

Quaker volleyball: one spike of a season!

By Grace Fletcher
STAFF WRITER

As the glare of the lights beams off the gymnasium floor, a squad suited in maroon armor sweeps the court. A team of six lady athletes storm the hardwood and congregate in an arm-woven circle to strategize their conquering technique. Their plan: kill.

There will be no bloodshed, however. Rather the kill will be a swift swat of the arm, crushing the ball on their opponent's side with no chance for return. These warriors I speak of are your Guilford volleyball Lady Quakers.

The Quakers recently closed out their season at 7-20, a record they look to build from in the upcoming seasons.

"We might not have had the best record this year, but we worked hard and long all season," said junior transfer Shanika Tunnel, "and I feel that we played 100 percent each time we took to the court. To me, it is a successful season if one can say they gave 100 percent effort."

This competitive drive that fueled the force on the court throughout the season is equally important to the players' off-season training.

The team looks forward to the return of nine letter-winners next year, with a good mix of older and younger players that will create strong leadership and team bonding.

"It will be good for our team chemistry. Rebecca Jones, Kaci Loeffler, and Meagan Tucker are all great players who will return as seniors," said Head Coach Emily Hayes. "Rebecca and Kaci are our team captains and have their own particular roles on the court as leaders; but Meagan Tucker and our returning freshmen have great competitive spirits, which will allow them to be leaders as well."

Players like first-years Courtney Kozar, Anna Miller and Haley Ortmann bring great potential to the future of the team.

"Courtney, Anna and Haley have given the team a faster, stronger, and more competitive offense," Hayes said. "These three student-athletes finished their first season

as the top three hitters on our team."

Miller, who led the team in kills, service aces and points, and also received All-ODAC (Old Dominion Athletic Conference) Honorable Mention, and the rest of the team are optimistic about next year.

"The girls showed up, played, sweat and worked hard all fall," Loeffler said. "As for next season, I feel our determination can only grow stronger and the drive will continue to reflect through the off season leading up to next year's season."

Recognizing her team's potential and summarizing the past season as "promising," Hayes has equally high expectations for next year.

"As we continue to grow during the off season as a team and individuals, I believe we can be extremely competitive within the ODAC next year," Hayes said. "My goals will include finishing at least .500 and making it to the conference tournament. It takes time and baby steps to build a program and we are right on track."

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Kaci Loeffler, team captain

Intramural volleyball and basketball leagues to begin

By Brice Tarleton
SENIOR WRITER

Dispersed throughout the Guilford community are potential intramural sports champions: the students who couldn't fit traditional athletics into their schedules, the group of friends who have formed an unofficial basketball team, the English professor with a killer volleyball serve but no chance to show it off.

Now is your time to shine.

A co-ed intramural volleyball league begins on Nov. 12, and a women's basketball league on Nov. 14. A men's basketball league will be formed later this semester.

Approximately 30 people have registered to compete in either the women's basketball or the volleyball leagues.

"I am super excited to compete," said senior Brianna Robinson. "I'm ecstatic. I love competition ... I thrive off of it. I've been waiting for the new volleyball season since the last one ended!"

Both the women's basket-

ball and volleyball leagues will feature four to six competing teams, depending on how many students and staff eventually sign up. The final decisions about team rosters will be made at the last minute. That way, even those students who have difficulty meeting deadlines can have a chance to play.

"As we process teams, we try to gauge everyone's skill level and assign them to teams so it evens out pretty well," said Murph Chappell, intramural sports coordinator. "We want to nip top-heavy teams in the bud."

The volleyball league competitions will take place Thursday nights at 7 p.m. Approximately four volleyball matches will be played at each weekly meeting.

The teams participating in the women's basketball league are scheduled to compete Wednesday afternoons between 1 and 2 p.m.

Virtually all students, faculty, and staff are welcome and encouraged to enter any or all of the intramural events. Only in-season varsity athletes are asked not to register, due to the chance of

injury during an intramural match.

Registered intramural athletes are expressing excitement over the upcoming volleyball and basketball leagues.

"I participate in (intramural sports) because the time commitment is significantly less, they're fun, especially when you make a team with your friends, and they're a good way to stay active," Robinson said.

"(I play intramural basketball) because it is very fun and allows me to get to know people I normally wouldn't have contact with," said senior Ciara Locklear. "Also, I get to play a different sport than the one I came to Guilford for."

The two best-ranked volleyball teams will compete against each other in a championship game on Dec. 10. The women's basketball championship game will take place on Dec. 12.

The winning teams in both the women's basketball and co-ed volleyball leagues will receive free intramural championship t-shirts and bragging rights until next year.

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Those interested in playing an intramural sport should send an e-mail to
intramurals@guilford.edu