

Golf team is focused on future, thankful for past

FOLLOWING DEPARTURE OF HEAD COACH, THE TEAM REGROUPS FOR NEW SEASON

BY HENRY SMITH
STAFF WRITER

The Guilford College golf team faces a new adversity with the resignation of head coach Corey Maggard, who recently took a job as the assistant men's golf coach at Auburn University.

Guilford Golf enjoyed much success while under the leadership of coach Maggard.

"My favorite memory about my time at Guilford would be the collective time spent with the team," said coach Maggard to the Guilfordian via email interview.

"Those (players) worked very hard, won many tournaments, overcame struggles and shared laughs. They created an awesome atmosphere to coach each and every day."

Coach Maggard is also another Guilford College success story, parlaying his time at Guilford into a springboard for pursuing his personal goals.

"I am very excited to join the Auburn Men's Golf Program," said Maggard. "Auburn is a Top 20 program, part of the SEC the toughest conference in the country with 8 teams ranked preseason Top 25."

The hope for Corey Maggard is that the skills he developed at Guilford will translate to success at Auburn University.

"It is a great opportunity for me to work with some of the top players in the country," said Maggard.

The golf program has grown into a very strong organization, winning the Old Dominion Athletic Conference the past three years, and is consistently in contention for the Division-III National Championship.

In the preseason coach's poll Guilford is ranked 11th in the country.

There are five seniors on the team, which provides leadership to help the team during this transition.

However, the next move for the Athletic Department is to engage in the process of finding a new head coach of the Guilford golf team.

This upcoming week will be a busy one for the Quakers and for Athletic Director Tom Palombo as he will be meeting and interviewing candidates for the vacant position.

"We are going to have the candidates hold practice with the team," said Palombo. "I want to hear the reactions of the players to each candidate as a potential coach."

A candidate's success does not necessarily mean that they would understand the culture of Guilford College.

"The new golf coach should be somebody who understands how important it is that our player's grow both in their sport and as a person," said Palombo.

Tom Palombo has been a very busy man over the past few weeks balancing duties as Athletic Director, men's basketball coach and interim golf coach.

"Things have certainly been busy for me this time of year, but I'm confident that everything is going to work out just fine," said Palombo. "It is just going to take time to do this right."

The golf team has a group of seniors who have stepped up and taken the wheel at times.

"I personally believe that, coach or no coach, we are the best we have been since I have been at Guilford and this is the year that we are going to hold up a National Championship trophy," said senior golfer Mitch Robinette.

This sentiment was buoyed by other members of the golf team.

"I am looking forward to this season regardless of our situation regarding a coach," said Senior golfer Travis Tolbert.

"We want to win a National Championship more than anything and we aren't going to let anything, or anyone, get in the way of that."

The Quakers golf team is set to begin their season Sept. 21 at Grandover Resort in Greensboro for the Tournament Town Fall Preview.

2014 NFL Preview

PRESEASON POWER RANKINGS

BY REESE SETZER
STAFF WRITER

On Thursday, Sept. 4, NFL football returned from its seven-month hibernation.

After four weeks of preseason games and several months of training camps, the NFL is finally playing games that matter. To football fans it is like a second Christmas.

So for the first time in a little over seven months, let us talk football.

CONFERENCE FAVORITES

It is déjà vu all over again.

In last season's Super Bowl the NFC Champion Seattle Seahawks routed the AFC Champion Denver Broncos 43-8. Now entering the 2014 - 2015 season it seems that not much has changed from a favorite's standpoint.

The Seahawks have locked in on the Lombardi trophy once again and the Broncos look to steamroll the AFC. Both teams had excellent off-seasons, adding players while clearing salary cap space.

The Seahawks re-signed star cornerback Richard Sherman to a four year, \$56 million deal back in May. This move, among others, solidified that the Seahawks may once again have the best defense in football. Along with Russell Wilson and Marshawn Lynch on the offensive side of the ball, it is hard to pick against the Seahawks in just about any game they play.

Intriguingly, the same could be said about the off-season moves made by Peyton Manning's Denver Broncos.

Manning and the Broncos compiled what some experts believe to be the best off-season of any team in the NFL, reloading with free-agent personnel, a savvy draft and a stellar preseason.

The Seahawks showed the Broncos last year that while offense wins games, defense wins championships. Therefore John Elway, the team owner, focused on the Broncos defense this offseason and brought in cornerback Aqib Talib from the New England Patriots, safety TJ Ward from the Pittsburgh Steelers and defensive end DeMarcus Ware from the Dallas Cowboys to add physicality.

Seattle Seahawks- Repeat? Can Seattle become the ninth franchise to win back-to-back Super Bowls? As long as depth issues don't come into play, right now it's hard to pick against the defending champion.

