

Tellis' love of lacrosse was a ticket out of the projects

BY TRAY LYNCH
STAFF WRITER

Junior lacrosse player Juquan Tellis volunteers regularly at The Community Kitchen Project and is a Bonner Scholar. Tellis has started for three years for the lacrosse team and contributes his leadership, experience and explosive energy to help the Quakers. Though the Quakers are on a five-game losing streak, Tellis is still optimistic that the season will have a positive turnaround. Tellis agreed to an interview with The Guilfordian about his upbringing, goals and influences.

Q: Can you tell The Guilfordian about where you grew up?

A: I grew up in Birmingham, Ala., which has a top 10 homicide rate, top 10 poverty rate, and mostly projects.

Q: How did your upbringing influence you as a lacrosse player?

A: You got to hustle, and you got to grind. Ever since I was young, that determination transferred over onto the field.

Q: What made you to want to play lacrosse?

A: I mean, growing up, I was never big enough to play basketball. Most 5' 9" people don't make it in basketball, and it was fun to play.

Q: How did you begin playing lacrosse?

A: Two coaches, by the names of Damsby and Lawley, came to my high school to coach lacrosse. One was a judge, and one was a defense attorney. I was playing baseball at the time, and I was really good at baseball. But the baseball coach wasn't out there at the time, so I just picked up a lacrosse stick and started fooling around. Soon after, lacrosse turned

into a passion. Ever since then, I just stuck with it.

Q: When did you fall in love with the game?

A: If you want to get out the projects, sometimes you have to fall in love with something to get you out. People look for a meal ticket out of a bad situation and lacrosse was my way out.

Q: What made you come to Guilford?

A: The relationship between my coach and me was the main reason I'm here. He was real big on academics and me graduating. I would say we found Guilford. I had got the Bonner scholarship and also got the chance to play lacrosse at the college level.

Q: How do you prepare for games?

A: Music. It really takes me through, not just games, but also throughout my daily routine.

Q: What are your top five songs on the playlist before you take the field?

A: I listen to Lil Boosie mixtapes or albums before games. He just gets me in my zone.

Q: What's the most exciting part of lacrosse?

A: The fans. There's nothing better than when you get the ball and to hear everyone cheering for you just makes you go even harder.

Q: How do you feel about the team this year?

A: We have a good team, but we are still young. With us being young, performing at high levels consistently is a big thing that we have to do week in and week out.

Q: Last year, the lacrosse team finished seventh and missed the ODAC

tournament. Does that impact the team at all?

A: We don't really look at last year. We just look to this year to create a new image and focus on this year and our goals as a team.

Q: Being that you have played in Coach Carmean's system for three years now, how do you try and help first-years understand the system?

A: Coach and me have a good relationship on and off the field. It's easy for me to instill what he would want into the younger guys, but it's not just telling them. I have a big role as a leader to also demonstrate what he wants in his players.

Q: What is the hardest part about balancing your schoolwork and athletics?

A: Managing yourself and your time would be the hardest thing. Sometimes, being a leader, you have to demonstrate athletics as well as academics. You have to keep your grades up too.

Q: The team is currently on a five-game losing streak. How do you guys bounce back?

A: Team chemistry and sticking together is big. You can't have players parting ways because that creates negative vibes. You have to stay focused and keep everyone on board. Staying focused is the biggest thing I can say.

Q: What are your personal goals for this season?

A: My personal goals for this season are to stay consistent and take a more vocal leadership role.

Q: What are your team goals for this season?

A: We want to send a message to the league that Guilford College is a top 10 team and we are here to compete.

UNC & NCAA hand out dishonest grades

BY JAMES SHARPE
STAFF WRITER

"We cheated," said Mary Willingham, the Center for Student Academic Counseling and Advisor in the Graduation Division at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in an interview with ESPN. "I can still see all the faces of the athletes we cheated out of an education."

UNC-Chapel Hill is the oldest university in North Carolina and the oldest public university in the nation. The prestigious UNC is famous for high standards of education and learning.

Recently multiple sources, including over 30 retired professors and former student-athletes, have acknowledged an academic scandal. False classes and dishonest grades have been the two main components of a scheme to help athletes remain eligible to participate in sports.

"Do you know how hard I worked in high school to be here?" said UNC sophomore Maura Hartzman in an interview with The Guilfordian. "I am already in student debt to study here to have a career."

"These athletes have a full ride and just go here to play professional sports after college. Their degree isn't worth a cent."

According to CNN, many other Division I athletic powerhouses, such as Texas A&M University, Oklahoma State University and many more are known for grade scandals as well.

