

# SPORTS

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## What it means to be a Guilford Quaker

BY CORBIN BARWICK  
STAFF WRITER

Here at Guilford College, athletics is something student-athletes are deeply passionate about. Here we value being able to represent the name Quakers on the front of our jerseys. But it is more than just a representation of the name — it is the meaning behind the name and our determination and passion for our respective sport and the school.

Just ask any of our athletes. “Being a Guilford College Quaker to me is something very special,” said sophomore soccer forward Christian Torres. “It isn’t something that you can just say. You have to be able to feel it to express it.”

I am a sophomore offensive lineman for the Guilford football team, and when I came to Guilford, I never knew that being a Guilford Quaker would mean as much to me as it does now. I came to Guilford to play football but also because of the academic prestige of the school.

I wanted to come to a school where academics were just as important as the sport I play. And Guilford is exactly what I was seeking. The respect and admiration from the outside community I have received is remarkable when I say I attend Guilford College. The same effort we put into our sport is what we put into our schoolwork because making the grade is what allows us to play.

It is not just the wins and losses that are important to me. I play this game to change the way other schools look at Guilford’s football program. I play to gain respect for our school and program. Guilford football is something I hold dear to my heart, and the teammates I have been able to play with have made me love this game so much more.

Being on the football team has allowed

me to gain a great deal of new friends who will have my back until the end. Of course, I am not the only Guilford athlete who feels this way.

“Being on the Guilford softball team has made me realize how a group of girls can become so close, how we can rely on each other and know that we will have each other’s back,” said junior softball pitcher Casey Snead. “It has made me a better person by becoming more responsible, respectful and it has showed me how to work together with a group of girls that I have never met before.”

“It’s crazy to think that you come to school not knowing anyone and how you leave having friends that you couldn’t imagine ever having.”

The same goes for any sport. For me, being with my teammates has greatly improved my character and maturity as a person. Being a Quaker is a way to improve one’s character. We become better people and athletes.

“Above all else, I believe that we do all we can for the sports we love to give our fans and community something to be proud of,” said senior lacrosse attacker Chandler Zirkle. “When we go out on that field, we give our absolute best in promoting our school’s core values in stewardship, equality, excellence, justice, diversity, community and integrity.”

As a Quaker athlete, promoting our school’s core values with our passion and devotion to our sports is something that comes from the heart. It is a part of each of us and something we will cherish for the rest of our lives. We give our all for the sport we play and the school we represent.

For athletes, our seasons go by quickly. As a football player, my offseason begins two weeks after the season is over. That’s when I begin training for the next season.

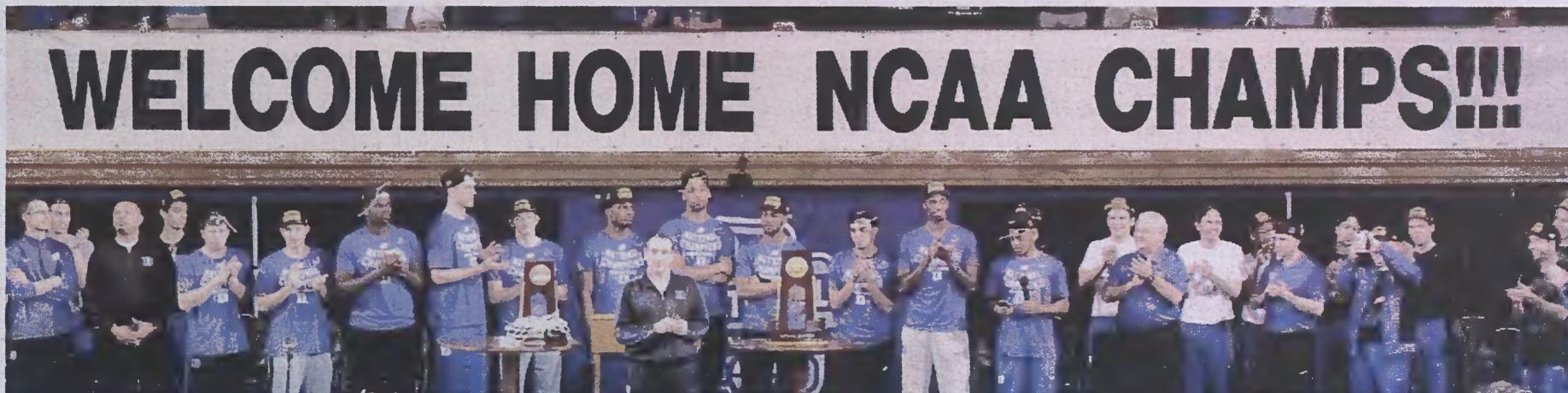


As athletes, members from different teams feel they promote Guilford’s core values during games.

