Sports

Great Expectations Often Fizzle

"You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little."

-from Haggai 1:9

The above passage is preceded by "give careful thought to your ways" in verse seven. But that is so often what we don't do and our expectations for ourselves and others aren't met as a result. Consider these examples:

When Archie Griffin's athletic career began, his focus was short term. He played sports simply for the fun of itwhat a concept-not looking down the road or dreaming about being the next Jim Brown.

But his career as a running back at Ohio State was soon to become legendary. In four seasons he rushed for 5,496 yards, the most in both Ohio State and Big Ten history. His 6.13 yards per carry is the top NCAA mark for runners with more than 785 carries. He also ran for over 100 yards in 31 straight games, another national record. With these accomplishments came a lot of publicity-and Griffin became the only player awarded the Heisman Trophy twice.

After college, Griffin was drafted in the first round by the Cincinnati Bengals. Everybody and his brother expected big things from Griffin in the

pros. Archie's goal was to gain 1,000 yards and help the team as best he could. That might have been passing grades for the critics, but the yards didn't come for him. Even though his career average of 4.1 yards per carry is a good one, he just didn't get the chance to rack up some serious yards.

People look at Griffin's career and say that it wasn't what it should have been, but he was happy with what he did with the amount of opportunity he was given. Sure Griffin had expectations, but they were tempered with a personal credo that at all times one should do his best and leave the results up to God.

Splashed across the cover of a 1978 spring training issue of Sports Illustrated was a smiling Clint Hurdle, rookie outfielder for the Kansas City Royals. "This Year's Phenom," screamed the headline.

Although he had spent only two and a half seasons in the minors, Hurdle ws projected to do some amazing things in the big leagues. And America's most prestigious sports magazine was letting a whole nation in on the great expectations the Royals had for this 20-year-old. Suddenly Clint Hurdle was riding the rushing river of ink that flowed from the pens of sportswriters.

But his first full year in the American League wasn't as impressive as some were hoping. Hurdle hit .264 in 133 games for the Royals, with seven home runs and 56 runs batted in. And it never got much better statistically than that

When Hurdle's 10-year major league career ended with the New York Mets after the 1987 season, he had not compiled the Superman stats many had predicted for him. A .259 career average on 360 hits with 32 home runs. Hurdle had achieved his dream of playing professional baseball, but along the way he discovered that the success he had achieved had not been as fulfilling as he thought it would be. The false hype surrounding him gave him a false hope for what goals were realistically attainable.

Now Bo Jackson, one of the most recognizable athletes in the world, will probably not fulfill everyone's expectations of him. In fact, he may be an athlete no more.

He was released by the Kansas City Royals Monday after the team determined his football-related hip injury would not allow him to play baseball this year. Injured in an NFL game between his Los Angeles Raiders and the Cincinnati Bengals on January 13, Jackson has been on crutches ever since.

That hip injury may not allow him to do much of anything. It was revealed that the cartilage has sort of wasted away and "in reality, he has an old man's arthritic hip," said one source.

Butch Maier

Quite a quick fall from being the only current professional two-sport athlete (Neon Deion is in Richmond), isn't it? We saw him cross-train all over our television sets and at times, it seemed like he could do everything. Now, we see him on crutches and, as of press time, no baseball team would pay even one dollar for the rights to him.

What Archie, Clint and Bo discovered was that great expectations beget great disappointments in some situations. Each of us has certain abilities given to us-some of which are athletic-and, though they may be graded differently by onlookers, we have no control over that. What we can do is utilize our abilities productively. If they fall short of community measuring sticks, so what? If your best isn't good enough, then their best for you is just too good.

"I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me."

-from Acts 20:24

"Against Notre

Dame, that's

what won it for

Dean

Waddell

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east), Duke or St. John's (Midwest), UNLV (West).

· Has anyone checked out WFMY's sportscasts recently? Their information which is reported nightly is one-dimensional and at least one obvious mistake is usually in the script.

For example, just last week, the following careless mistakes were detected: according to Channel 2, The Big East has 8 teams, Richard Petty is #34, The Global Basketball League will be comparable to the CBA in its talent pool, and the UNCG baseball team is the second best college team in town next to N.C. A&T.

Wake up, guys, the Guilford baseball team is far better than UNCG, and will slug it out with A&T as well before the end of the season. We'll see who's the best in Greensboro then.

· Guilford College announced last week that former Athletic Director Herb Appenzeller of the Sports Studies Department will be the 1991 Commencement speaker. Dr. Appenzeller is nationally renowned for his work in the field of sports law.

Men's Lax

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squad.

"We reached a level [of play] in the second half that I didn't think we would reach all year," said Goldsmith. "It was the best half of lacrosse that I have ever seen at Guilford. The defense was great and the offense moved the ball downfield. It was amazing."

With two overtime games, the Quakers are now earning a reputation for playing dramatic finishes.

"We are learning that the game is not over until the final buzzer," said Goldsmith. "We scored the game-tying goal with one second left in regulation against Wooster. These guys are the cardiac kids. They are going to give me a heart attack before this season's over."

With the continued effort by the Quakers, who now stand at 3-2, they will improve as they gain more experience.

"One key for us are guys who come off the bench are now starting to learn the game," said Goldsmith. "We are only going to get better and when we get more experience, watch out."

Butch Maier Sports Editor

The Guilford Rugby Club, outscoring its opponents by a whopping 107-9 points, has amassed a 4-0 record this spring and prepares to play two matches this weekend.

Following wins over Clemson, Notre Dame, Wake Forest and UNCC, Guilford is set to do battle with Appalachian State at noon and Davidson at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday

"We're really excited with our record," sophomore Doug West said. "But our main goal is the state tournament in April."

"We're a dark horse for that," Alex Maier added.

Notre Dame's Fighting Irish would disagree. Guilford decidedly beat them 16-3 last week with solid tackling.

"For the state tournament, we need high intensity-no mistackling," Maier said.

That and a strong group of forwards. Led by multi-sport tal-Charles

Wing Alex Maier

Walker, the forwards prop the front men. Rowe and Max Applebee lead the push in the pack.

"Anybody that knows these two guys knows that they have a lot of push," Maier said.

Overall, this season, the forwards have made the most positive impact for Guilford.

"They've been the team," Maier said. "They create more chances to get the ball to the back line and that's why we are winning."

The **Guilfordian** is looking for writers for it's April Fool's edition. Call Peter Smith (282-2955) or Jacob Stohler (547-9510) this week.

Rugby Rough on Opposition