That does not excuse UNC.

"Mary, stop talking," said Willingham in an interview with ESPN. "Everybody else is doing it, who cares? Well, I care."

UNC's department of African, African American and Diaspora Studies offered ghost courses. The main types of students enrolled in those courses were football and basketball players.

Former Tar Heel football player Deunta Williams admitted that he and other football players were enrolled in the classes and did not have to show up for them.

"I discovered that athletes were taking these paper classes," said Willingham in an interview with The Guilfordian. "Which meant no attendance necessary and very little work."

Another known source of athletes gaining eligibility are the grades they are handed by certain professors.

"Essentially, scandals and academic fraud are not right," said UNC sophomore Katie Deagan in an interview with The Guilfordian. "Handing out free assignments isn't okay with me."

UNC and NCAA officials know the scandal is happening right under their noses and still give out athletic scholarships.

Why do they allow athletes to continue this fraud at such a highly respected university?

"The NCAA college sports model is a farce because their promise of a real education in exchange for talent is simply not possible," said Willingham. "The scholarship contract — agreement is false."

UNC has been exposed for this scandal, yet proper changes have yet to occur. Money may be the issue.

Hartzman said that UNC makes too much money on athletes to make an effort to change.

"Smart kids don't run into each other with helmets on," said Hartzman. "UNC sports would not exist if they kept academic integrity."

"The school is a business for sports, merchandise and research. Our students and academics are second or third at very best."

Unlike the athletic powerhouses, Guilford College focuses on education and community first and athletics second.

"At Guilford, you are not just an athlete and not just a student," said Director of the Learning Commons Melissa Daniel Frink. "At UNC, so much focus is on the athlete that you lose the student."

"I feel badly for those students because in high school their education wasn't emphasized, but their athletics were."

Guilford's student-athletes work hard just like non-athletes for earned grades.

"I think Guilford does a good job giving honest grades," said senior women's lacrosse player Celine de Perlinghi. "Requirements for students and student-athletes are the same."

As Guilford expands the hopes of students and faculty are to keep strong in our values and remain academically driven.

"If Guilford became larger, I think the pressure would definitely be there to give grades," said Daniel Frink. "I'd like to believe that we would stand our ground in our values and never violate them."

UCONN's men and women win it all



On April 7 and 8, the UConn teams both became national basketball champions for the second time, 10 years after they first made history.

BY ZACHARY KRONISCH
CHIEF VIDEOGRAPHER

As you take the exit off the highway into my town, you'll see a billboard that lists all the basketball national championships the University of Connecticut Huskies have achieved over the years.

There is a reason, and much proof, for why Storrs, Conn., can be considered the College Basketball Capital of the World.

Yes, there may be some stiff competition from teams such as UCLA with their illustrious 11 title; our most recent opposition, Kentucky, with eight; and schools such as UNC, Duke, Louisville and Indiana that just seem to breed basketball stars and titles.

But, no other university has such a pairing of successful men's and women's programs as my Huskies do. Some schools may be recognized for their football programs or being prestigiously Ivy League, but it is becoming ever more apparent that when you hear the name UConn, you think basketball.

Growing up in Storrs, my friends and I would play basketball in our driveways, pretending to be UConn basketball players. Our high school is literally on UConn's campus.

Off in the distance, Gampel Pavilion would loom, and we'd know that our hometown heroes were not so far away. Many of our parents were employees at UConn and would often receive free tickets to basketball games.

So, I grew up watching some of the greatest Big East basketball games ever.

I was a witness.

We'd run into former players like Ben Gordon, Jeremy Lamb and Emeka Okafor while walking around campus. We treated them like celebrities, grabbing a quick autograph and bringing it into school the next day to show it off to our classmates.

Although I chose to not attend UConn, I have blue and white in my blood. I have the Huskies forever embedded in my heart.

Being surrounded in N.C. by Duke and UNC fans is overwhelming at times, but I can justify having UConn pride after having witnessed us winning two national championships while attending Guilford.

As my high school classmate Carmine Colangelo wrote in his blog on Wordpress.com following the big win this week:

"In 1999, Khalid El-Amin shocked the world. In 2004, Okafor made the Huskies the 'Top Dogs.' In 2011, Kemba Walker will team to the national championship. And in 2014, Shabazz Napier has converted the nonbelievers."

Not to mention the women's national championship — another undefeated women's team.

"We did it! Men and women are champions of the world yet again!"

And, though I can't be home to celebrate in Storrs, I will still be bleeding blue down here in the Old North State.