

# Soccer alum Bri Eilman becomes new assistant coach

BY ALLISON DEBUSK  
STAFF WRITER

Some players' passion for their sport is so strong that they never want to leave. This is the case for the new Assistant Women's Soccer Coach Bri Eilman.

Eilman graduated from Guilford last year after three stellar years on the women's soccer team. During her career at Guilford, she totaled 12 goals in 47 appearances, and her 12 assists stand tenth overall in school history.

Head Women's Soccer Coach Eric Lewis said that she was a "leader right away." Her leadership and soccer skills led to her appointment as captain last year.

"Everyone looked up to her on and off the field," said senior midfielder Jaclyn Nucci.

"She could see the plays that were necessary and strategies that we could use," said senior midfielder Gabrielle Lahowitch.

Eilman had been coaching soccer camps at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for four years. "It came natural to me," she said.

During the fall season she asked if there might be a position open for a new assistant coach. When Lewis said that it was a possibility, she applied for the job after graduation.

Approaching the season, Eilman was nervous about transitioning from the players' teammate to coach. Lewis was also concerned that the older players would not respect Eilman as a coach.

"Surprisingly, it's been great, because they do respect me as their coach," Eilman said.

"I had a lot of respect for Bri to begin with," said junior goalkeeper Abby Gove. "So it's not that much different from having her as a captain."

"It felt very natural for me because I felt like she was already coaching me in a sense," said Lahowitch.

Even though the players respect her, the transition has not been completely easy.

"At first it was awkward, keeping that line of respect," said Nucci. Now everyone can maintain professionalism.

So far, Eilman's coaching career has been a success.

"She stayed on me about everything as captain and does the same as an assistant," said Lewis. "She knows my weaknesses and compensates for them."

Eilman has also impressed the players with her coaching skills.

"She pushes us because she wants us to win," said first-year defender Cassie Vaughn.

When Eilman is pushing the players to be their best, she offers verbal encouragement as well.

"If I'm down about something, she has something to say to help my game," Lahowitch said.

Vaughn expressed the attitude with which Eilman is approaching the upcoming season, and the attitude that she instills in the team.

"When she's like, 'We're going to win,' I feel like we're going to win," said Vaughn.



Bri Eilman, the new assistant women's soccer coach, has previously coached at University of North Carolina Chapel Hill.



Guilford alum Bri Eilman talks to senior Lily Watkins. In her time, Eilman tallied a record number of assists at 12 total.

#### Assistant Coach Eilman's stats:

- 12 goals in her 47 appearances
- 10th highest Guilford College record in assists with 12 total
- Has 4 years of coaching experience at UNC Chapel Hill

## You can still play sports without being on a varsity team

BY JAMES ROWE  
STAFF WRITER

Lots of students who are sports fans come to college and are not able to play or prefer not to play varsity athletics. Luckily, a college like Guilford is able to give those students that competitive and athletic opportunity in intramurals.

In intramurals, students can play a competitive sport like soccer or basketball. Another great thing about this is that other varsity athletes can play intramurals with non-athletes as well.

There are no tryouts for any teams in any of the intramural sports because Guilford gives an equal opportunity to everyone. The only requirement to join intramurals is that students sign up themselves and other members for the team they want to form.

Intramural players can have fun while meeting other people and playing a sport that they like.

Steve Moran is in charge of the program.

"I hope there is an increase of participants from the Guilford community, more diverse participants (and) increased programmatic offerings to represent the diverse campus interests," said Moran, "(as well as) increased collaboration with additional departments on campus (and) increased student involvement in leadership roles provided by intramural sports programming.

"(The program) is meant to facilitate social interaction, and leadership development experiences for the diverse members of the Guilford College community," Moran added. "This is achieved by providing competitive and co-

educational athletic opportunities that support the physical and mental well being of our community in accordance with the Guilford College mission and institutional core values."

Some of the sports that the program provides are dodgeball, first-year Hall Olympics, tennis, floor hockey, volleyball, softball, basketball, flag football, Texas Hold 'Em, ping pong and pool.

Senior Caleb Whited-Ford is in charge of the intramural

**"Hopefully there will be a breakdown of the barrier between the student-athletes and non-athletic students because of this program."**

### Caleb Whited-Ford, senior

program and has been running it for the past three years. Whited-Ford is a sports management major who says that he hopes running this program will help him when he graduates as a credential on his resume.

"I one day hope to get a full time job at some Division I athletic program," said Whited-Ford.

"The main purpose of the program is to provide an

opportunity for people to participate in athletics at a lower skill set," said Whited-Ford. "Also some of the other things that we hope the program achieves is that it could start a healthier lifestyle, hopefully retain students at Guilford College and that people can make some friends out of the program."

"Hopefully there will be a breakdown of the barrier between the student-athletes and non-athletic students because of this program," Whited-Ford said.

Whited-Ford explained that there really were no concerns for the program except for the expenses they have to pay for the equipment.

"Playing intramurals is a great way to just get outside, play an awesome sport, hang out with old friends and make new ones," said senior Will Singley.

Singley described his experience as a student-athlete being difficult to manage.

All he did was sleep, eat, go to class and play soccer. Intramurals allowed him to have some downtime and play for fun.

However, senior Brianna Goodison, who also helps Whited-Ford run the program, says that there is one problem with the program: not enough women participate.

"We need more women to get involved," said Goodison. "We really want to make the teams more diverse this year, and that starts by making sure intramural sports aren't male-dominated."

So, to everybody and anybody: get out there and have some fun.

Intramural programs are a guaranteed good time.