



Photo by Jorja Smith - Staff Photographer

Brittany Gwyn drives past Gardner-Webb's Olivia Parker on Jan. 19.

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Griner mentioned she was gay, a comment a viewer may have missed if they were not paying close enough attention.

In a time when gossip and talk follows whether or not a gay NFL player will eventually come out, Griner's semi-announcement barely made headlines.

"It's very common for women to come out as opposed to men because for some reason, having a girl liking a girl is, in some ways, more accepted than a guy

liking another guy," Gwyn said.

Jim Buzinski, founder of Outsports.com, a website about sports and homosexuality, told The New York Times that Griner's mention of her sexuality would not gain a mass audience because she is a woman. He said if a man did the exact same thing, heads would have exploded.

Gwyn's sexuality has never been a deterrent. Both her parents have grown to accept who she is, although in the back of her mind, she is aware her mother wishes she could someday see her walk down the aisle. Her teammates and the men's team have never made a big deal out of her sexuality, not even the coaches.

Yet Gwyn understands people are going to have their

own opinions and ideals when it comes to gay athletes or same-sex relationships in general.

"I can't sit here and say that they should keep what they feel inside, because everyone has the freedom of speech," Gwyn said. "I can't even say that people should be accepting of it because of their beliefs and values."

To potential gay athletes who are considering coming out, Gwyn's message is simple.

"I feel like they should admit to it because they would feel better about themselves," Gwyn said. "Whatever the team has to say about it or the coaches, that's on them. But it shouldn't change how he feels about himself."