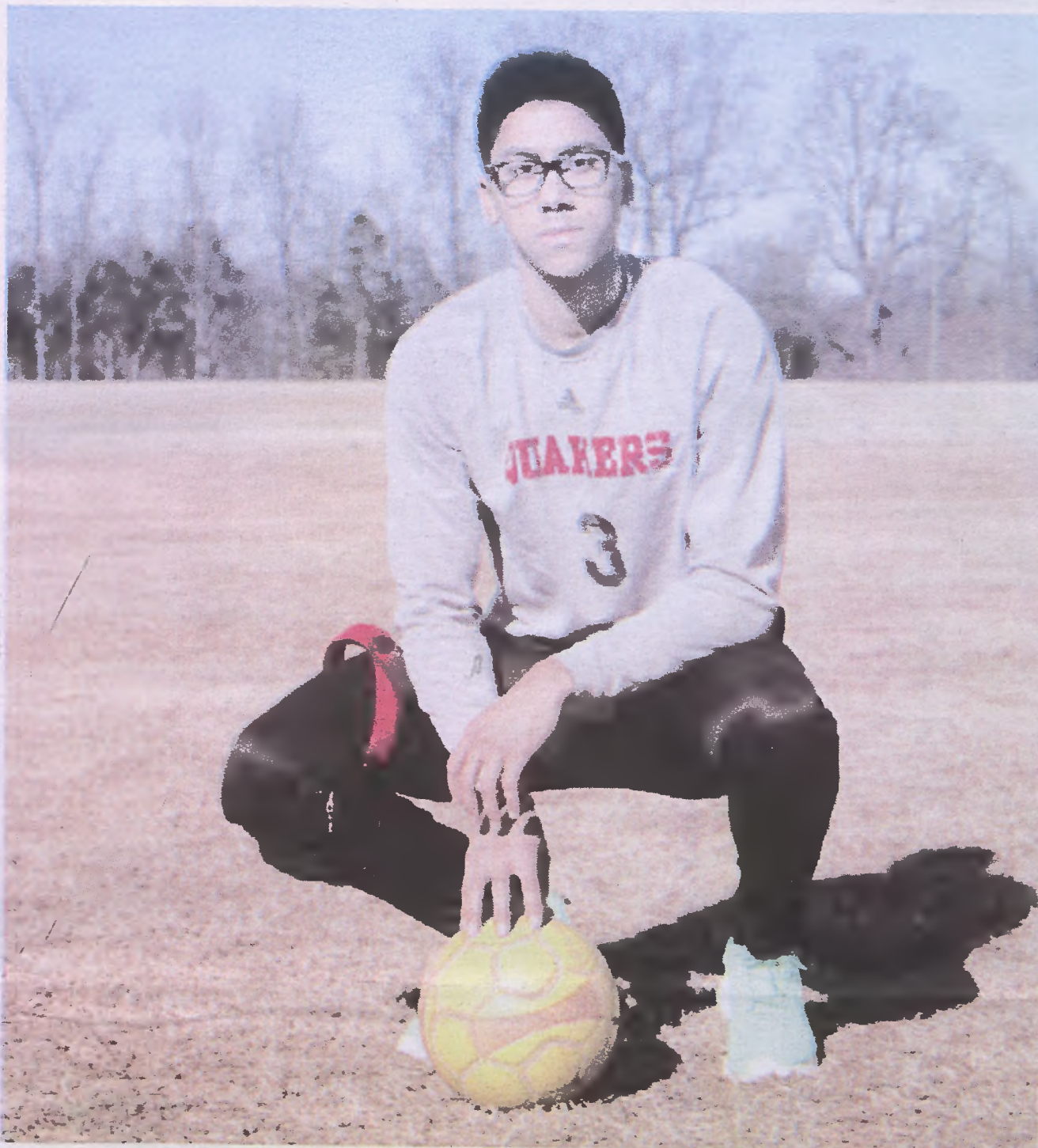


# Comeback kid Brandon Rothfuss ready for fall season



LISA ROBBINS/GUILFORDIAN

Junior forward **Brandon Rothfuss** is recovering from a torn ACL and meniscus in his right knee.

BY ALLIE BADDLEY  
STAFF WRITER

"It's extremely unfortunate what happened," said assistant men's soccer coach Peter Truitt. "It's tough to stick with it, and keep your hopes high."

Junior forward Brandon Rothfuss, captain of the men's soccer team, suffered two major knee injuries playing the game that he loves.

But he's not hanging up the cleats yet.

"To come back from serious injuries two times was very inspiring," said sophomore soccer defender Jake Elsey. "I think he shows a lot of endurance and courage coming back on the soccer field next season."

While studying abroad in London, Rothfuss tried out for the Imperial College soccer team, where he took three classes that included British life and business and an internship at a non-profit that specialized in coaching kids in an after school program.

On Feb. 9, 2013, in the third game of the season, Rothfuss' right leg hyperextended when an opponent kicked his thigh as Rothfuss challenged them for the ball in the air.

The result? A torn LCL.

"They said I wouldn't be able to play for a whole year, but I was fortunate to come back six months later," said Rothfuss.