From December until August, we train for eight long months in order to prepare for three months. Off seasons are long and strenuous, but the reward for all our hard work and dedication is a great payoff.

And after being here and experiencing Guilford, being a Quaker isn’t just wearing a jersey with the name Quakers on it. It’s about being what a Quaker represents. That is what it means to be a Quaker.

## Blue Devils seize victory in NCAA tournament



Duke’s Blue Devils were welcomed back to Durham after their victory of 68–63 against the University of Wisconsin’s Badgers. Winning the game on April 6 made Duke the 2015 NCAA Champions.

BY REESE SETZER  
SPORTS EDITOR

“And the Blue Devils are the National Champions of 2015,” CBS play-by-play broadcaster Jim Nantz said as the clock wound down in Indianapolis on Monday night April 6.

28.3 million viewers witnessed the Duke University Blue Devils triumph over the University of Wisconsin Badgers 68–63.

The win gave coach Mike Krzyzewski and Duke their fifth total national title, and their first since defeating Butler University in the same venue in 2010.

The two number one seeds played a physical 40 minute game, which was the formula that got both teams to the national championship game.

In Duke’s Final Four matchup with Michigan State University, the Blue Devils cruised their way into the title game with a dominating 20 point win over coach Izzo in their Final Four semifinal game to punch their ticket to the Monday finale.

On the other side of the bracket, Wisconsin had to go through the undefeated 38–0 University of Kentucky Wildcats to enter the national championship.

It was a redemption game for the Badgers, who lost by one point after a last-second three-point shot sealed a Wildcats victory the year before.

So what better way to get redemption than to end Kentucky’s pursuit of perfection a game early?

That is exactly what the Badgers did to solidify their spot in Monday’s title game, hitting some clutch free throws down the

stretch to come away with the 71–64 victory.

The championship game was a rematch from an early December meeting between the Blue Devils and the Badgers, which saw Duke take the 80–70 win on the road.

A lot has changed since then.

Other than the fact this game had much more magnitude, former junior Duke guard Rasheed Sulaimon was still on the team. He was dismissed just a few weeks after for “repeatedly struggling to meet team obligations,” which according to The Chronicle, was alleged sexual assault. He scored 14 points in that Dec. 3 win over the Badgers.

Wisconsin junior forward standout Sam Dekker had a poor shooting night in that early matchup, so odds that his poor performance would repeat were slim after the way he had played throughout the tournament.

Everything was set up for this game to be one for the ages. In the end, it was an exciting game but more of a showing in how coach Krzyzewski is the greatest coach of this era.

After a back and forth first half, the game was notched up at 31 a piece going into halftime.

Duke had gotten into some early first half foul trouble, which included star freshman center Jahlil Okafor, who got out to a slow start.

Things did not get much better for the Blue Devils early in the second half when they found themselves in a nine-point hole.

While freshman guard Tyus Jones was playing at his usual level — exceptional — someone else had to step up for Duke if

they wanted to get back into the game.

Freshman guard Grayson Allen answered the call.

Allen finished with an unexpected 16 points that propelled the Blue Devils back into the game. Jones added a team high 23 points, and Okafor made possibly his two biggest baskets of the year to help extend the Duke lead to five with just a few minutes remaining.

When it was all over, the Duke freshman Okafor, Allen, Jones and forward Justice Winslow had combined for 60 of Duke’s 68 points.

Jones was named the Final Four Most Outstanding Player for his performance, hitting clutch shot after clutch shot all tournament.

For the Badgers, player of the year senior forward Frank Kaminsky tallied a double-double with 21 points and 12 rebounds. Dekker added 12 points, but went cold behind the arch shooting 0 for 6.

It was simply not enough.

While the freshman shined for the Blue Devils on the biggest stage, and watching them cut the nets left one contemplating such an achievement at 19 years old, one of the best moments of the night was seeing senior guard Quinn Cook embrace coach K in tears as the annual post-tournament “One Shining Moment” video played.

So we once again close a chapter of college basketball history as the season comes to a close, this one ending with the Blue Devils atop the basketball world once again.

Now the wait begins until November so it all can begin again.

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