

Women's soccer suffers tough quarterfinal loss to Lynchburg, 2-0

By Robbie Fisher
STAFF WRITER

Unfortunately, Saturday afternoon was not the celebration that the Guilford women's soccer team was looking for, as they were sent home by Lynchburg College in the Old Dominion Athletic Conference (ODAC) tournament.

In the first half, the Quakers proved their ability by staying neck and neck with the fourth seeded hornets.

Their defense was smothering and held strong. Every minute was a contested battle and the ladies took the Hornets into half-time tied, 0-0.

"Saturday's first half performance was probably the best that we have played defensively all season long," said defender Ashlee Dieck. "As a defense, we really focused on keeping Lynchburg scoreless during the first and last five minutes of the half, which really boosted our confidence when we were tied 0-0 at halftime."

The strong first half by the Quakers kept them in the game, and gave them confi-

dence going into the second period of play.

"We dominated all over the field in the first half, but could not get any shots on goal," said junior Caroline Hemeter. "After this 45 minutes of quality play, you could sense the anxiousness and frustration of the Lynchburg team."

However, a scoreless first half wouldn't hold up, as Lynchburg came out with increased energy and urgency to score.

"The second half began with a completely different tone than the first," Hemeter said.

"Lynchburg seemed to have regained their energy and stepped up to compete with Guilford."

Lynchburg's two second half goals were scored by Ashley Hoath in the 52nd minute of play, and by Audrea Hamby in the 56th. Though the Quakers suffered a tough defeat, the score is certainly not a fair representative of the game's character.

Guilford never vanished, but rather stayed right with Lynchburg the entire game.

They proved to be contenders, and

if the little bit of luck that went Lynchburg's way had gone theirs instead, we may have seen them move on instead.

"The tone of play was generally composed overall, which led to some great opportunities up top," Dieck said. "We just couldn't put the ball in the back of the net."

Saturday afternoon was certainly a disappointment, but even more poignant is the loss of four seniors: Micki Boulineau, Morgan Jones, Sarah Rohan, and Jacquelin White. The loss aside, these seniors were part of so much more.

Although they didn't go out with a victory, they were more than proud of the commitment they've made over the past four years.

"Of course saying goodbye to organized sports, which has been a part of my life since I was eight, was not easy," Rohan said. "With that being said, there was a sense of pride and accomplishment that accompanied the completion of my last intercollegiate game. And while my senior season may not have been record breaking

or newsworthy, I am happy with the legacy that my fellow senior teammates and I left behind."

Morgan Jones, one of the team's captains felt similar.

"Collegiate soccer was not something I had planned for myself, but once I became involved with the Guilford College women's soccer team, I knew that it would be one of the most exciting aspects of my college career," Jones said. "Now that soccer is over it is difficult to imagine what college would have been like without it. On Saturday when the final buzzer sounded it was similar to the feeling you get when you finish reading a really good book, you are glad to have accomplished the task but wish that it was a few chapters longer."

Saturday was a day of sad goodbyes. A hardworking team said goodbye to their championship hopes, with a hard fought loss. Even sadder, four dedicated seniors said goodbye to their coach, their teammates and friends, and a sport they love. *Hendre dolore dunt utet ut autat irilit lorpero odip ex ex el eu feuisi bla alismod*

Men's soccer ends season at ODAC tourney

By Elysa Polovin
STAFF WRITER

As the temperature dropped and leaves began to fall, the Guilford men's soccer season came to an end Sunday. Despite a loss, players look back on it as a positive experience.

"We're really talented and persistent; we haven't given up the whole season," said first-year Mark Mazzone. "We got through the tough times and turned them into something positive."

This year's team consisted of fifteen returning letter winners and eight newcomers from Coach Jeff Bateson's first recruiting class. Throughout the season, the team focused heavily on how to work

together.

"It's been a year full of learning how to get better, how to compete, and how to play the game," Bateson said. "It's been a building process."

Despite losing their final game of the season on Oct. 23 against Roanoke College, the Quakers qualified as the eighth seed in the Old Dominion Athletic Conference (ODAC) tournament for the first time since the 2004 season. They finished the season with five wins, twelve losses, and one tie, as they prepared to take on the topped ranked Virginia Wesleyan.

"We hope for a win in the playoffs, but most importantly we need to play well, like we're capable of playing," Bateson said before

their tournament game. "When we reflect, we've grown a lot this year."

After a long and testing season, the Quakers came together for their first ODAC game.

"We agreed as a team that no matter what happened during the game, in victory and defeat, we would play as one," said senior Neil Meguid. "And that is exactly what we did. We played with pride, and stood our ground for ninety-eight plus minutes and gave absolutely everything we had."

On Sun. Oct. 28, the Quakers squared off against the Virginia Wesleyan Marlins, who have won 16 of 18 games this season and are ranked 17th in the nation for Division III.

"The players went to the game with the right attitude and played very well," Bateson said. "They had a chance to win and certainly need to be proud of the effort they gave."

Guilford fought until the end, losing 2-1 with only 1:40 left in the overtime period. This game demonstrated immense improvement for the Quakers after their previous 8-0 defeat against the Marlins.

"After a harsh loss with them earlier in the season, the fact that we lost in overtime shows what our team can do when we're mentally in the right place," said junior Sam Huff.

The ODAC tournament gave the team an opportunity to bring together everything they've been

working on throughout the season.

"It's been a very up and down season. We beat some good teams and lost to some bad teams; we just haven't put it all together yet," said Assistant Coach, and former four year starter for the Quakers, Zane Campbell.

For the team's seniors, their last game may have been a loss, but it was one they will remember in a positive light.

"After the defeat, I looked around at my teammates and I knew that, without a doubt, they gave everything they had for our seniors," Meguid said. "And as a result of their efforts, I am so proud of my last game in a Guilford College uniform."



JEREMY BANTE/GUILFORDIAN

The Quakers headed to the ODAC tournament for the first time since 2004, seeded in 8th place with a record of 5-12-1.