After months on crutches, physical therapy and surgery, Rothfuss was finally cleared to play on Sept. 17, 2013.

"I was excited to be able to get back at it," said Rothfuss. "The doctors said I was almost paralyzed in my right leg, which is pretty scary to not be able to play the sport I have been growing up to love so much."

But eight seconds into his comeback,

the same day he was cleared for contact, Rothfuss would go down yet again.

This time, a teammate accidentally kicked him and the knee hyperextended.

The result? A torn ACL and meniscus in the right knee.

"It was a big letdown to be working that hard for that long of a time to just come back and redo everything that just happened," said Rothfuss.

While recovering, the captain showed his dedication to the team by attending all Guilford's practices and games.

"Even with the injury ... he still shows up to everything and gathers the group together," said first-year defender Cam Stewart.

Sitting out the majority of his junior season, Rothfuss watched and cheered from the sidelines, living vicariously through his teammates.

"I tried to turn it around and make it positive, and it helped me to become a better leader not so much on the field but also off the field," Rothfuss said.

Even while rehabbing, the forward has proved to be a great asset.

"Being able to watch from the sidelines has definitely taught him a lot in terms of leadership," said Dillon. "He's the one that's there to pick everyone back up and get everyone motivated."

Although a tough decision, Rothfuss has decided to return to the sport he loves despite the injuries. The team is looking forward to his full recovery and return to his peak performance.

"His comeback next season really speaks to his character as a dedicated student athlete," said Elsey. "I am excited he has the chance to prove himself for his senior season."

## Tennis athletes work hard on and off the courts

BY KELLI URESTI  
STAFF WRITER

Guilford College's men's tennis team opened the Old Dominion Athletic Conference season in winning fashion by overpowering Roanoke College 8-0. In the closest match last Friday, junior Trevor Cox defeated Chris Migliarese, 6-4, 6-4.

"Our boys are strong this year," said head men's and women's tennis coach Dave McCain.

Although the sun set on sophomore Erik Meiler's match, resulting in a cancellation, it did not dim the Quakers as they routed Roanoke.

However, the women's team faced the opposite fate by losing 9-0 to the conference foe.

"Roanoke girls are extremely good," said McCain. "They are probably the second-best team in the conference."

First-year Nora Prokosch showed promise, as her winning match went to a three set tiebreaker.

"The girls played really well, even though the score didn't show," said McCain. "They competed well. I am proud of both teams."

"They played as hard as they could, and that makes me very proud."

McCain must be satisfied with his players off the court activities as well. On both squads, student athletes participate in organizations like Fellow Christian Athletes and Bonner Scholars.

Sophomore Luci Gordan, a dual threat for the Quakers, plays tennis and soccer. In her first action of the season on Saturday against Lynchburg, she won a singles and doubles match.

"Luci is an amazing person," said junior tennis player

Allison Hewitt. "She is a hard worker and has a lot of heart."

Gordan explained how she balances two teams and commitments both in and out of the classroom. Interested in religion, Gordan joined the FCA and Guilford Hillel.

"It keeps me happy," said Gordan. "I actually do a lot better time management wise when I have a lot of things on my plate."

Also, Gordan gets the best of both worlds as she enjoys being around her teammates.

"It's a wonderful feeling having two sets of friends and teammates to cheer you on and be there for you," said Gordan.

Men's team junior Blake Brown is also a model student involved in extracurricular activities around campus.

"I am involved in the theme houses, Principal Problem Solving, Orientation, and some campus activities," said Brown. "During my free time I enjoy seeing the other sports play and just walking around campus."

Brown's typical day is not like most on campus. He takes night classes to be able to focus on tennis, and works at public safety during the day.

On top of Brown's busy schedule, he found time to earn the first ODAC Tennis Player of the Week Award.

The tennis team takes pride in representing Guilford as student athletes, and works hard to portray a positive brand across campus.

"I think it is a good thing that when we are out in public people don't know we are tennis players, but know us for our involvement in the school," said Brown.

Hopefully, Guilford can have another dominant performance in their next home match against Sweet Briar Saturday, March 29.

## Michael Sam posts subpar NFL Combine results

BY SUKYUN CHUNG  
STAFF WRITER

A few weeks ago, NFL hopeful Michael Sam, from the University of Missouri, shocked the sporting world with his infamous announcement.

Since then, he has not turned many heads.

"You're talking about a seventh-round pick, possibly even going undrafted," said NFL Media analyst Daniel Jeremiah on NFL AM.

Sam failed to impress at the NFL Scouting Combine on Feb. 22.

His official 40-yard dash time was 4.91 seconds. Sam's time pales in comparison to potential overall first pick, Jadeveon Clowney's official 4.53 seconds.

Housewife and Atlanta Falcon fan Janice Dawn said Sam's time was disappointing.

"Even quarterbacks are logging in better times than Sam," said Dawn in an interview with the Guilfordian.

"His combine performance would turn me off of him completely," said software developer and Carolina Panthers fan Dave Moore in an interview with the Guilfordian. "I just cannot see a player with these stats having any future in professional football."

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