

Biohazard: the ultimate team catches the frisbee fever

By Natalie Sutton
STAFF WRITER

"Fight, fight, inner light, kill, Quakers, kill!"

"If you hear this chant echo around campus on a brisk Saturday or Sunday afternoon, you know we are kicking butt and taking names," said sophomore Solomon Weiner of the ultimate frisbee team.

The team, "Biohazard," consists of about 20 players. They practice three times a week and enjoy competing in tournaments in North Carolina and many other states along the East Coast.

Weiner, who played a little in high school, got serious about ultimate frisbee once he came to Guilford. He enjoys the sport's unique mix of competition and friendliness.

"Coming from playing organized sports my whole life, it's great to be in an atmosphere that promotes self-regulation — players make call on themselves and each other rather than a referee — and friendly competition, rather than hyper-competitiveness and crazy, overzealous parents in the stands trying to relive their own glory days through their children," Weiner said.



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Senior Sarah Stangl, who played soccer in high school and her first year at Guilford, also appreciates aspects of ultimate frisbee that organized sports lacked.

"I really like the horizontal decision-making structure (to ultimate Frisbee)," Stangl said. "With soccer, I didn't like the pettiness of the hierarchy and the cattiness of people being really competitive between each other on the team. So what attracted me to frisbee was the opportunity to play a sport where everyone was working to not only improve their own game, but to also make sure their teammates were improving and learning as well."

Unlike most sports, the ultimate frisbee team does not have a coach and players depend on the honor system during matches since there are no referees.

"Our captains design practices for us but it's not authoritative," Stangl said. "There's this whole mindset in frisbee of, 'We're all here because we want to be playing together and we're all going to be honest and do our best to have a good time.'"

While last year's team consisted of a tight-knit group of upperclassmen, this year's team is mostly underclassmen, which proves to be both a challenging and positive part of the team.

"We have a pretty

young team this year and we have people coming in from all different sorts of backgrounds athletically," said senior captain Benjamin Ardel. "We have a lot of players who have played other sports before and some who have never played a sport at all. Fall is about getting everyone on the same page and up to speed."

Stangl hopes that the team will continue to grow and thrive together.

"I really hope that this season will get the younger people hooked so that they feel like they're really a part of the team and dedicated to improving their own game and the team as a whole," said Stangl.

"We try to make it welcoming to people who are brand new and still learning. My hope is that the new people will catch the 'frisbee fever' and that we can continue to grow close as a team."

First year Nathan Secrest had played ultimate frisbee competitively before coming to Guilford and even practiced with the team before school started. He still wishes that there had been more socialization opportunities.

"It was weird getting to know everyone at first," Secrest said. "I wish we had had more social get-togethers. I think some freshmen were a little weirded out because there were all these people who were really good (at Frisbee) but they didn't really understand that we all started out as beginners. We do a lot to keep people on the team, but we could have done a better job."

Faith Krech, also a first year, felt welcomed by the team.

"There's definitely a sense of community on the team," Krech said. "We're all pretty

good friends. All of the people that I've met have been really friendly and helpful. Also, since I'm new on the team, I get confused a lot, but no one gets mad or yells at me. It's a really friendly game."

This aspect of friendliness is important to most of the team.

"We're a really goofy bunch of people," said Ardel. "We really enjoy doing well and are a very competitive team. I think we do our best when we are enjoying ourselves, and it definitely shows on the field."

Secrest hopes that people on and off campus will learn more about the sport.

"A lot of people just don't understand what ultimate is all about," Secrest said. "I think if people came out and really took the time to understand the competitive aspect of it, as well as the community aspect, they would understand how fun it can be. It's one of those sports that's up and coming and is constantly growing."

Sophomore Markus MacNamara wishes that ultimate frisbee received more recognition from administration.

"I think ultimate frisbee gets enough attention from students, but I think we could use more attention from administration because we don't get turf time at all and we don't have access to trainers so if we're injured we can't get any help," MacNamara said.

