

First-year athletes adjust to a new school and new teams

BY LILY LOU
STAFF WRITER

This year, Guilford College welcomed 117 student athletes — almost a third of 2014's first-year class.

Like other first-year students, athletes face challenges adjusting to college life.

Keeping up with academics while managing extracurricular activities is daunting for any student. Athletes receive support from teammates,

peers and their coaches to ease this transition.

It seems like everyone is excited to help these athletes make this transition.

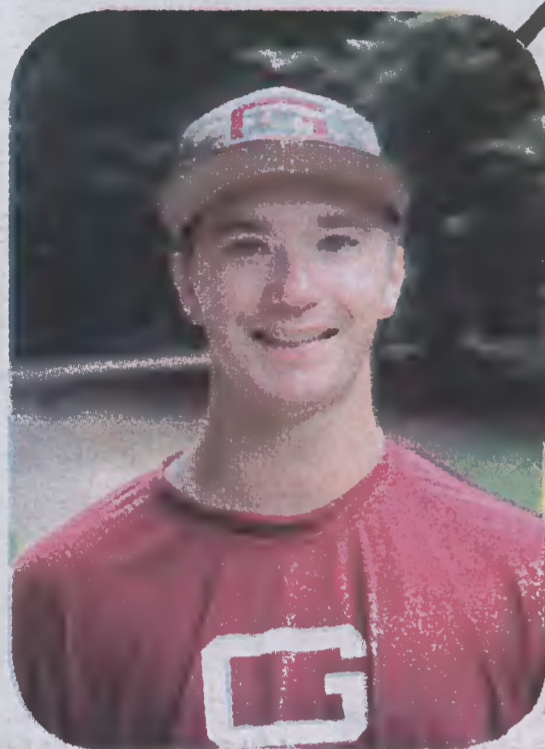
"One of the things that we seem to be getting better at is the fact that we're recruiting good people," said Head Football Coach Chris Rusiewicz.

"There's just good character and they want to be here."

Below are four short profiles on a few of Guilford's first-year athletes.

Carter Hicks

Apex, North Carolina



"I love baseball because it is kind of an escape for me. Whenever I go on a field I can forget whatever else is going on in my life and just focus on the game."

Hicks has played baseball for 13 years. Besides baseball, he likes to hang out with his friends and play video games, especially FIFA, a soccer video game series.

In the future, Hicks hopes to get a degree from Guilford in business administration and sport management, and then go to the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill for law school.

Chasen Chacon

Palo Alto, California



PHOTOS BY MOLLY SCHNEIDER/GUILFORDIAN

"I chose Guilford because I liked the small environment and it just seemed like a good fit for me."

When he's not busy playing tennis, Chacon likes hanging out with his friends and finding cool things in Greensboro to do.

Chacon wants to double major in business administration and Spanish, and hopes to study abroad in a Spanish-speaking country. After Guilford, he would like to work overseas and start his own business.

Sommer Fanney

Burlington, North Carolina



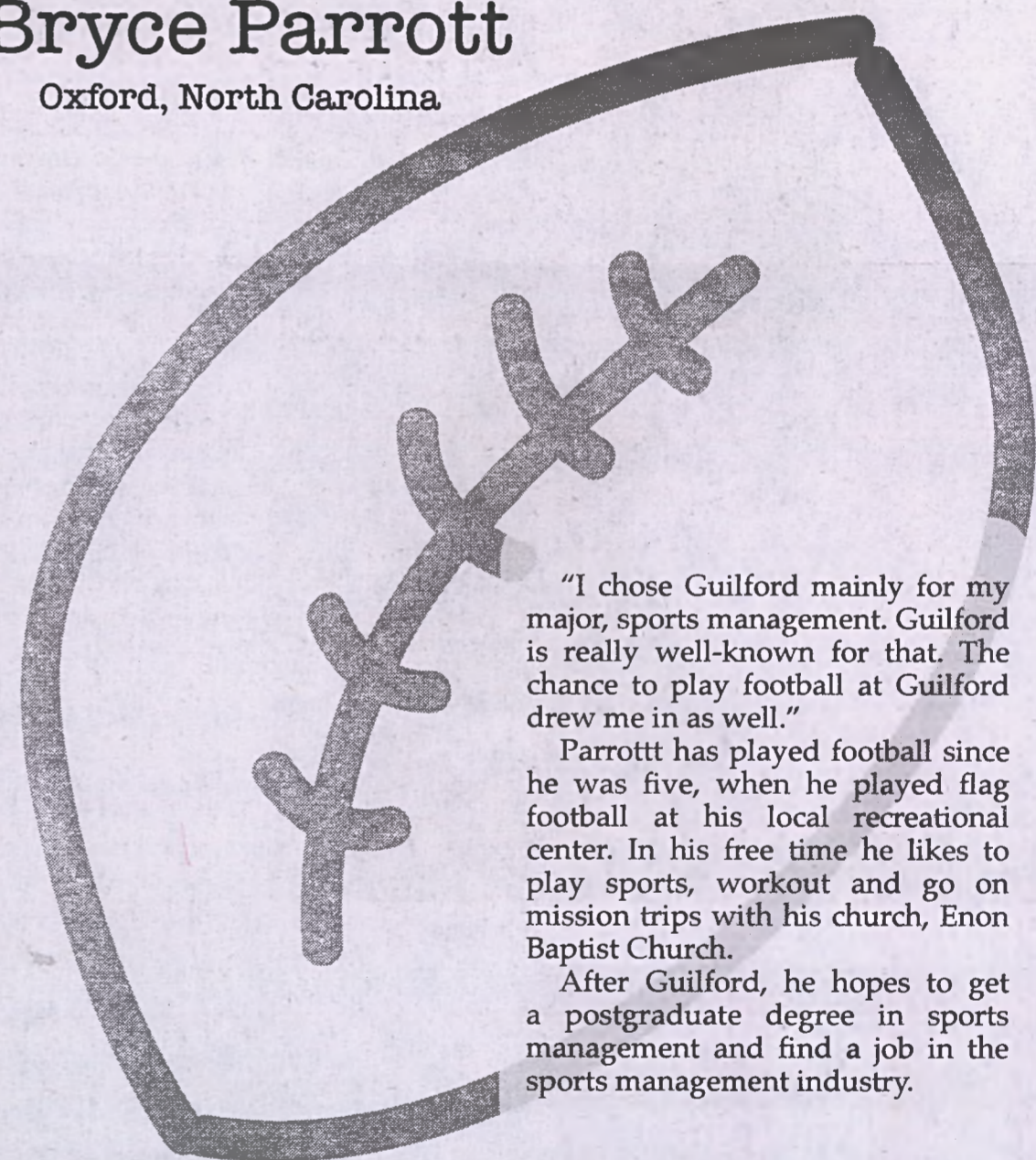
"I like a lot of things about cross-country and track. I'm a super energetic, active person and running helps me focus and clear my mind ... I also like the community I found through running, both in high school and in college."

