

Men's lacrosse starts strong

Chris Roe
STAFF WRITER

Lacrosse coach Tom Carmean sat in his chair, reflecting upon a team that means much to him — team that has turned a drastic page from last year into a force that dominates on the field. But, to Carmean, what really matters is not last year, but his team's determined commitment for the game and a successful future.

"Quite frankly it's just not my style or my business what went on (last year)," said Carmean. "My business is what I am able to help these guys with and what I am able to do. For the most part, or 99 percent of it, (they are) just enormously receptive to what we were asking them to do and I tell them that all the time."

Both Carmean and assistant coach Nate Bates recognized the challenge, but at the same time they welcomed it.

"I knew (coming to Guilford) was going to be a big challenge," said Bates. "But (I am) definitely excited about it. I knew Guilford by academic reputation and obviously the lacrosse conference is the best in the country."

The team has become very cohesive and inclusive, showing great leadership. According to Bates, this team is one of the smoothest that he has worked with. All players receive equal consideration.

"We're family, and having a close team we do everything together," said senior goalie Mark Guillen. "We've (seniors) taken them (underclass players) under our wing. I wanted to leave a mark

and make sure these guys work hard to change this program. Amazing players, amazing guys, the bond that we've developed. It is sad that we have to leave them. All in all, they're great guys and fun to be around."

The team goes by the mentality that building young players is essential.

"Experience is something difficult to fabricate," said Carmean. "(There is) no way to make up for experience."

As the new players get playing time, their skills have been improving, and they are showing promise. The defense, comprised of three players, are first-years and sophomores. However, according to Carmean, they may very well be one of the top groups in the conference.

One of the first steps was reforming what to do in the team's practices. Both Carmean and Bates approached the development through teaching, in which they brought back fundamentals.

But it is not just simply about playing on the field, but off the field as well.

"I think that it's a great opportunity to give the kids who come to Guilford a great experience, not wins and losses on the lacrosse field," said Carmean. "But as a whole, their experience as lacrosse players is a hugely beneficial part of their school experience."

The season shows more promise. Over the years, there may well be a champion team rolling through.

"It has been a really interesting year for me," said Carmean, looking forward. "You get really rewarded to see all these positive things happening in front of you."

THE BACKSTOP

The madness of March

The pencil hits the paper. Michigan over Tennessee. North Carolina over Washington. Arizona over Duke. Penn. State over Temple. Scratch, erase marks colonize the page. Temple over Penn. State, Duke over Arizona.

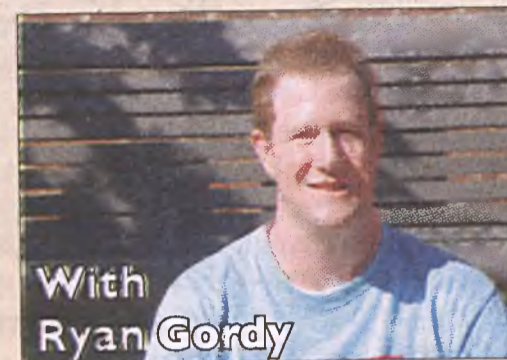
That is the sound of millions of Americans filling out their brackets for the men's basketball National Collegiate Athletic Association Championships. Otherwise known as the Big Dance or March Madness, this college sports tournament is a national phenomenon. The men's basketball NCAA Championship has taken the country by storm.

March Madness is a sports fan's ultimate dream, which features competitive basketball games that begin March 15 and end with the title game on April 4. The tournament is called March Madness because of the amount of games played in March and the fact that any team in the expanded field of 68 teams can win the championship.

In 2010, fifth seeded Butler beat top teams Michigan State, Syracuse, and Kansas State to reach the national title game. Upsets are common in the tournament as only one number one seed made it to the final four last year and most of the number two and three seeds were eliminated by the sweet 16.

The tournament is also making waves for the future of television. Turner Broadcasting System and CBS combined to broadcast the tournament this year. The mega-deal cost \$10.8 billion dollars that will last until 2024, according to CNN.

According to ABC News, the networks will give 96 percent of their profits back to the NCAA over the course of the partnership. They're estimating that this will come out to \$740 million dollars, which accounts for the money



With
Ryan Gordy

spent on the championship and the series.

This translates into games airing on four major television networks; CBS, TBS, TNT, and Tru TV. Last year, the national championship game attained 16 million viewers, who witnessed Duke defeat Butler, 61-59. This was a 70 percent increase over the 2009 final matchup between North Carolina and Michigan State, according to NCAA.org.

Now, watching the madness unfold on TV is not enough. The amount of live streaming video and audio consumed via March Madness On Demand for the 2010 tournament surpassed 2009's total by 36 percent.

More than 11.7 million hours of live streaming video and audio were accessed by the end of the 2010 men's final four, according to NCAA.org.

This year, the first full day of March Madness that spanned over the four major networks averaged 7.4 million viewers. That is 16 percent higher from last year, and more viewers are expected to tune in as the tournament progresses, according to ABC News.

Now it is time for picks. The 2011 tournament field is crazier than ever. The final four is wide open in my opinion. My final four are Syracuse, Duke, Kansas, and Wisconsin.

The two teams that will arrive at the championship game are Duke and Kansas. The Final Verdict: Kansas defeats Duke 77-75 in a close one at the buzzer.



TAYLOR SHIELDS/GUILFORDIAN

Guilford men's lacrosse players in opposing jerseys charge down the field during afternoon practice.

QUAKER QUICK STATS

Compiled by Will Cloyd

2.14

average finish of the golf team over their seven events this season. The Quakers are coming off a first place finish at the Pine Needles Intercollegiate.



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3

total points scored combined by the Randolph men's and women's tennis teams against Guilford in the March 19 match. The Quakers won both matches.



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2

total number of home runs hit by the softball team. Senior Julie Langseth has one as does first-year Ashley Boteler.



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3

number of teams seeded at 10 or higher to reach the Sweet Sixteen in the Southwest region of the NCAA men's basketball tournament.



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