

BASKETBALL

On 'Senior Night,' Quaker women win last home game

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"We got help on the opposite side. We knew they like to shoot 3-pointers. We just had to rotate over and help each other out."

Junior Gabriel Lowder sank a clutch 3-pointer to end the first half which gave the Quakers a 31-25 lead going into halftime. Lowder finished with a game-high 19 points.

"I thought that really gave us a lift," said Palombo. "I thought (junior) Justin Stafford gave us a lot of energy off the bench. All the guys who came off the bench I felt gave us some energy."

Stafford had six points in 15 minutes of work. Junior Brad Monroe led the Quakers with eight rebounds and added nine points.

"I think we became more physical with them in the second half," Monroe said. "We started rebounding better and playing more physical on defense. We also knocked down some shots."

The Quakers took care of the basketball, turning the ball over only seven times.

"We have to finish strong in the last two games," Anderson said. "We are a third seed right now. We control our own destiny going into the conference tournament."

"We got a win that was much needed," Anderson said with relief.

Following the men's game was senior night for the women's team. Guilford (13-9, 9-8 ODAC) got the victory against Lynchburg, 77-69. The win gives the Quakers momentum for the road.

"I remember when I was a freshman and I walked into Guilford not knowing anyone, and now, in a blink of an eye, I am a senior and the game is already over," said senior Lauren LeFevers after an emotional last home game.

Junior Jazlyn Gibbs started the team off with the first points of the game. After eight minutes of play, several forced turnovers gave the Quakers a 20-14 lead over the Hornets.

"Throughout the week we were mostly focused on (last Friday's) Washington and Lee game," said assistant coach Kayla Felty. "But today we were focused on what we had to do to get a win, and after reviewing film and going over plays, the girls were ready to play."

"We came out with a winner's mentality," LeFevers said. "There is not much you can do after a loss (against Washington and Lee), just make today better than yesterday and that is our team motto."

Starting the second half, Guilford turned the heat back on. The Quakers had 12 points on five Hornet turnovers. Guilford managed 34 points in the paint to just 16 points from Lynchburg.

"This win is very rewarding after the upset to Washington and Lee," said sophomore Brittany Atwater. "We worked hard for Lauren because she is such a great leader, motivator, and all-around team player."

"We have more wins in this season than we have had in seven years," said Stephanie Flamini, head coach.

Senior night was a success for both the Quakers and the lone senior. In the blink of an eye, the game was over, pictures were taken, and the court was cleared.

Senior Lauren LeFevers accepts awards and congratulations from Head Coach Stephanie Flamini on Senior Night, Feb. 12. The Quakers won the subsequent game against Lynchburg, 77-69.



Douglas Reyes-Caron/Guilfordian

Top 16 teams in Guilford history: 2009 Softball Team #4

By Ryan Gordy
STAFF WRITER

Head softball coach Dennis Shore's first season with the Quakers in 2007 yielded 10 wins. This was an improvement considering he inherited a team with just nine wins the previous year. However, Shore had his master plan working. This past season, the Quakers had 28 wins which is a school record.

Shore is quietly building the Quakers as an Old Dominion Athletic Conference powerhouse that is putting the program into the history books. This week at number four on the countdown is the 2009 women's softball team.

The leaders and driving force of the team were two seniors, All-ODAC first baseman Kelly Hale '09 as well as shortstop Amber

Stapler '09.

At the end of the season, Hale had broken nine school records. She had 20 home runs, 104 RBI's, a .598 slugging percentage, and a .971 fielding percentage in her career as a Quaker. In 2009 alone, she hit .352 and drove in 29 runs, which ranked second on the team in both categories.

Stapler was more of a defensive presence. She helped the team achieve the 11th highest team fielding percentage in Division III in 2009. Stapler also hit a respectable .292 average and drove in 20 runs on the season, making her career average .326.

This is not to say that the seniors had all the success.

Then-junior Julie Langseth, originally a first baseman, made the transition to starting at second base because of her outstanding hitting abilities. Langseth set the mark on the

team with the highest batting average (.378), runs batted in (30), doubles (10), and stolen bases (11).

Even then-junior Jessica Burcham got into the mix on the mound. The standout junior was the ace of the staff. Against Emory and Henry she completed a rare no-hitter, the first in Guilford's softball history. During that game, she almost tied her personal strikeout record in a single game by sitting down 12 batters. Not to mention that the win kept the team's winning streak alive at six games.

That season Burcham had an amazing 1.67 earned run average which stood fourth in the ODAC. She also had 12 wins, five shutouts, three saves, and 172 strikeouts which ranked second in the conference. All these prolific numbers shattered the previous school records.

Along the way to a record-setting 26 wins,

the team beat 23rd ranked Lynchburg College and won their last four games in a row to reach the ODAC tournament. There, they beat Randolph College in the first game. This was the first ever win at the tournament for the Quakers.

The next game, the team held Bridgewater to five runs only to come up short and go into the loser's bracket. From there, the team lost a thriller to Virginia Wesleyan in extra innings. These losses ended the team's stay at the ODAC tournament, but the team held their heads high, there was a lot to be proud of.

This team deserves to be number four on the countdown because the team set the school records for victories in a season, the highest postseason seed, broke over 40 softball school records during the course of the season, and notched the first-ever women's softball victory in the ODAC tournament.

What's Going On in Guilford Sports...

LAST WEEK'S GAMES AND MATCHES

SWIMMING

FEB. 11-13 GUILFORD 6TH OF 7 (ODAC)*
8TH OF 9 (ATLANTIC SERIES)

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

FEB. 15 GUILFORD 78 HOLLINS 75*

MEN'S BASKETBALL

FEB. 16 GUILFORD 61 HAMPDEN-SYDNEY 73*

MEN'S LACROSSE

FEB. 12 GUILFORD 15 FERUM 2

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

FEB. 12 GUILFORD 8 MARY WASHINGTON 17

BASEBALL

FEB. 16 GUILFORD 9 GREENSBORO 8

WOMEN'S TENNIS

FEB. 13 GUILFORD 6 GREENSBORO 3

KEY- * = ODAC GAME HOME TEAM IN CAPS

UPCOMING GAMES AND MATCHES

MEN'S BASKETBALL

FEB. 19 GUILFORD V EASTERN MENNONITE*

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

FEB. 18 GUILFORD V EASTERN MENNONITE*

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

FEB. 23 GUILFORD V GREENSBORO

BASEBALL

FEB. 20 GUILFORD V CASE WESTERN

SOFTBALL

FEB. 19 GUILFORD V FERRUM

WOMEN'S TENNIS

FEB. 19 GUILFORD V SALEM

MEN'S TENNIS

FEB. 20 GUILFORD V RANDOLPH-MACON*