Denver Broncos — They have the offense, and after an offseason full of defensive additions, as well as getting Von Miller back from injury, we could possibly see a repeat Super Bowl match-up for the second time in NFL history.

San Francisco 49ers — They are still the deep and talented team they were a year ago (and could be the best team in football if not for suspensions of Aldon Smith and Ray McDonald to start the year). If Colin Kaepernick can continue to grow as an NFL QB, the NFC West should once again be the best and tightest division in football.

New England Patriots — It's hard not to have Tom Brady and Bill Belichick in a preseason Top 5. Ever. Not to mention the Pats have possibly the best secondary in the league despite losing Talib with Devin McCourty and Darrelle Revis.

Green Bay Packers — Having Aaron Rodgers is always a plus, and adding Julius Peppers to linebacker Clay Mathew's defense may be what the Packers needed to take the next step defensively.

New Orleans Saints — Quarterback Drew Brees and head coach Sean Payton still make for one of the best 1-2 offensive combos in the league along with tight end Jimmy Graham.

Cincinnati Bengals — The Bengals will go as Andy Dalton goes. But to back him they have Giovani Bernard in the running game, A.J. Green at receiver and a stout front seven on defense.

Philadelphia Eagles — Nick Foles was an excellent asset to Chip Kelly's offense last season. With LeSean McCoy in the backfield the offense should be superb.

Indianapolis Colts — With Andrew Luck at QB, Reggie Wayne and Hakeem Nicks the Colts have a lethal passing attack.

Carolina Panthers — The defense is still there, Cam Newton is still there, but there is not a number-one receiver anymore. In order for the Panthers to transition their success from this past season they will need first round draft pick Kelvin Benjamin to become the go-to receiver.

WAY TOO EARLY SUPER BOWL PREDICTION

A repeat Super Bowl matchup has only happened once before in the 1993 and 1994 Super Bowls when back-to-back champion Dallas Cowboys defeated the Buffalo Bills. I believe we will see a repeat of that scenario this year.

I'll take Seattle over Denver for the second year in a row.

COURTESY OF NFLGAME.COM

SPORTS EDITORIAL

MLB steroid users deserve place of honor

BY ROBERT PACHECO
SPORTS EDITOR

Users of performance-enhancing drugs in Major League baseball have been vilified for several years now.

Players like Barry Bonds, Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa are denied election into the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York, only because of their documented use of PED's.

"This gigantic farce of major league baseball to protect the brand 'MLB' is a sham," said Lucas Kempton, '04.

"I don't know if you need to separate steroid users from non-steroid users ... but these guys belong in the (Hall of Fame)."

Those who vote for players eligible for election into the MLB Hall of Fame hold an entrenched disdain towards the players of the steroid era.

"Being a fan, I loved those years where players were hitting home runs every game," said San Francisco Giants fan Aaron Parker in an e-mail interview. "But doping is cheating, and I don't think we should reward cheaters by letting them in the Hall of Fame."

The issue is cast as a strict dichotomy of cheaters vs. fair play. It is a measurement that is binary and places blame on too few actors.

The onus is unfairly placed upon the player without understanding that the culture in MLB during the steroid era incentivized PED use. Bonds, McGwire and Sosa were following the example of many players before them.

That culture was not exclusive to the players alone. The office of the Commissioner of Baseball bears a unique responsibility for not doing enough to halt the pervasiveness of PED's in an athlete's workplace.

Moreover, where does the Baseball Hall of Fame stop in its application of justice towards fair play?

Do we go back in time and place an asterisk next to the records of anyone who played after 1962 when MLB extended its season from 154 games to 162?

Or do we take the drastic step to put an asterisk next to all the records that occurred before 1947, when Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in baseball, and finally the best players could compete against each other in the same league?

The Hall of Fame is not a purveyor of the game of baseball's purity. It is a historical marker of the national pastime.

Baseball is, believe it or not, still the national pastime because it is so emblematic of the competitive nature of America.

Sure it's slow and plods along for nine excruciating long innings. It is played in the boiling heat of summer and is considered a good game if the score is 1-0.

Baseball is also constant — it does not change often. The rules are easy to comprehend. The equipment usually gets handed down, just like the game, and connects generations.

The Hall of Fame's role is to document the history of the game.

As Americans we find it uncomfortable to talk about the bad history.

We like to discuss D-Day but not the Japanese internment camps of World War II.

We do not like discussing slavery, Jim Crow, or Manifest Destiny and often omit them from lessons about the history of our people.

We are also revising the history of the game that defines America most.

We cannot omit the steroid era any more than we can omit the history of baseball before Jackie Robinson.

The steroid era is not the first time that players have sinned against baseball.

But if this punishment without trial of great players continues, it will be the first time that the Hall of Fame has sinned against the game.