

Rugby teams ruck new season as popularity soars

BY JAMES ROWE
STAFF WRITER

Occasionally when a person goes to a rugby social, they will encounter a chant that the rugby team proudly yells: "Saturday is a rugby day." The energy used in the chanting displays how both the men's and women's rugby teams are proud to be rugby players.

Both the men's and women's rugby team come together to celebrate playing hard for 80 minutes. It's not just a team sport; it's a sport of brotherhood and sisterhood.

Rugby is not the type of sport where if one player is not playing then the team feels like they will lose; it does not have a superstar on the team. Every player on the field and bench is important.

"I like rugby because it mixes together a lot of the common generalizations from other sports into one big non-stop display of athleticism," said Mike Frazier who is the senior forward and rugby social chair. "There is the running involved from sports like soccer and the physicality is somewhere along the lines of football."

"The best part of rugby for me is the atmosphere that the team creates" added Frazier. "Everyone on the team is like a family member and they are all treated as such. An 80 minute rugby game is really taxing on the body and the mind so it helps to have 14 brothers out on the field with you and, consequentially, that relationship exists off the field as well."

Rugby used to be very popular until after the 1924 Olympics when it was dropped from the Olympic program, but has started to rise in popularity once again.

There are a lot of reasons why the rugby teams at Guilford College are so popular. The main reason is that rugby players are friendly and they invite fans and other people to their social events just to have fun and interact with them.

"I think the rugby culture is so popular here at Guilford because the rugby team

strives to represent a lot of the same principles that Guilford is all about," said Frazier. "We accept anyone who wants to give the sport a try, or just wants to hang out with us, on and off the field."

The women's rugby team struggled in recent years to just get a win; however the team has experienced a huge gain in attendance at the matches, and shows a lot of promise for this upcoming year.

"I expect a lot from the women's team this year. We have a lot of talent and committed players," said Peach McCarty, senior forward and captain of the women's team. "Having George coach us and Dan last semester really helped us get to be competitors this year. I have full faith in my team to score some wins this year."

The women's team last season proved to be a winner, and there certainly is a lot of excitement for the team this season.

"I think we will be successful this year because we became friends on and off the pitch last year," said McCarty. "Rugby is a tough sport and it is hard to put yourself on the pitch and subject yourself to tackle after tackle if it is not for someone you know has your back. Getting closer as friends allowed us to play better as a team."

Last year, the men's rugby team struggled to field the minimum team of 15 as injuries hurt them. It was sad to see the season cut short, however the team is excited for this season due to having 32 players on the roster, more than double of last year's team.

"This year, people should expect to see us competitive in our conference," said Frazier. "We have a great group of guys this year who are just as committed as they are talented."

"Rugby is one of the most fun things I have done at Guilford," said McCarty. "I am so glad to have done it and the team these past years, as captain, has made it really worthwhile."

It should be an exciting year for rugby, so get out there, cheer and enjoy it.

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Mike Frazier, senior forward and rugby social chair

(Top right) Hooker **Lexi Gottlob** prepares to throw into the line-out to her forwards during practice Friday evening. (Below) **Andrew Welch, Grier Cross, Noah Wernstedt-Lynch, and Conor Sastre** hone a passing drill. Their first game is Saturday, Sept 22.

For more Rugby photos check out
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Tyler Campbell: epitome of the complete student-athlete

BY CLARENCE TURPIN
STAFF WRITER

Most academic institutions place strong emphasis on the term "student-athlete." Luckily for Guilford College, first-year Tyler Campbell exemplifies everything, and more, the college wishes to have in its student-athletes.

Campbell, a center on the Guilford football team, has recently been named a finalist for the 2012 National Scholar Athlete Award, an honor bestowed upon an athlete that excels both in the classroom and on the field.

