

Cheerleaders work hard to prepare for national competition, reputation in mind

By Adrienne Mattson-Perdue
STAFF WRITER

"I had a lot of misconceptions about cheerleading coming in," said senior Darius Verdell. "But doing it for the first time in my life, I'm like, 'Wow, these cheerleaders, they work hard and this is indeed a sport, and it's a contact sport.'"

The Quaker cheerleaders are driven. This year, the team is hoping to compete in national competition.

"We've mainly been working just on game stuff but we went to a camp recently and worked for about six hours," said senior Kayla Davis. "We just worked on the basics. Once we get the basics we can build on that."

This is a particularly ambitious goal when you consider that Guilford has only had cheerleaders for a few years.

The new cheerleaders have much to learn.

"That's the main thing, working on the actual technical stuff that accompanies cheerleading," said Verdell. "I just need to work on my jumps."

No matter how long they have been

cheering, everyone seems enthusiastic about competing.

"I'm really nervous," said senior

Bethany Hawks. "I've never competed like this; I'm used to (other) sports, but I'm excited and eager about the new

challenge."

According to Melissa Towery, one of Guilford's two cheerleading coaches, the team will need to make a video demonstrating their skill to qualify for competition.

She believes the team is capable of qualifying.

"It depends on how hard (the team is) willing to work," said Towery. "If they are willing to work, they'll be ready. They can do it; they have the skills."

It seems that the team is ready to work for a place in competition.

"We're trying to get a better reputation for the squad on campus and impress everybody," said junior cheerleader Lauren Duncan.

This determination to be recognized is echoed by junior Renee Spence.

"(Cheerleading) is definitely a sport," said Spence.

"A lot of people don't think cheerleading is a sport," she added. "They think that we just wave pompoms around and look cute, but we do a lot of hard work and we definitely deserve to be seen as as much of a sport as anything else."



(Top L-R) Luke Stewart, Kayla Adams, Lauren Duncan, Tasha Birtha, Libby Bare, and Melissa Towery. (Bottom L-R) Renee Spence, Bethany Hawks and Darius Verdell smile for the camera. The cheerleading squad hopes to qualify for national competition.

ZACH MORAN/GUILFORDIAN

Tebow's success demonstrates the power of motivation

By Bryan Dooley
STAFF WRITER

Critics said that he would not be a college quarterback; critics said he would not win the national championship; and critics said that he would not be a starting quarterback in the NFL.

The critics were wrong.

Tim Tebow is one of the most unconventional-yet-successful quarterbacks in recent times.

He won the Heisman Trophy in 2007 guided the Florida to two national championships, and in 2010 was drafted in the first round by the Denver Broncos.

Tebow has won six games and lost only once, 45-10 vs. Detroit, since taking over for recently released quarterback Kyle Orton as the Broncos starting signal-caller.

His accomplishments leave many people wondering whether his success comes from his athletic ability or willpower.

"I think that having heart has the ability to play a major role at the NFL level," said senior sports management major, and former Guilford College soccer player, Gillian Carroll. "When it comes to heart and the will to do anything you can to extend the play and give your team a chance. Tebow has been consistently doing this."

Most of Tebow's passion comes from his faith.

His parents taught him from an early age to speak openly about his faith in God.

He demonstrates his faith on and off the field, in everything that he does.

Randall Cunningham, a 16-year veteran of the NFL, spoke highly of Tebow when asked by the Las Vegas Review Journal

love Tim Tebow. He is in the perfect situation to demonstrate his faith. God has elevated this young man to a place of trying to open people's eyes to the importance of having faith ... This is a divine time for America,

wants all of us to hear."

His out-spoken belief in Christianity has caused fans to either love Tebow or hate him.

"Twenty years ago, the media and fans praised athletes who had a strong faith, but today's

about his faith, I think that he would give into the media, and stop his public religious practices — but he hasn't, and I don't think he ever will stop taking a knee, despite all the criticism."

Most Broncos' fans realize that Tebow is full of passion, determination and high energy, but they are also realistic about his potential as a quarterback.

"It is hard to imagine Tebow would be a successful NFL quarterback over the long haul, but if he is surrounded by the right players, I suppose it could happen," said Assistant Professor of Sports Studies Bob Malekoff.