Fanney started cross-country and track in her first year of high school. Besides running, she likes to draw, paint, be around her friends, spend time alone and play ultimate Frisbee.

Though Fanney is unsure of what she wants to do in the future, she is focused on running and getting to know her team better in the present.

Bryce Parrott

Oxford, North Carolina



"I chose Guilford mainly for my major, sports management. Guilford is really well-known for that. The chance to play football at Guilford drew me in as well."

Parrott has played football since he was five, when he played flag football at his local recreational center. In his free time he likes to play sports, workout and go on mission trips with his church, Enon Baptist Church.

After Guilford, he hopes to get a postgraduate degree in sports management and find a job in the sports management industry.

SPORTS EDITORIAL

Ray Rice controversy reflects poor judgment by NFL

BY LANDON FRIED
STAFF WRITER

When Ray Rice assaulted his then-fiancee Janay Palmer, the NFL had an opportunity to punish him appropriately.

The NFL failed.

Commissioner Roger Goodell has made a mockery of disciplining players by giving Rice a two game slap on the wrist. The league only backtracked on its gutless excuse for punishment once TMZ released video evidence of the violent assault.

"The NFL has basically showed the public that they cannot be trusted and that there is a lot of work to be done with their judicial policies," said junior Marcus Williams, defensive end on the football team.

The league could have easily made an example out of Rice; they could have originally suspended him for the full season and sent a clear message that they will not tolerate this kind of behavior. Instead, they sent a message that domestic abuse is no big deal unless there is graphic footage of it for everyone to see.

Instead, they emboldened domestic abusers everywhere by meekly adjudicating this incident.

Rice turned into a local hero and became the face of his team

after helping the Ravens win Super Bowl XLVII. Last year, his jersey was ranked 28th in overall sales.

If the NFL followed through with the original two-game suspension of Rice, the running back could have generated heaps of money for the league.

Now that video has surfaced of Rice striking Palmer with an uppercut, the NFL had no other choice than to suspend Rice indefinitely.

"The Ravens didn't really have a choice, but they did the right thing when they cut Ray Rice on Monday," said Baltimore Ravens columnist John Eisenberg.

Had the Ravens organization not taken the step that the NFL would not — i.e., by cutting ties with Rice — the media and financial backlash would have far surpassed the onslaught the league now faces.

The NFL finally chose the right path but not for the right reasons.

"I suppose the NFL and the Baltimore Ravens got it right the second time," said Williams. "The issue is that there should not have been a second time."

The NFL will not make the right choice unless it is in their financial interests.

The league wants to keep its place as a billion-dollar

corporation. Suspending Rice for the season would have directly affected the NFL's revenue stream, so it is no surprise that the league was hesitant to give him meaningful punishment.

"(Roger Goodell) has stated that he wants to reach \$25 billion in annual revenues for the league by the year 2027," said Monte Burke of forbes.com.

"It's an incredibly ambitious goal, especially for a league that many in the media believe is in decline."

The league will continue to press forward in its primary goal to increase revenue.

We should be appalled, but not surprised, that the league puts finances ahead of properly punishing its players.

"By only suspending Rice for two games at first, the NFL basically gave him a slap across the wrist and sent the message that domestic violence isn't that big of a deal," said Julie Winterich, chair of the women's, gender & sexuality studies program and associate professor of sociology and anthropology.

The NFL has turned disciplining players into an absolute joke.

As consumers of the NFL's product, we need to make sure that this never happens again.

We must demand the immediate resignation of NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell.