



## BLOWOUT TO BLACKOUT TO SHOOTOUT: The Baltimore Ravens prevail in Super Bowl XLVII

Ravens quarterback and Super Bowl MVP **Joe Flacco** cheers while surrounded by teammates and media during victory celebrations for Super Bowl XLVII on Feb. 3, 2013, in New Orleans.

**BY RISHAB REVANKAR**  
STAFF WRITER

In their previous Super Bowl, the Baltimore Ravens ousted the Giants 34-7. A similar story loomed over Super Bowl XLVII as the record-setting Joe Flacco and the Ravens topped the San Francisco 49ers.

The Superdome lights blacked out with no warning during the third quarter. After an agonizing 34-minute delay, the 49ers fought back to cut into their deficit.

Without a doubt, the game went from blowout to blackout and finally to shootout.

In a sensational 34-31 thriller, the Baltimore Ravens fended off the 49ers' comeback and lifted the

Lombardi trophy for the second time in team history.

The victory didn't come in style and it wasn't elegant or easy.

"How could it be any other way," said Head Coach John Harbaugh on ESPN. "It's never pretty. It's never perfect. ... It speaks to our resolve, speaks to our determination."

Behind red-hot Joe Flacco, the Ravens never trailed in this game. Flacco's 287 yards and three touchdowns lifted him to the Super Bowl Most Valuable Player.

Jacoby Jones stunned the 49ers' defense with arguably two of the greatest Super Bowl plays: a 52-yard touchdown catch and a record-tying 108-yard kickoff return.

"When he caught the ball,

you could see it in his eyes," said Raven's sports medic Pratik Patel during a phone interview with the Guilfordian. "There was only one place he was headed."

After the sudden power outage, 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick counterattacked with a 15-yard touchdown dash.

"(Kaepernick is) like a Michael Vick: a young, explosive talent. Only less prone to injury," said Phillip Collier, sophomore offensive lineman.

Kaepernick looked on par to cap off an unbelievable season with a Super Bowl ring. In the final two minutes, the 49ers needed just 7 yards to seize the lead.

The Ravens once again proved

capable of finding the winning formula just when people started to count them out.

"It's almost like they can find a hero, a game-changer, to deliver them," said Marvin Wells, a Ravens fan.

In a do-or-die defensive stand, the Ravens came up clutch. Led by veterans Ray Lewis and Ed Reed, the defense denied the 49ers a score on four consecutive attempts.

Many believe that it was Baltimore's destiny to win. A Super Bowl ring is due credit to Flacco's coming of age, a welcome homecoming for Ed Reed and a fitting end to a 17-year career for Ray Lewis.

Described as the epitome of

physical dominance and leadership, Lewis has battled countless injuries and performance-enhancing drug charges.

"The adversity that that man has faced — everything from murder charges to injuries — there's leadership there," said Guilford's Head Football Coach Chris Rusiewicz.

It was not long ago that Baltimore appeared to be faltering out of playoff contention. Sunday, the same locker room soared atop the football world.

When Ray Lewis hangs up his boots and sits down with his children, he will have quite a story to tell. And at the end of it all, he can top it off with a cherry: his storybook finish.

### INSIDE SPORTS



**Egypt explodes over soccer tragedy**

**BY JAMIE LUCKHAUS**  
STAFF WRITER



**Visit from Nancy Lieberman**  
**BY KIM KLEIMEIER**  
STAFF WRITER

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## Basketball prepares for match-up against Virginia Wesleyan

**BY CHARLOTTE HUDSON**  
STAFF WRITER

As the dog days of college basketball approach, the Guilford Men's basketball team has one important matchup coming up on Feb. 9 against a very tough opponent.

The Virginia Wesleyan Marlins (16-6, 11-2 ODAC) will be coming into this game, second in the Old Dominion Athletic Conference. Guilford (16-6, 8-5 ODAC) is fighting for the fourth place spot in the ODAC.

The Quakers are looking to finish off the regular season well. Hopefully, this will include a victory against Athletic Director and Head Coach Tom Palombo's alma mater. This win could be a revenge of sorts for the team's 63-49 loss on Dec. 8 at Virginia Beach. One of the Quakers' most devastating losses came against the Marlins.

Quaker fans are optimistic about the 2012-13 Quakers, as underlined by senior Vanessa Johnson.

"(This year's team) has so much potential," Johnson said. "I expect them to be as good as they were last year."

She and most other avid fans of the Quakers

hope for something good to cheer for as the season comes to a close and the conference tournament gets set in motion.

"After two years of 'down' seasons following consecutive final four appearances (in 2009 and 2010), this year's team shows promise of going into post-season play," said Campus Ministry Coordinator Max Carter, via email. Carter closely follows Quaker athletics in the years he has been at Guilford and he enjoys watching the various student-athletes that have taken his courses.

"It is also Josh Pittman's senior year, a player I have followed since he was in 8th grade and who is one of (Guilford's) all-time greatest players," said Carter.

Pittman is third in the ODAC with 17.2 per game and second in assists with five per outing. Pittman and three other seniors give the Quakers veteran experience, as they progress through an up-and-down season with thrilling wins and shattering losses.

Virginia Wesleyan is led by senior forward Chris Astorga, an offensive threat who averages 15.9 per game. At a recent game against Emory & Henry, he dropped in 24 in a 86-63 blowout. Three players currently average in the double

figures.

Some fans believe that this upcoming game will be among the most important the team will play, with Carter, a Hoosier native, quipping the matchup as a 'barn-burner.'

However, the team emphasizes the importance of playing their best, one game at a time.

"As a player and senior, we treat each game the same," said senior guard Travis Tracy via email. "There isn't a real significant difference in this game compared to the rest. We are just going to go out and play hard and play Guilford College basketball."

"At this point in the season we believe we have a good chance of winning the ODAC tournament. We are taking one game at a time (and) working (on) trying to get better as a team, so we can fulfill our goal of winning the ODAC 'championship.'"

At this point of the season, the Quakers are looking to place in the top half of the conference, go deep in the ODAC tournament, and hopefully make an appearance in the national tournament.

The game against Virginia Wesleyan will take place on Feb. 9 at Ragan-Brown Field House at 3 p.m.