As for summing up the team, Weiner finds a certain song to be appropriate.

"I can't think of one word to describe the team, but have you ever heard that Ke\$ha song 'TiK ToK?' I think that pretty much covers it," Weiner said.

College sexual assault cases question sports' sanctity

By Catherine Schurz
STAFF WRITER

Sex might sell clothes and cold beverages, but it certainly doesn't sell college athletics.

The recent scandals at Penn State and Syracuse Universities have shaken the foundation of college sports. Thanks to the former assistant football coach of Penn State's infamous Nittany Lions, the sanctity of the game has been ripped at the seams and, all too suddenly, America has received a rude awakening.

Shortly following Jerry Sandusky's 40 charges of alleged rape and molestation of young boys, Bernie Fine, long-time assistant coach to the Syracuse men's basketball team, was fired. The decision to dismiss Fine was due to allegations made by seven ball boys in total, some of whom claim to have been victimized by Fine for 20 years. The abuse, dating back to 1987, has brought to light another concern.

Jim Boeheim, head basketball coach at Syracuse, is now under public criticism, with many calling for him to be fired due to his negligence of the boys' safety.

It is time we hold those who

lead college athletics accountable. Beyond that, it is time we hold adults accountable, on and off the clock.

Guilford's head football coach Chris Rusiewicz spoke to the responsibility adults have when working with children.

"I worked for a YMCA for several years and being alone with a child was a big no," said Rusiewicz in an email interview. "I just follow my YMCA background (and) training when I am around children and try to teach my staff the same things."

In North Carolina, you are required to report any witness or suspicion of child abuse to the authorities. Why is this same sense of moral and civic duty not applied to athletics? Compassion should trump career status every time, even for coaches like Joe Paterno.

While the focus is on recent revelations and exposure of sexual abuse, there is still a lack of consideration for the victims of these heinous acts. Blatant neglect of the victims' struggle was seen after Paterno, former head football coach at PSU, was fired. Paterno, the Pennsylvanian idol who failed to alert the appropriate authorities after hearing word of Sandusky's foul play, received the support

of over 1,000 Penn State students rioting in violent protest of his termination. The victims, however, have yet to see the same level of compassion.

The media has overlooked youth who wish to be involved in athletic programs. As a result of the recent allegations at Syracuse, some basketball teams have temporarily removed all of their ball boys. The ball boys, ranging from 10 to 18 years of age, are suffering the brunt of the scandal. Because boys of similar ages were brutally victimized, boys around the country are facing the consequences of these coaches' actions.

When will this cycle of neglect for our youth cease?

"Helping out with sports programs is and should be a positive experience," said Rusiewicz. "It also helps young people who may need some leadership in their lives. If anything, it should be more regulated as they do with teachers (and) child care."

Investigations of college athletic programs may ensue nationwide. While it is naive to assume that sexual abuse of children occurs only within the sports arena, the concern of these institutions is a

solid first step.

Thankfully, Guilford College puts its students first. Comfort can be taken in the constant compassion found within this educational institution. The Quaker values and involved staff encourage open communication and view each student-athlete as an individual with unique skills, needs and perspectives.

At many schools across the country, athletic programs are the beating hearts of the campus. What has happened to these collegiate communities is tragic and shameful.

But there is good that can come from the harsh realities we are now facing. The future for college athletics is a little brighter now that concern for the players and dedicated youth has been heightened.

It is about time the voices of student-athletes are heard. It is about time coaches and those in power positions be held accountable for the safety and well-being of their players. And it is about time we recognize that, at the end of the day, the game is just a game.

Keep in mind: It is all fun and games until someone gets hurt.

IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW HAVE EXPERIENCED SEXUAL ASSAULT AT GUILFORD COLLEGE, there is no need to feel silenced.

There are many outlets on and off campus which can assist you.

Help yourself, help your community, call today:
Guilford Counseling Center
(336) 316-2163
OR
The Guilford College Sexual Assault Survivor Advocates
(336) 451-6525