

# Quaker football ends season with winning record

By Carl Farlow and Robbie Fisher  
STAFF WRITERS

It was a brisk day in the Armfield Athletic Center, as the Quakers played host to in-conference opponent Emory and Henry College. The stands were calm despite the high stakes of the game. The Quakers could post their first back-to-back winning seasons since 1990. Both fans and players alike seemed determined to finish the season on a high.

The game started slow; however, Guilford grew restless as the afternoon wore on. It wasn't until late in the game when they finally began to prove their dominance.

The start of the fourth quarter brought the urgency the Quakers needed to rally back from 10 points down. Quarterback Josh Vogelbach led his team in a monstrous performance against the visiting Wasps.

Vogelbach, a junior, completed 34 passes on 54 attempts and threw for 364 yards and one touchdown on his way to breaking both his personal best and the school's records for single-season pass completions and throwing yards. Hagan Miller was on the receiving end of many of those receptions, catching 11 passes for 134 yards.

High stats are nothing new to the Quaker football team this season, with Guilford's passing game improving drastically from last year. Interceptions went down from 26 to 18. Passing yardage jumped to 3,769 yards from last year's

3,484; and Vogelbach's completion percentage climbed from 57.3 percent to 63.9 percent.

"We're the number one pass offense in the country, and we have been for the past three years," said Head Coach Kevin Kiesel. "Josh continues to play at a level that's All-American status, and he's more and more consistent every year. He cut down on his interceptions and his completion rate went up."

Though Vogelbach and Miller had great games, it was more than a two-man wrecking crew. The end of the fourth quarter showed Guilford's true character.

The final 10 minutes of play were cinematic, with Emory and Henry driving and the Quakers holding strong. As the Wasps kept possession, they moved closer to scoring and closer to victory. But the unthinkable happened. Emotion was flowing on both sides, as the Quaker defense made an implausible goal line stop.

The Quakers took over on their own five yard line and began their game winning drive. Guilford pounded the ball down field with burly running from Zach Bobak and calm play-calling by Coach Kiesel. Vogelbach seemed cool and collected at the helm, as he marched his team down field play by play.

As Guilford continued to run the ball, penalties by Emory and Henry only helped the Quakers. Approaching the end zone with a clear conscience, Guilford remained steady as they proved to be more of a quality team.

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Head Coach Kevin Kiesel

With the end zone in sight and the Wasps on his heels, Vogelbach completed a sound, crisp pass to receiver Chad Kastor on a third down. Guilford was first and goal, on the Wasps' five yard line.

Anticipation lingered throughout the stadium and daunting uncertainties ran through the crowd. So many things could go wrong for Guilford right now. Emory and Henry could make a goal line stop just like the Quakers did. But Guilford took no prisoners as they rallied around each other to make the final push. After several attempts to score, Justin Parker willed the ball into the end zone as he swiftly ran around the right, outside corner.

With the Quakers leading from Parker's touchdown, the defense had to come up big to seal the game. And they did.

"We have a defensive system that our players have played and learned for two years," Kiesel said.

The defense was the epitome of this system. They were veteran like as they took their stance

one last time to defend their lead. They worked as one, but Mike Six came up huge with key sacks to allow Guilford to emerge the victor.

The 21-17 win pushed Guilford to a 6-4 overall record and their second consecutive winning season under Coach Kiesel. Though the Quakers will graduate nine talented seniors this year, the future continues to look promising, especially on defense.

"Now we're going to have seniors, juniors, and sophomores play in our defensive system, instead of just the sophomores and juniors," Kiesel said.

Next year should be even stronger. With Vogelbach returning, the passing game should be full throttle, and with the defensive system in tact, Guilford should be true contenders for the ODAC title.

"A lot of these (players) are guys who are going to come back," Sports Information Director Dave Walters said. "I don't think there's any reason why we shouldn't be able to contend next year."

## Special Olympics draws Guilford support

By Paddy Lehane  
STAFF WRITER

The beautiful autumn day played second fiddle to the action on the field of the High Point Athletic Complex on Nov. 11. The complex was the site of the 2007 Special Olympics-North Carolina fall games, with around 1,000 athletes from 50 counties competing.

J.J. McDowell, the volunteer and families director of the North Carolina chapter of the Special Olympics, has been participating in the program for years.

McDowell played on a unified team in high school, which is a team of intellectually disabled people and people without disabilities playing side-by-side.

"Seventeen years later, I took a job and I'm still with it," McDowell said.

The fall games feature five sports: soccer, bocce, roller-skating, cycling, and golf. Athletes of all ages took part in playing the games.

The expansive outdoor arena was filled with what looked like dozens of athletes and coaches, and even more fans and volunteers.

Simultaneous games of soccer were being played on the lower fields, while a large bocce court was set up on a baseball field.

A staggering 1,000 volunteers contributed to making the games a success for the athletes and spectators. Without the help of these volunteers, the Special Olympics might never have come to culmination.

While volunteers do help out, some like to think that they get a lot out of the

experience as well.

"I've certainly seen a change in the lives of the folks that volunteer as well as the athletes that compete," McDowell said.

Guilford students made up a portion of the many volunteers at the Games. Around 20 Guilford students trekked to High Point to help out.

In an event organized by Craig Eilbacher, instructor of sports studies, several sports medicine majors were on the scene as medical staff.

"It's good practice and a lot of fun," said senior Lenore Spransy. "It's a good opportunity to apply what we've learned."

Members of the men's soccer team lent a hand as well. They served as ball boys, but more importantly as support for the athletes.

"It was inspiring to see all the people getting into that game the same as any other sporting event," said junior Sam Huff. "The athletes were going all out and were obviously dedicated to the game."

And while many of the athletes were happy to play the sport they love, they also came to win.

During an awards ceremony, one athlete received a medal for his achievements during competition.

A boisterous and ecstatic, "Yes!" sounded off and was met with loud applause. The man bowed his head and was given his medal.

He stood straight and tall, and beamed a smile at no one in particular. As he looked off, it became clear what the smile was telling the audience.

It was a smile of pride.



(LEFT) Senior Dan Katzman throws past a Roanoke defender during their game at Roanoke on Nov. 10

(BELOW) First-year Ben Macdonald passes to Captain Josh Lewis

DAN MILLER/GUILFORDIAN

