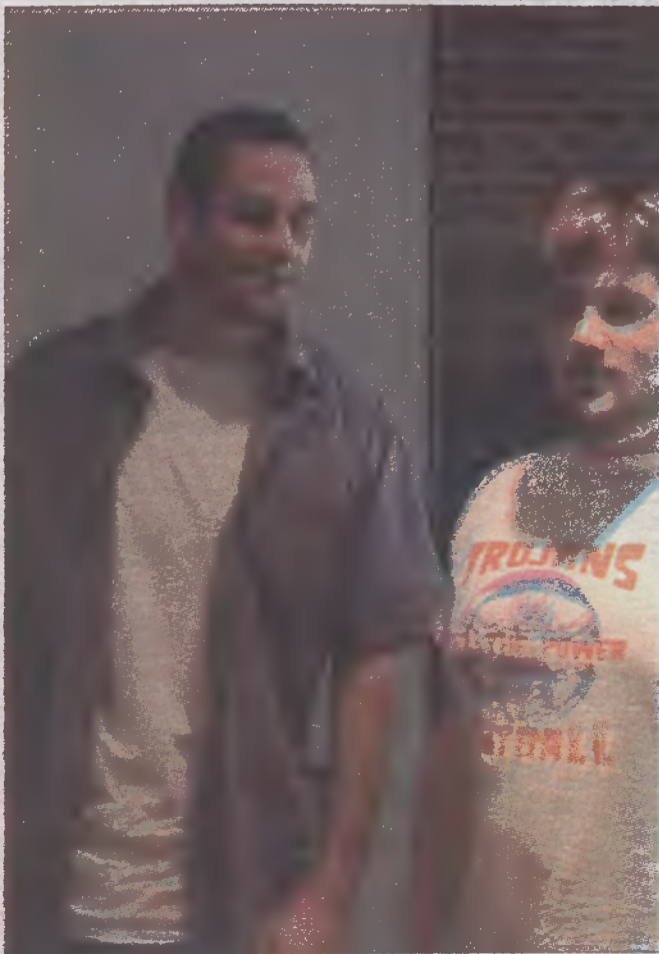
year at Guilford, but is not the first position he's held outside of coaching. He began directing the Quaker Club in 2004 and became the Departmental Budgeting Assistant in 2006, according to an online press release.

Palombo's past successes include leading the men's basketball team to their first NCAA Division III tournament, where they finished in the quarterfinals with a 24-5 record; the Quakers' best in thirty years.

"We want our student athletes to be visible on campus, not just at athletic events," said Palombo emphasizing the need for athletes to be well-rounded; "but at things like music and art, and (to) become exposed to things that they might enjoy."

JEWISH QUARTERBACK SPEAKS

PHOTOS BY CHARLIE CLAY/GUILFORDIAN



DAVID MALINO TALKS IN THE WALNUT ROOM ON AUG. 28TH ON JUDAISM AND AMERICAN FOOTBALL AND HIS PERCEPTIONS ABROAD IN ITALY AND ISRAEL. MALINO HAS PLAYED PROFESSIONALLY IN ITALY AND NORTH CAROLINA AND SHARED HIS RARE EXPERIENCE AS A JEWISH FOOTBALL PLAYER WITH MEMBERS OF THE GUILFORD COLLEGE COMMUNITY.

What do you want from your Sports Page?

DAN ETTER | SPORTS EDITOR

So we've all heard about the athlete, non-athlete divide at Guilford and although there's been a great deal of effort, no one has found the solution. Well, now it's your turn to contribute.

As both Sports Editor and a representative for the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), I've made it my goal this year to – at least start to – break down the wall and bridge the gap between athletes and non-athletes. But as cliché as it may sound, I can't do it without your help.

I don't believe that the sports section should be just about varsity sports on campus, or even just varsity and intramural sports for that matter. To me, sports are a way of life, from fitness and exercise, to eating healthy and simply being active. This can mean running daily, doing yoga, going fishing, canoeing, climbing, changing your diet or any activity meant to keep you healthy.

So I ask you all, what do you want from your sports section? Reviews of local gyms? Work out routines? Diet tips? Good fishing spots? Or do you want to see a wider variety of intramural sports? Whatever it is that you want, there's no way that we can work to give it to you unless we know what it is that you desire. And this goes for SAAC as well; what do you want from your student athletes? How do you want to see your athletic teams involved on campus and in the community?

I want to point out here, however that the rift is in fact between athletes and non-athletes alike. Were I to categorize all non-athletes on campus as a single unit, an unvarying group, I would never hear the end of it. So I implore you not to do the same; recognize that "athlete" is too broad a term to define the many individuals that participate in sports at Guilford. That being said, think of what both sides can do to work toward a solution.

I can't stress enough, we need your input! It's easy to identify a problem and it's even easier to complain; but it takes courage to put differences aside and work for a solution. So live up to our reputation at Guilford; get involved, take action and don't settle for being just another small college with a rift between its athletes and non-athletes.

It's going to be hard, but nothing valuable comes without a fight. So help us out; tell us what you think and email your suggestions to me at etter@guilford.edu, or SAAC President Kelly Gonzalez at kgonzalez@guilford.edu.

So take these words from Albert Einstein, "In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity" and think about how we can fix this problem together.