

Record breakers, team players: Lily Colley & E'leyna Garcia

BY ABE KENMORE
STAFF WRITER

Seniors and lacrosse players E'leyna Garcia and Lily Colley rank first and second in career points in the Guilford College record books. This season, the duo have led the team to a 4-0 record in the Old Dominion Athletic Conference.

Colley has also earned the ODAC Women's Lacrosse Player of the Week for three consecutive weeks. All-American, Garcia has won the award three times.

Both players agreed to join *The Guilfordian* for an interview about lacrosse, playing for the Quakers and what they have learned from their time at Guilford.

How did you start playing lacrosse?

Colley: It's always been really popular in my family. My dad's a big lacrosse guy, so basically from the time I could walk. I had a lacrosse stick under the Christmas tree when I was seven years old. So, there was always that pressure to play.

Garcia: When I was in middle school, they introduced it to my private school, and I just picked it up from there and started playing ever since.

What's your favorite thing about the game? Why do you keep playing?

C: I love that it's a running sport — I just like being active, so that's what attracted me to it originally.

G: I love how much it brings a team together, how much you have to rely on everyone and how much of a team sport it is.



Senior Lily Colley plays against Wittenberg University March 9.

You both had had record-setting careers ... (you are the) first and second of all time — so, what are some of your shining moments from your time here at Guilford?

G: I mean, honestly, for shining moments, I would say last year when we beat Roanoke and Washington and Lee. All these teams we'd never beaten before, especially coming off my first year here when we were not very good.

C: I can't really think of a specific time in my career. I think what she brings up, those really big wins. I think we both played relatively well in those big wins individually, but also as a team.

G: Yeah — it's cool that Lily and I have broken a bunch of records, but we don't even know about that stuff until a week later when someone else mentions it to us.

C: Those accolades are flattering, but they are honestly superficial. Winning a ring and winning as a team would be so much more valuable because, at the end of the day, that's the overall goal.

So, how do you each prepare for a game? I mean, I assume there are warm-ups, but is there particular music you listen to or a particular routine you have before a game?

G: Well, actually, our team has a nice little dance party in the locker room before each game. We bring speakers into the locker room and we have a little playlist ... and we have a crazy, everyone gets hyped up and jumps around type of thing.

C: This is kind of nerdy, but recently I've been finding that if I go do homework or something, I've been playing better ... if I write a paper or accomplish something I'm like woo-hoo! I'm off to a great start ... And what E'leyna talked about, I mean, you haven't seen my dance moves, but they're phenomenal, and they get the team ready to play.

G: Yeah, definitely. Her dance moves are what get me going.

What piece of advice would each of you give to an incoming lacrosse player or an incoming first-year?

C: I think the biggest thing is — it's cheesy — but have fun. I think one of the biggest things I have been really trying to work is just stop putting so much pressure on myself. In game, sometimes, I used to be like, "This is supposed to be fun, and if you're not having fun and enjoying yourself, why are you doing it?" I think the other piece of advice would be ...



Senior E'leyna Garcia plays attack against Sweet Briar College.

know what you're getting into and be willing to work hard.

G: I would say, ask for help when you need it. The help is always there, just ask for it ... I would also say for any first-year athlete that comes in, you have your friends on your lacrosse team and your support group but get involved in other things.

C: Yeah, I think that's perfect ... There's very unique people at this school, and I think you can learn a lot from them. So I think what she said was great — you have your teammates, who are your family, but also branch out ... make that extra effort to make those friends, because they will be your rock when you need a break from everything.

Final Four preview

NCAA TOURNAMENT CONTINUES

BY ROBERT PACHECO
STAFF WRITER

What do Austin State University, Dayton University, Stanford University, Harvard University, Mercer University and North Dakota State University have in common?

They all were double-digit seeds that pulled off second round upset victories in the 2014 NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament.

"You knew that this year's tournament was going to be insane when that final horn sounded in the Duke versus Mercer game," said senior soccer player Michael MacVane. "It was at that point that my bracket went boom."

The excitement of filling out tournament brackets was heightened when wealthy fanatic Warren Buffett offered a prize of one billion dollars to any fan who could fill out a perfect bracket.

After the opening weekend of the tournament, only one person had a perfect bracket and that person had not signed up to be eligible for the billion dollar giveaway.

The second round also exposed the flaws in each of the Tobacco Road basketball teams that made the tournament.

Duke lost a thriller to Mercer due to a lackluster game by first-year phenomenon Jabari Parker. "I feel like my career is

incomplete," said Parker to ESPN, leading to speculation that he may return for a sophomore season.

N.C. State blew a 16 point lead in the final four minutes against *The Saint Louis Billikens* in the second round after getting past Xavier University in the First Four round.

The North Carolina Tar Heels, one of the hottest teams entering the tournament, prevailed in their second round match up against Providence College.

