

Appenzeller Field set for artificial turf

By Paula Wilder
STAFF WRITER

CLAUDE GAMBLE/GUILFORDIAN



Appenzeller Field will be under construction beginning in April while the installation of artificial turf takes place.

Thanks to a \$1 million gift from the Edward M. Armfield, Sr. Foundation, the college will be able to trade a hard-to-maintain playing field for the permanent and stable artificial turf.

"Making Armfield Athletic Center a gamefield for football, lacrosse, and soccer was part of the Strategic Long Range Plan (SLRP) approved nearly five years ago," said Vice President for Enrollment and Campus Life Randy Doss. "This gift will allow the college to make this a reality. The Foundation provided the funds to build the new seating and the press box approximately three years ago."

Installation of the turf is to begin in April after all the city permits have been secured and the field prepared.

Head Women's Lacrosse Coach Matthew Grosso explained that the field must be prepped by digging up the existing field and then leveling the ground for the installation of the turf.

"We are thrilled about this new field. This is something that will benefit a large population of the athletic depart-

ment," said Head Football Coach Kevin Kiesel. "Soccer, lacrosse, football and now intramural and club teams will be able to use the field without worrying about damaging the field for another team's games."

The natural field is more susceptible to damage, access has been limited in order to maintain the field.

The artificial surface mimics a natural playing field minus the divots, mounds, and holes that can be detrimental to an athlete.

The new turf can withhold five to six inches of water, and players will not have to play in muddy conditions.

"We're very excited about the new field surface," said Head Men's Lacrosse Coach Andy Rowe. "With the rain that our area gets in the early spring, we'll finally have a consistent surface to practice and play on every day."

Players are also looking forward to the turf and to see the importance of how Guilford is perceived by other teams.

"I think the turf will allow all teams, both in fall and spring, to play their scheduled games regardless of weather," said women's lacrosse player Carrie Erns. "It was always kind of a letdown when you

got mentally prepared to play, but the weather wouldn't allow it."

"I think that by us having the field we will seem more professional because a lot of the other teams we play against already have the top," said women's soccer player Marina Schachowskoj.

In addition, Head Athletic Trainer Kirsten Schrader believes that the field will be better for the health of the players.

"Since the field will always be level, you aren't going to step in a hole or fall over a mound," said Schrader. "The turf will react a lot like grass because of the different layers of grass material, sand, and pellets, but no puddles. Incidents of slipping might be lessened and that would cause a decrease in sprains."

There are other concerns related to the artificial surface that Schrader believes will not be a major issue.

"There is a risk of MRSA (Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus), but there isn't a whole lot of research about it," said Schrader.

MRSA is commonly referred to as "staph" and is bacteria commonly carried on the skin or in the nose of healthy people

and has been found in some artificial surfaces.

Schrader said that showering immediately after a game, not sharing towels, and cleaning out cuts and abrasions would drastically reduce the risk of MRSA and of other types of infection.

In addition to the health of the players, men's soccer player Henry Cordeal believes there will be other benefits.

"The new field will give us a chance to host a tournament here at Guilford, which is a good step for the soccer program," said Cordeal. "And because it will be in the stadium and under the lights, the new field will allow us to play games in the evening, which hopefully will boost our fan turnout."

With the new turf, combined with previous lighting and seating improvements, the college's field will not only benefit athletics, but Grosso believes it will benefit the local community and the college population.

"The new field will allow Guilford to host local high school and town events," said Grosso. "This will bring people onto campus and hopefully attract more students to our college."

Drop-out rates trouble the NCAA

By Liz Farquhar
STAFF WRITER

Over the years the NCAA championship basketball tournament, also known as March Madness, has become a yearly highlight for sports fans who love the excitement of witnessing upsets, watching their favorite college teams, and filling out brackets.

The top teams in the league compete against each other to be named the best. This season the teams that made it to the "Final Four" are the University of Connecticut (UConn), Michigan State, Villanova, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

The athletes that play for the top college basketball teams are often seen in the media, and are recognizable to the average sports fan. Assistant Professor of Sports Science Bob Malekoff believes that these student-athletes are being treated increasingly more like celebrities in the athletic world.

"It is another barrier keeping (these athletes) from realizing why they are in college," Malekoff said. "Because of the microscope they are under, it is increasingly hard to have a normal college experience."

The celebrity status that these student-athletes receive could contribute to their low graduation rates.

"I think (the celebrity status) is poisonous to athlete's success; it can blind them from their goals to graduate college," freshman football player Jordan Dutton said.

For instance, at UConn the graduation rate of men's basketball players is 33%, which is roughly 30% lower than that of the average student body and 63% lower than that of the women's basketball team, according to the Institution for Diversity and Ethics in Sports and uconn.edu.

Typically, as the NCAA tournament progresses, teams that remain have lower graduation rates. In the "Sweet 16," three teams, Arizona, Missouri and UConn had graduation rates lower than 40%.

"I think there is nothing wrong with competition as long as it lines up with the expectations of the college," Malekoff said.

Some analysts believe that colleges are being used as a "minor league" for the NBA. Players are continuously getting into colleges, and then dropping out for early-entry into the NBA draft.

Until 2006, high-school athletes could enter the NBA following graduation. However, a ruling was made stating that any person participating in the NBA draft had to be either at least 19 years of age or have completed one or more years of higher education.

NBA's ruling has gotten more athletes to college, but in 2008, 22 student-athletes dropped out of college to enter the NBA draft. The question may be asked as to whether these students are using higher education for basketball practice before they can play in the NBA.

"(These athletes) might be killing time, but I wouldn't say 'killing time' because you have to keep your grades up to play that sport, so they are at least getting one good year of schooling, if not more," sophomore football player Ryan Hammond said.

The graduation rate of NCAA players in men's basketball is 69 percent, which is up from 2007 when it was 61 percent, and 10 percent higher than it was in 2005, according to ncaa.org.

"I think dropout rates are pretty average," Hammond said. "I am surprised that athletes' dropout rates are higher than the average student population, for me, practice and working out with friends helps me to want to go to class."

Malekoff believes that many high school athletes going to Division I schools have the mentality that they are going for football or basketball and the education is an additional prospect, which may lead to the easy detachment from college.

When asked if he would leave college for the pros, freshman basketball player Will Cloyd was quick to respond.

"If I were good enough (to go pro), I would do it in a heartbeat."

QUAKER QUICK STATS

COMPILED BY PATRICK CHILDS

2002

The last time Guilford's women's tennis team lost to Randolph College. With last Saturday's 8-1 road win over the Wildcats, women's tennis has won four straight on Randolph's courts.

3

Combined games lost by the men's tennis team's first-years Billy Dennis, Garrett Tanner, Ben Lewis and Brandon Johnson last Saturday when Guilford beat Randolph College 9-0.

11th

Place that junior Peter Latimer finished out of 160 golfers at the Marine Federal Credit Union Intercollegiate last weekend. Latimer shot even-par, and the Quakers placed seventh out of 32 teams.

16

Points by men's lacrosse freshman attacker Daniel Dowd this season. Dowd is leading the team in goals (10) and assists (6).

31.65

Million-dollars, what college basketball coach John Calipari will be paid to coach for U. Kentucky over the next eight years. The ex-Memphis coach will be making more money than half of the coaches in the NBA.