

Ratner swings for success, goes to Patriot All-America Invitational

BY MICHAEL CASWELL
STAFF WRITER

"It was a tremendous honor to play in the Patriot All-America Invitational," said senior Noah Ratner, golf team captain. "Not just for the golf but because the fact I was playing for a fallen soldier who died defending our freedom. (The tournament was) an experience I will never forget."

The Patriot All-America Invitational is a holiday tournament that features the top golfers from all NCAA divisions. Ratner finished 21st, which was the highest among Division III participants.

"It is no easy task reaching this invitational," said Ratner's swing coach Brian Creggan. "Noah works extremely hard, which should come as no surprise. Success in golf does not come without hard work."

This is not the first time Ratner has participated in a big-time tournament. Nearly four years ago, Ratner won the Maccabiah Golf Games, an international Jewish event held in Israel every four years. He will be traveling back to Israel this summer, competing for the U.S.

Even though Ratner has achieved so much as an individual, his proudest moments were the two Old Dominion Athletic Conference tournaments his team won.

"Noah is driven to work on his game every day," said Bob Ratner, Noah's father, in an email interview. "What a work ethic! He is his own harshest critic because he is always trying to get better."

"In tournament play, he never gives up, always tries his hardest to the very last shot, and is always trying to learn from each round so he can improve. He is humble about his accomplishments."

Last year, Noah was awarded the Jack Nicklaus Award, which is given to the top golfers in all three NCAA divisions. He believes a lot of his success is owed to Guilford.

"I wanted to play college golf, and (former) Coach (Jack) Jensen was the only coach who gave me a chance," said Noah. "I am truly grateful to him, and he will always have a special place in my heart."

"Guilford gave me a place to get a great education, play golf and create a group of friends I will be close with the rest of my life. So I would like to close this by saying, thank you to Guilford."



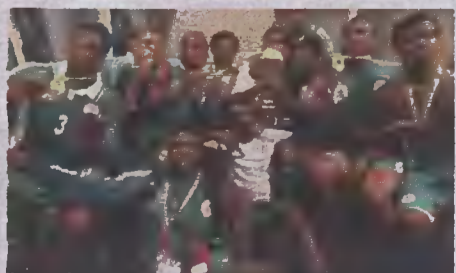
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NCAA change-ups
BY CHARLOTTE HUDSON
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Nigeria wins Africa Cup
BY JOSH BARKER
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Running towards victory: track and field team on path to championship

BY KEVIN ENGLE
STAFF WRITER

As the arrival of spring nears and with it, the transition into spring sports, and the winter sports teams will soon begin wrapping up their seasons.

For the indoor track and field team, Feb. 22 marks the event they have been training for all season: conference championships.

"I think our team will perform great as a whole," said junior runner Jasmine O'Neill in an email interview. "We will be racing against people in our conference, so our confidence should be well above normal."

It will be the first and last chance of the season for Guilford to compete against Old Dominion Athletic Conference teams. It will also be the last major opportunity for athletes to qualify for the

Division III Indoor Track and Field National Championships.

"I believe there are multiple athletes poised to qualify for Nationals," said Head Men's and Women's Track and Field Coach Danny Cash in an interview.

Taking place at Liberty University, the conference championships will be the first non-invitational meet of the year. Since the majority of the ODAC is in Virginia, Guilford has competed against Division I and II schools within North Carolina.

"We have been working extremely hard in practice," said O'Neill. "There's a lot of positive energy and support that is constantly circulating in practice and at track meets from our amazing coaches."

The results are definitely beginning to show.

On Saturday, Feb. 16, at the

Kent Taylor Invitational hosted by University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Guilford athletes set school records left and right.

Junior Chad Norton set the school record in the one mile by 2.65 seconds with a time of 4:22.42. Junior Andris Goncarovs, at 4:22.51, was neck and neck with Norton, while Junior David Cason was close behind with a time of 4:27.76.

The women's 4x400m relay team, composed of junior Rachel Flint and sophomores Emily Cash, Pasangi Perera and Jasmine O'Neill, bested the school record by over three seconds with a time of 4:40.59.

In addition, there were a number of season and personal records broken among the multiple school records

"I am so proud of the athletes for the team's accomplishments,"

said Assistant Men's and Women's Track and Field Coach Kimberly Cash. "I am incredibly confident that the team will continue to show progress through the end of the indoor season and on into the outdoor season."

Junior football player Alex Smith jumps for the track team during the off-season.

"It's weird going from having multiple coaches encouraging you all at once to two talking to you one at a time," said Smith in an email interview.

When asked about his transition from the field to the track, Smith said that he was surprised by the "comfortable camaraderie" of the team that differs so vastly from his football family.

With an individualized sport like track and field, no one can make the team feel more like a family than "Momma and Daddy Cash."