But Iowa State and their Big-12 Conference Player of the Year, senior Melvin Ejim, were too tough for the young Tar Heels and they narrowly advanced to the Sweet 16.

"Not having a Tobacco Road team in the Sweet 16 is always disappointing," said Pat Miller, owner of Cooper's Ale House. "But, the fact that there is so much parody in the field should make the Final Four exciting enough that local fans will come out to our sports bar to watch it."

Kentucky state rivals, the Louisville Cardinals and the Kentucky Wildcats, met in the premier game of the Sweet 16.

First-year twins Anthony and Aaron Harrison outpaced the defending champions, while 6 feet 10 inches big man, Julius Randle, cleared the boards.

"Being a Kentucky fan this year has been interesting," said Wildcat fan Greg Gampfer, a Navy Aviation Electronics Technician Petty Officer Second Class. "We've been used to excellence.

"This year has been full of ups and downs."

Looking into black male athlete graduation rates

BY C.J. GREEN
STAFF WRITER

An epidemic has been sweeping college athletics everywhere, and I will give you a hint: it is not school spirit.

If you guessed graduation and retention rates, than you would be only half right. The other half of the problem deals with a more specific group of athletes.

"Look at the numbers," said Director of Diversity Training and Education Jorge Zeballos.

"It's very clear that the group that struggles the most to stay and graduate are black males. Within those numbers are black male athletes, which are a large percent of black men on campus," he continued.

In 2011, a study conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics found that approximately 37.1 percent of college-enrolled students were black. Out of that percent, there was a higher rate of women enrolled than men by a considerable margin.

Black men who play collegiate sports widen that margin. A study conducted by the Center for the Study of Race and Equity in Education found that 50 percent of black male athletes graduate in six years compared to 67 percent of other male ethnicities in Division I athletics.

Also, the study showed that black males are underrepresented in college, yet they make up nearly 60 percent of D-I student-athletes.

After looking at the statistics from institutes larger than Guilford, one question comes to mind: is Guilford any better?

On paper, Guilford is considerably better than the national average, due to an assortment of specific factors.

"I can tell you for sure that we are okay," said President and Professor of Political Science Kent Chabotar.

"We have a critical mass of African-Americans and are one of the more diverse schools in the state, second only to UNC-Greensboro."

On top of that, student-athletes at the D-III level are not granted athletic scholarships, and D-III athletic departments do not have the amount of revenue that D-I athletic programs receive.

At Guilford, black students make up 14 percent of the population, a 6 percent jump from 2007.

From that increase, 57 percent were black women — nearly a 10 percent growth.

Now with that information, think about how many black male student-athletes you know who play or have played a varsity sport at Guilford.

Exactly.

According to data compiled by the Retention Group on campus, 55 percent of black students depart Guilford, with a high percentage of those students being black male athletes.

Although all athletic teams on campus have dealt with this issue, one of the hardest hit is the football program, with 66 percent departing.

Why is this happening?

Senior football captain Faris El-Ali said the majority of students of color that Guilford admits are athletes.

"Many (athletes) are from marginalized high schools that did not prepare them for Guilford," said El-Ali.

"After we admit them, they are not prepared for the rigors of academics, and we do not catch them up properly."

This lack of a good match between high school achievement and college expectation is one cog in the machine of failure for men of color on campus.

"Under (Dean of Admission and Financial Aid) Andy Strickler, we have made a valiant effort to make sure that students who are admitted

to Guilford are ready academically for the courses we offer," said Assistant Academic Dean of Advising and Academic Support Barbara Boyette.

Although this is helpful, there are still deeper problems at work.

"I think a black student-athlete would leave because of money issues, getting bored on campus, not fitting in or maybe family issues back home," said sophomore football player Marcus Hicks.

Hicks' reasoning presents issues much larger than athletics, an issue senior Tony Marsh understands well.

"Black athletes may feel like the numbers of opportunities that are presented to them are not equal to the number that is presented to someone who is not a minority," said Marsh.

"Out of place" could be the phrase used to describe the black male student-athlete experience at Guilford.

Attending a college this expensive, coupled with the low representation of people of color on campus, can create an atmosphere that can scare students away.

Assistant track and field coach Pierre Cadore '03 knows the out-of-place feeling.

Cadore transferred from Guilford for a year only to transfer back and complete his degree as a Quaker.

"It was a cultural shock to me," said Cadore. "But I transferred back because I realized that the education and what I learned at Guilford put me above my peers.

"In time, I came to appreciate what Guilford offered me."

The appreciation Cadore mentioned goes beyond the educational sense. He offered advice to every black student.

"At times you may feel out of your comfort level, and at times, it feels like a culture shock," said Cadore. "Yet, in order as a person to grow, you need to feel a bit of uncomfortable."

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