

Spring sports preview: highlighting players, teams to watch for this semester



COURTESY OF MIKE SHAW

Sophomore catcher **Nathan Fulbright** bats against Bluefield State College.

BY KELLI URESTI
STAFF WRITER

With fall and winter sports ending, our Guilford College spring sports teams have been training and preparing for the coming 2014 season.

Here's a look at what to expect:

Baseball

Head baseball coach Nick Black '02 believes there is a different mindset on the team.

"We have a really good group of guys that come out and work hard every day," said Black.

The team was selected seventh in the Old Dominion Athletic Conference coaches' preseason poll. They had nine starters return from last year's squad.

"Macon Smith (and) Corey Wallace both had a really good season last year," said Black. "Herc Ingles plays really well, and Mike Whitted, a first-year starting senior, should do well.

Softball

The women's softball team practices year-round, and the results are paying off.

"More unity and more teamwork, that is what you should expect to see," said senior first baseman Rachel Howard. "We have a better connection this year, and you will

see that on the field."

Their conference is never easy, but they are striving for excellence.

"Cynthia Hays, Casey Snead and Marty Wilcox brought it last year, so I expect them to do the same this year," said Howard.

Men's Lacrosse

The men's lacrosse team was selected seventh in the ODAC preseason coaches' poll. With a growing team comes more success.

"We have the biggest team we have ever had, so this should help us compete better against the bigger schools," said senior defender James Hulette.

The men's lacrosse team is a young team, but they are still a team to watch out for.

Many of the team's key players, like sophomore attacker Adam Fiore, junior goalkeeper Thomas Deane and junior defenseman Nick Huckins, are returning for the 2014 campaign.

Women's Lacrosse

The women's lacrosse team was selected second place in the ODAC preseason poll based on their perfect regular-season 10-0 finish.

"The girls are even hungrier for success coming up this season, especially trying to make the goal of winning (the) ODAC this year," said head women's lacrosse coach

Sarah Lamphier.

They also have a lot of key players returning, and Lamphier believes that if there is any year to make a deep playoff push, this will be the year.

Highlighted by All-American E'lyena Garcia, six of the seven 2013 All-ODAC performers return this season for the Quakers. This includes senior sisters, Lily and Becca Colley, senior Celine De Perlinghi, junior Nora Keene, sophomore Summer Fowler and sophomore Lizz Carella. They should all stand out again this season.

Tennis

This will be a different season for the Quakers' tennis team. With new and fresh talent, junior tennis captain Turner Votipka is looking forward to the season ahead.

"We have a bunch of new freshmen," said Votipka. "Three are starting, so hopefully, the new talent comes in and makes up for the seniors we lost."

The ODAC coaches' preseason poll ranked the men's team fourth and the women's team seventh. With all the talent, Votipka feels that both teams should be successful.

A few standouts to stay tuned for are Votipka, first-year Levi Bruff, junior Haley Andrews and junior Allison Hewitt.

Students attempt unionization in NCAA

BY ROBERT PACHECO
STAFF WRITER

For the first time in the history of college sports, athletes are asking for representation by a labor union. This action may lead to a more active role for the student athlete in the business of college football.

"I think the NFL concussion discussion has us rethinking long-term athlete disability," said senior golfer Dallas Page. "Taking care of those who have sacrificed their health for your organization is a common expectation in society."

A college quarterback is known for his leadership on the field. Kain Colter, a graduating Northwestern University quarterback, is leading NCAA student-athletes off the field.

On Jan. 28, Amogi Huma, president of the National College Players Association, filed a petition on behalf of Kain Colter and anonymous Northwestern football players, with the National Labor Relations Board.

"The action we're taking isn't because of any mistreatment by Northwestern," said Colter to ESPN's "Outside the Lines." "The school is just playing by the rules of their governing body, the NCAA."

The NLRB is the federal organization that recognizes groups seeking collective bargaining rights.

"We're interested in trying to help all players," said Colter. "This action is about protecting current players and future NCAA athletes."

The unionization effort is an attempt to ensure that student athletes are heard in discussions by NCAA officials regarding health and compensation policies.

"There is going to be pushback by the NCAA," said Robert Malekoff, associate professor of sports studies. "Right now, through the NCAA, the NFL has a free minor league system to develop talent."

The free NCAA farm system is not the only reason that the establishment will ferociously fight the unionization attempt.

"This case can lead to a series of compromises in the future,"

said Malekoff. "One effect could be a challenge to the NCAA and NFL's ability to operate as tax exempt organizations."

Currently, NCAA Division I student athletes' scholarships are handed out on a year-to-year basis. They are not a full four-year guarantee by the university.

Many critics site this as an inherent flaw. Without a full four-year guarantee to attend college, the student athlete is distracted from focusing on his education.

The student athlete is treated like an indentured servant whose accomplishments on the field determine their opportunity in the classroom.

"I would like to see an outcome where the athlete receives a four- to five-year commitment from the university," said Malekoff. "But I believe the establishment will push against that, too."

"The year-to-year scholarship allows coaches more power to control their personnel."

The original formation of the NCAA was an effort by President Theodore Roosevelt to stop the rampant injury and death that occurred during the infancy of college football.

With the public discourse of the effects that concussions have on football players' health at a crescendo, the correlation between the unionization effort and the original intent of the NCAA is blatant.

"After the athlete is finished playing and suffers injuries, he has spent significant time making the university incredible amounts of money," said a current Guilford football player who wished to remain anonymous.

"Compensation for devastating injuries in service to the university is invariably the responsibility of the school."

The student-athlete perspective is not one of a traditional student.

It is more akin to the perspective of a faculty member who contributes hard work towards the success of the university.

"The NCAA should include the opinion of the players," said Ira Warwick, a senior football player at Guilford. "At minimum, that effort would help to address health issues."

Check out
The Guilfordian's
new Digest page!

New articles on food,
entertainment, styles
and much more!

Fashion

Music

Culture

Entertainment

To visit the Digest page, go to:

WWW.GUILFORDIAN.COM