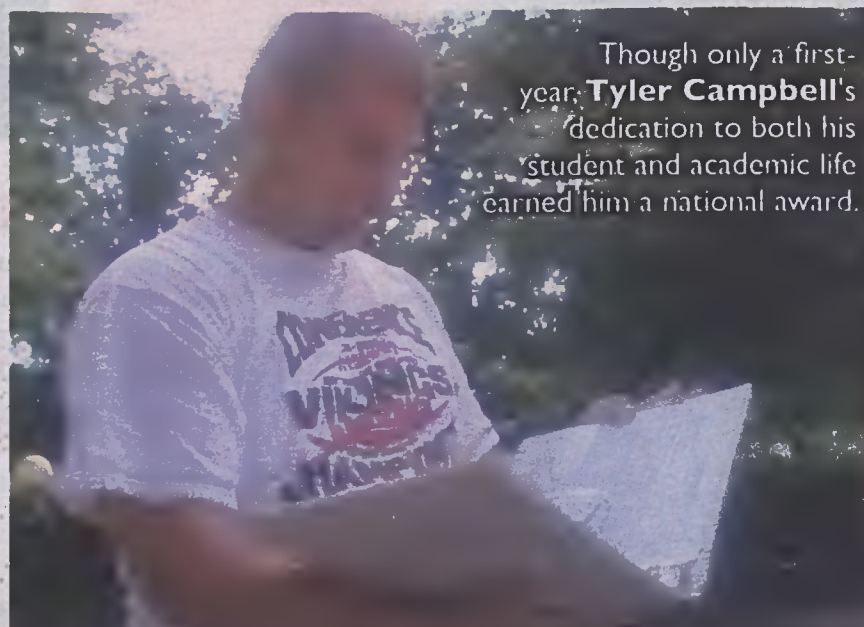
Campbell has been selected to represent the Corrigan/Faircloth Chapter in the Triad for the National Football Foundation. This chapter is one of 120 in 46 states that reward high school football players who perform academically and athletically at a high level.

With the initial candidate pool reaching over 3,000, being selected as one of the 26 finalists is an honor for Campbell.

"It is such an honor to be a top finalist for this award," said Campbell. "It makes the whole academic process worthwhile, to get recognition."

Beth Campbell, Tyler's mother, says that Tyler has had the potential to succeed all along.

"Tyler has always had a natural desire to achieve success in everything he does," said Beth. "He realizes the desire and knows his family will provide the love and support he needs to



Though only a first-year, **Tyler Campbell's** dedication to both his student and academic life earned him a national award.

according to Rusiewicz.

"I have coached a long time, and I have had players win the Chapter Award, but I have never had someone make it to the national level," said Rusiewicz.

Faris El-Ali, junior captain on the football team, has also noticed Campbell's hard work.

"He does not like making mistakes," said El-Ali. "If he does, he is committed to improving from day to day."

Campbell realizes that with reward there is a price to pay. Sacrifices need to be made in order for him to maintain his lofty academic and athletic aspirations.

"In college you have to manage your time a lot better," said Campbell. "At times you have to sacrifice some sleep, but in the end it is worth it in order to make good grades."

Campbell maintains habits that enable him to stay on top of both athletics and academics.

"Always keep a schedule handy," he said.

His roommate, first-year Troy Philpott, has witnessed this.

"Tyler takes a part of his day to sit down and figure out what exactly he has to work on," said Philpott. "Tyler knows what he has to do and he finds a way to get it done."

With a mixture of self-discipline and good habits, Campbell considers himself to be in a position that suits both him and his future aspirations.

"I am very excited to be playing for, and representing my hometown college team," said Campbell. "Go Quakers!"

achieve that self-actualization that he is known for."

Campbell's mother is not the only who has noticed the first-year's desire to achieve success.

"This is good for Tyler in general, for showing what he can do not only on the football field, but also in the classroom," said Head Football Coach Chris Rusiewicz. "He is definitely someone who will lead by example because of his work ethic."

Leading by example comes naturally for Campbell,

BRIANNA GLENN/GUILFORDIAN