

Skin-slithering bacteria attacks

By Grace Fletcher
STAFF WRITER

First you notice a small bump that may easily be mistaken for a pimple or a spider bite. It then morphs into a puss pool, oozing from your pores as it rapidly increases in red color and size. Your irritated skin takes on an incredible soreness, overwhelming your body's sensors. You are infected with Methicillin-Resistance Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA).

Most commonly found on athletes, MRSA develops under the skin as a type of staph infection, which is a rapidly spreading bacterium that can cause damage and, in some instances, death. A small cut or wound on the skin's surface is all it takes for the infection to transfer.

Usually staph infections can be treated with penicillin, but this particular strain has developed a resistance to a majority of antibiotics and penicillins.

Senior Andrew McClannon, pitcher and captain of Guilford's baseball team, was informed by his coach, Nick Black, of what precautions to take when dealing with MRSA.

"Coach asks us to avoid the sharing of towels, clothing and uniforms, and to wash (our) hands immediately, since it spreads so easily," McClannon said. "Since there has already been a case of MRSA on campus, we must take extra precautions."

If the correct bodily cleansing procedures are not taken, a staph infection can become serious. Junior Courtney Prince has witnessed the severity of this infection first hand.

"One of my friends had gone to sleep with an itchy puss-bump on his hand. Thinking it was a bug bite, he went to bed and by morning his whole arm had turned purple and began to feel tingly and numb," Prince said. "He was taken to the hospital and was treated for MRSA. He ended up having to have one of his fingers amputated."

Guilford athletic trainer Kirsten Schrader discussed how easy it is to transfer this severe bacterium.

"Unknowingly, people may be carriers of staph and may pass the infection," Schrader said. "The simple act of the carrier sneezing on their hand and then shaking someone else's hand that has an open cut or scrap on it, could transfer the bacteria."

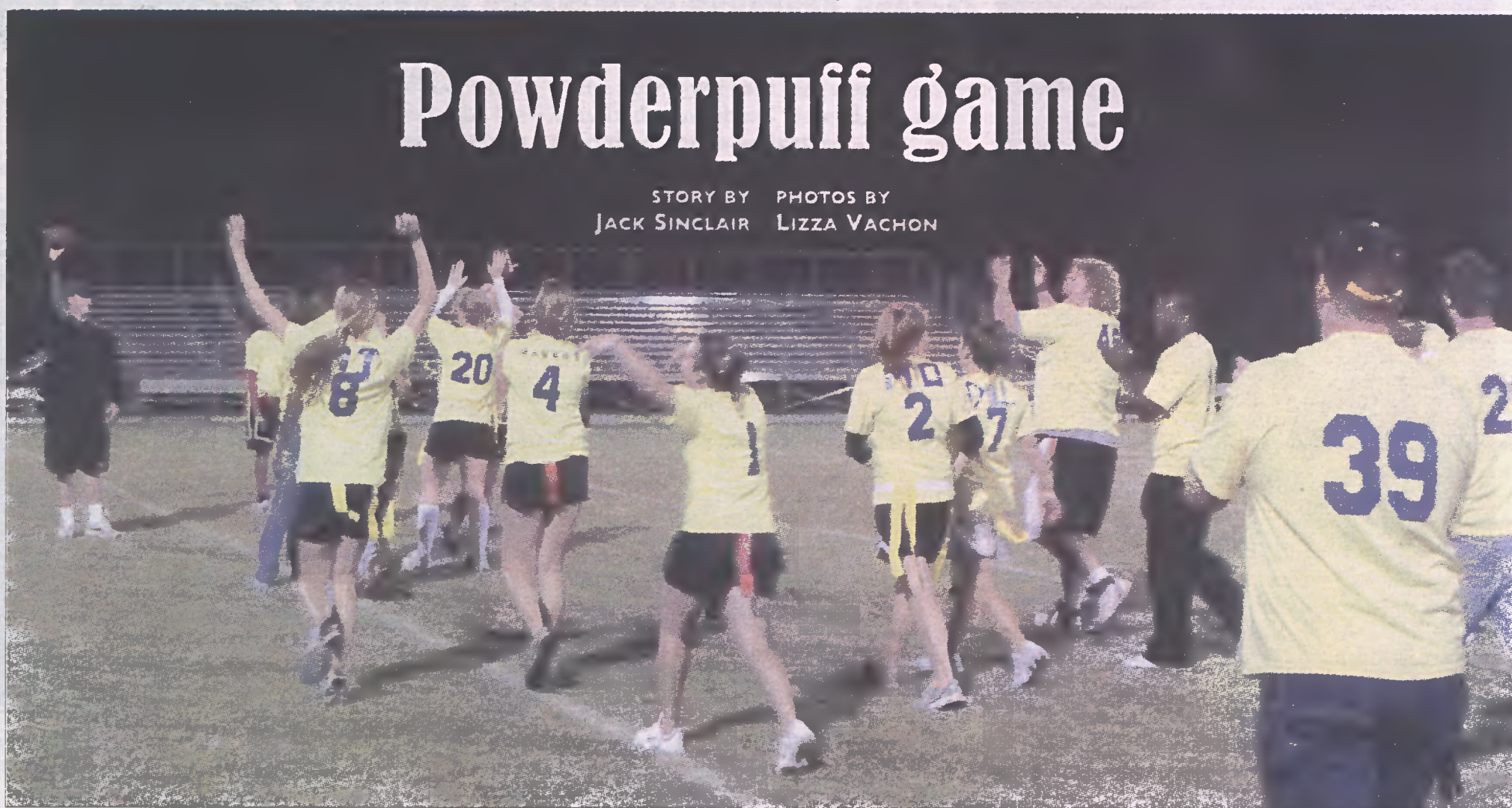
Schrader also spoke of the safety measures that should be taken to avoid contact with MRSA.

"Do not walk barefoot in any public locker room because blisters on the feet may come in contact with bacterium," Schrader said. "Also, constantly wash your hands and do not share clothing or towels, and be sure to wash all clothes in hot or bleached water to assure disinfection."

If one has contracted MRSA, the infection should be kept clean and covered properly, on top of the prescribed 4-10 days of antibiotics.

Powderpuff game

STORY BY JACK SINCLAIR PHOTOS BY LIZZA VACHON



After a week of training and practicing in the grueling rain, the football players of last Saturday's football game awoke to a beautiful day. Around 5:30 p.m., they put on their uniforms and ran onto Appenzeller field.

This game was different from Guilford's typical Saturday night football game, however, in that the players wore flags. The players were women and it was the Powderpuff game.

The game was originally scheduled for Friday evening, but was moved to Saturday due to the weather. The decision paid off, with beautiful game-day conditions.

"The practices were interesting because it was hard to juggle practices around schedules, and we had a bunch of rain and stuff," said Martin Brown, a sophomore and head coach of the underclasswomen team.

The game started out as an offensive fest between the upperclasswomen and the underclasswomen. The upperclasswomen scored first, only to be matched

by their underclass rivals. The dueling went back and forth with upperclasswomen scoring then the underclasswomen matching them. At halftime the score was 21-21, leading many fans to believe it would be a battle of offense. But

major.

"I hope it was a fair game," said Dock Ragland, senior and referee of the game.

The fourth quarter saw both teams going deep on long passes, with little developing until one

back and allowed us to score," Brown said.

The underclasswomen scored on the next possession, putting the score at 28-21 in their favor. The upperclasswomen had one more chance to even the score.

Their final possession was a race against time and a close one, with penalties and a stopped clock for most of it. Finally, the upperclasswomen threw up a prayer near the goal line, only to be picked off again to put the game to rest. In what started out as an offensive onslaught and ended up a defensive fight, the underclasswomen pulled off the 28-21 upset.

"I feel as though we played very well and we were able to use our strength to beat them," said Hannah Merrell, a first-year who scored an early touchdown for the underclasswomen.

Fans came in scattered groups to the view game. Although the stands weren't filled, the game was a success, with lots of scoring and some big plays.

"It was a great game, a great game by both sides," Brown said.

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as the game progressed, it became a defensive fight.

Into the second half, both sides had many valiant offensive efforts, but all ending in turnovers and no points. Penalties slowed the game down and didn't help the offenses' chances. There was some arguing of calls by the coaches but nothing

pass was caught in the end zone. It was no touchdown, however. It ended up in the hands of first-year Amanda Haungs, playing safety, who turned the tide with her interception.

"That pick at the end zone, that was the game-changing performance because it gave us the ball