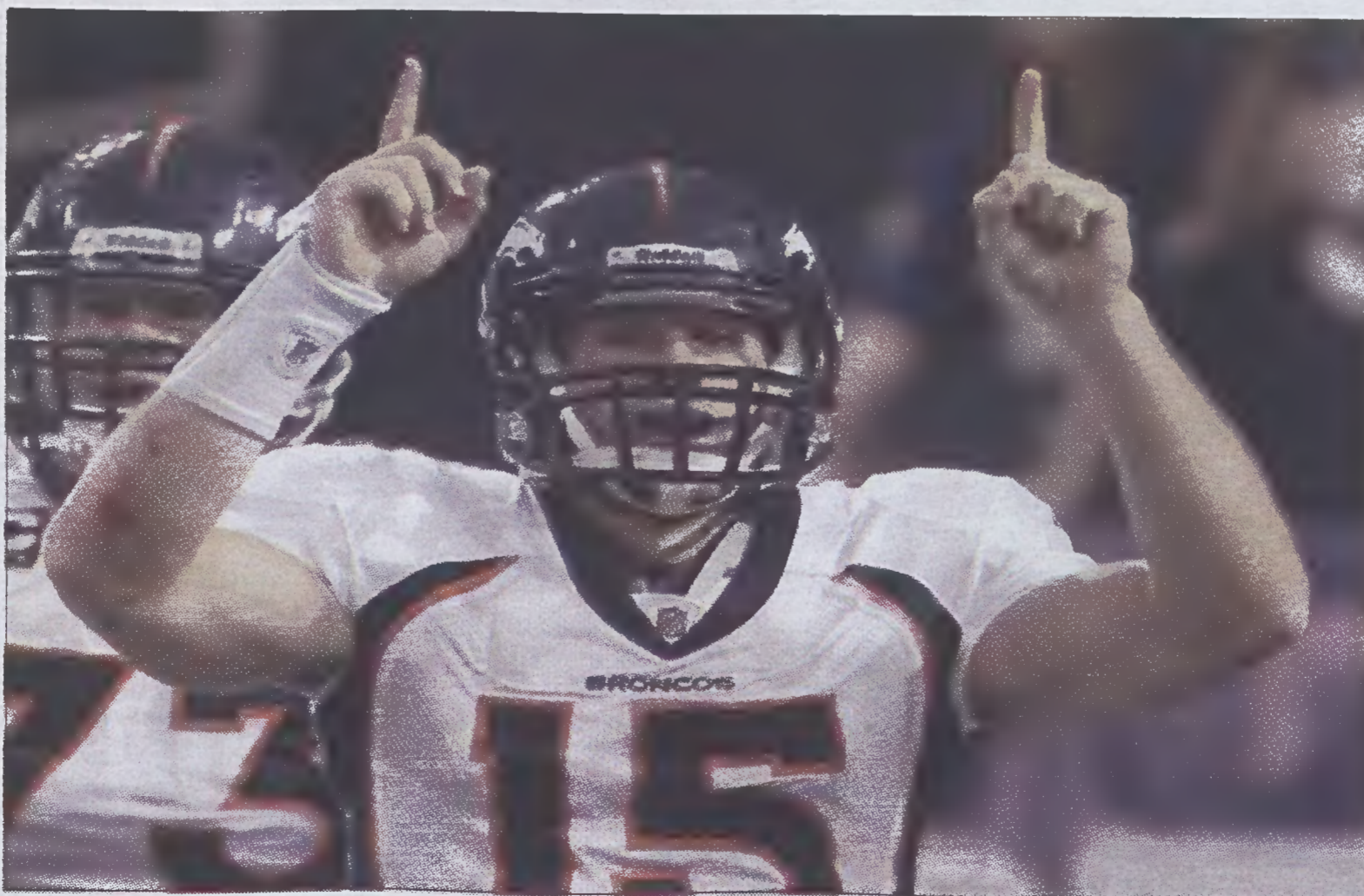
"His ability to run effectively is certainly a dimension that puts pressure on opposing teams," added Malekoff.

Most fans know that in order to win championships, you need a great quarterback and Tebow does not fit in the category of great quarterbacks right now.

"Any football fan who has watched Tebow's many game-winning drives would tell you that his determination to win is what won the Broncos those games — as well as the Denver defense, which deserves most of the credit," said Childs.

"As much as Denver believes that Tebow can win games, they don't think that he will actually lead the Broncos to the Super Bowl."

"But, once again, he's proven us wrong before," Childs concluded.



Tim Tebow shows off his trademark point-to-the-heavens thanking God. Tebow is the quarterback for the Denver Broncos, who drafted him in the first round of the NFL draft. Tebow is both criticized and praised by sports fans for the passion he shows for his faith, but no one denies that his skills as a football player keep him in the game.

his impression of the young quarterback.

"I experienced all the same things," Cunningham said. "I

and I truly believe a young man of such character, while receiving a lot of persecution from others, is speaking the words that God

media is very different," said former Guilfordian sports editor, Patrick Childs '10.

"If Tebow wasn't so passionate

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