

Rampage: the uphill journey of a Guilford footballer

BY VALERIA SOSA
STAFF WRITER

First team All-Old Dominion Athletic Conference recipient Robert "Rampage" Smith sauntered into Founder's Hall with a smile playing wide on his face.

At 6 feet 2 inches and 245 pounds, he's pretty hard to miss.

"He's one of those guys who has made an impact on our team and our defense's performance, especially because he's such an explosive player," said Faris El-Ali, senior football captain. "He's one of those guys that always has a good time."

"You can't help but have a good time on field playing with him."

Rampage went to high school at R.J. Reynolds in Winston-Salem. There he learned he loved to play football.

He committed to Catawba College, but after visiting he decided that it was too secluded for his taste.

He then visited Guilford with a friend, where he got a chance to talk with the

football coaches.

"He was very quiet, he kept to himself," said football head coach Chris Rusiewicz. "I think he was just letting everything absorb in. I explained to him the opportunities academically and playing football."

"He just kinda sat there and stared ... but by the end of the conversation he opened up more and smiled, and started buying into what it is we want to do here at Guilford."

So Rampage came to Guilford, thinking that he would never have a dull moment.

But life at Guilford was far from what he expected.

"Guilford had the best education to offer me," said Rampage. "I didn't know it would be this hard."

"I expected parties, fun and hype all the time. Instead I got squirrels and green grass."

Late '90s movies, apparently, distorted his expectations of college.

"If this were 'American Pie,' then everyone here would be a happy camper," said Rampage.

"I expected college to be 'American Pie.' I got American lemon cake."

Although college was nothing like Rampage imagined it to be, he worked hard both in academics and in football.

"He is a great student ... and a pleasure to have in class," said Vicki Foust, part-

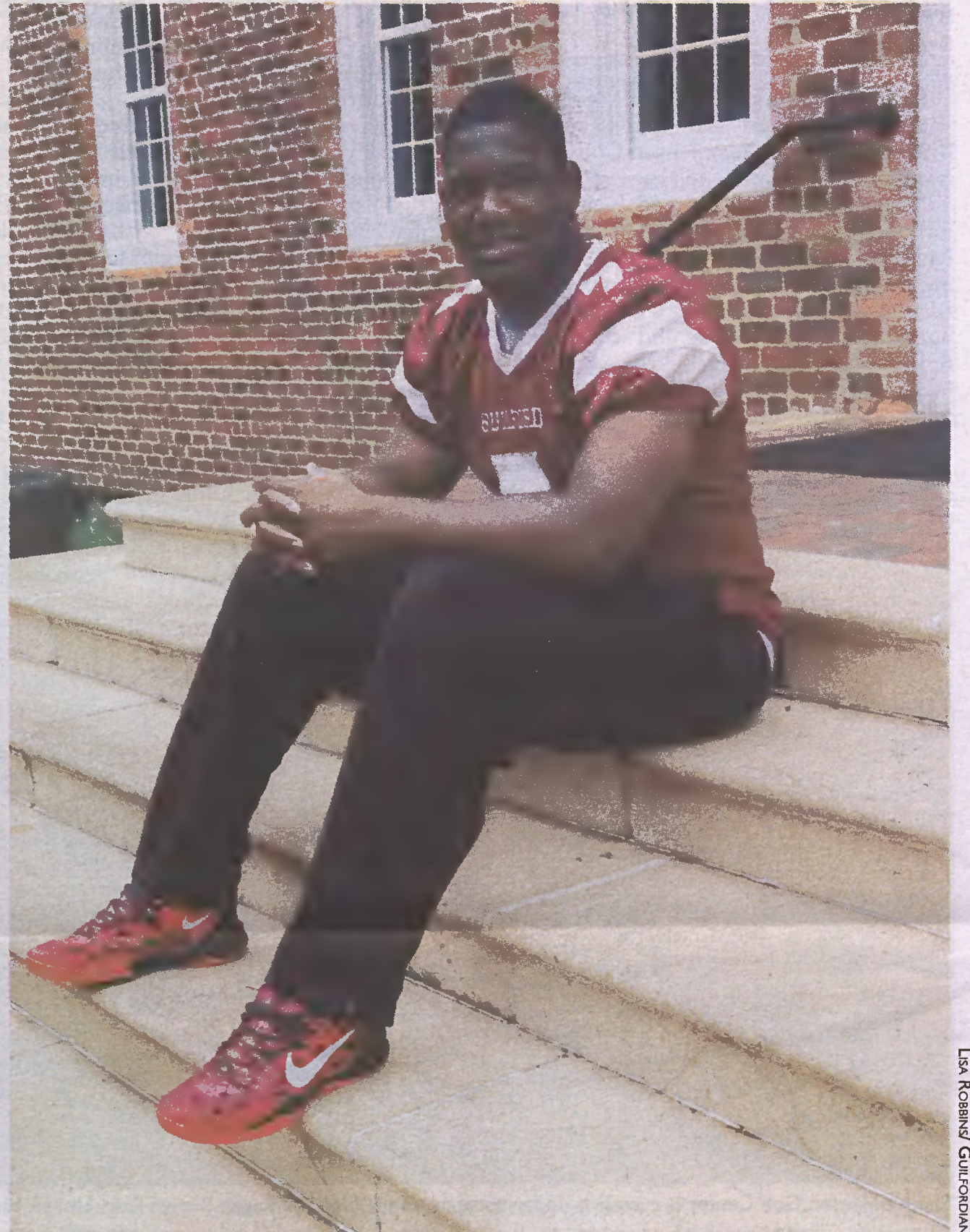
time instructor of business management

Said fellow teammate and first-year Tyler Correll, "Robert is very hard working and does whatever it takes to make the team better."

During his first year, however, he sprained his knee. Then, last year, he injured both shoulders, forcing him to have surgeries.

"At first he was optimistic about his injuries," said Satiir Stevenson. "But when he came back and he was not the same as he once was athletically, he became more determined to return to his natural form."

"He's the type of guy who you can't help but respect, because he's always



Junior football player **Robert "Rampage" Smith** is a first team All-Old Dominion Athletic Conference recipient. He must balance challenging academics and a demanding football schedule.



So far this season, **Smith** has 12 solo tackles and eight assists in Guilford's three games.

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SAMIR HAZBOUN
SENIOR
ULTIMATE FRISBEE

AT ST. MARY'S:
HUCKIN' IN THE OL'
BAY TOURNAMENT

Scored 4 points, threw 7 assists and had 12 blocks.



REBECCA REYNA
SOPHOMORE
CROSS COUNTRY

AT THE CHARLOTTE
CROSS COUNTRY
INVITATIONAL

Ran the seventh-fastest six-kilometer time in school history with a 25 minutes, 9.0 second mark, the 65th-best time in the 117-woman field.



NATE SECREST
JUNIOR
ULTIMATE FRISBEE

AT ST. MARY'S:
HUCKIN' IN THE OL'
BAY TOURNAMENT

Scored 3 points, threw 25 assists and had 6 blocks.