

Baseball Preview

Fulton drives Quaker steamboat towards ODAC

Jon Dunkle
Staff Writer

The 1992 Guilford baseball team is coming off a 17-12 season, its first winning season since 1983 and their first under the direction of coach Robert Fulton. The Quakers are also looking forward to their first season as full-fledged members of the Old Dominion Athletic Conference. Last season the Quakers took seven of nine games against ODAC teams.

Guilford begins the season with the pitching staff as its greatest strength. The top three starters, juniors Chan Whitson and Tony Smith, and sophomore Marty Stern were a combined 10-2 last season. Whitson led the team in virtually every pitching category as he compiled a 4-1 record with a 2.30 ERA. He will be the opening day starter on Saturday. Last year's number two starter, Tony Smith, threw the only shutout by a Guilford pitcher last season, a 10-0 thrashing of ODAC opponent Emory & Henry.

This season marks his third as a starter. As a freshman last season, Stern averaged a



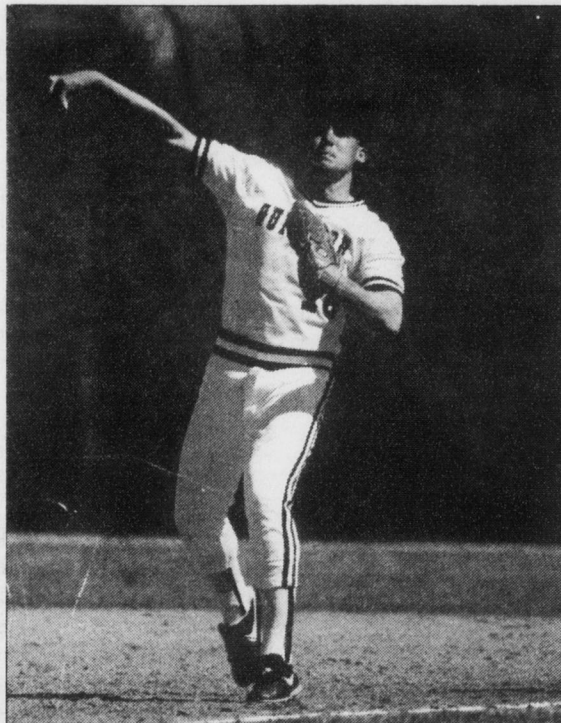
Beville

strikeout an inning as he fanned 27 in as many innings to post a perfect 3-0 record. The hard throwing right-hander will look to equal his numbers this season. Junior Johnny Hughes will also make a few starts as he will rotate between the rotation and the bullpen.

In relief, the Quakers are led by stalwart veteran Rick Beville. The junior from Emporia, Va. led the team in saves last season as the team's ace closer. A side-arm thrower, Beville relies on groundouts to get the opponents out. In addition to Hughes and Beville, juniors Ty Simmons and Scott Stier will pitch in relief. Simmons will pitch long relief in addition to making a few spot starts. Stier will mix his pitching duties with those

of his starting third base role. Simmons will be making his first appearance as a Quaker pitcher this season. Senior Stephen Goins and sophomore Jerry Marshall will try to overcome arm injuries to contribute to the staff as well.

"We're relying on experience on the mound," coach Fulton said when talking about the Quakers' hopes for this season. "If we can make the routine plays on defense we will likely finish in the upper division in the ODAC."



Stat leader Stephen Foulks mans first base in 1992. photo courtesy SID

Fulton's concerns about infield

play are justified as one half of last year's infield are gone from the team. First baseman Mike Carlson, the team's leader in home runs, and shortstop Tony Womack, an eighth round draft selection by the Pittsburgh Pirates last season will be replaced by juniors Stephen Foulks and Jeff Smith, respectively. Foulks, the designated hitter the past two seasons made six appearances at first last season and performed flawlessly on defense. His bat outshined his defensive performance, however, as he led all starters in batting average, slugging percentage, and on-base percentage as well as hits, doubles, walks, and runs batted in.

He and Goins are the co-captains for this season. Jeff Smith, an extremely aggressive ballplayer, started at second last season and will move to the left side of the infield for this season. An extremely good contact hitter, Smith started last season hot but tailed off in the end to hit .238. He had the second-best walk to strikeout ratio on the team and did an excellent job advancing the runners by putting the ball in play. Smith's double play partner will be freshman Kevin O'Neil. The West Virginia native was redshirted last season and hopes to provide the team with good glove work. Stier will start at the hot corner again this season, batting in the cleanup spot this season while trying to improve upon his .247 batting average.

Bron Thompson will lead-off this season and play in the outfield again. He will be joined by seniors Clarence Inscore and Shane Handy. Thompson, who led the team in stolen bases in 1990 with 11 and was second last year with 12, will try to approach the

school record of 50 stolen bases in a career held by Barry Whitlock. Inscore provided power and speed off the bench last season with four homers and six stolen bases in just 47 at bats. Handy spent a portion of last season on the bench as a result of an injury to his shoulder that occurred early in the season. Both he and Inscore look to produce excellent numbers with a full season of play.

Sophomore Jerry Marshall will start at designated hitter for the early part of the season. He missed all of last season with a leg injury and has been hampered by a sore arm during this winter. Upon recovering, he will fill in at third and pitcher.

Behind the plate, junior Jeff Thigpen will be given the starting job after serving as reserve catcher the last two seasons. The strong-armed Thigpen made his mark on opposing teams by gunning out three runners in seven games last season. Thigpen will be relieved by freshman Clint Acrey. Acrey, whose strongest asset is his bat, will

> continued on page 20

1992 Baseball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Feb. 29	LENOIR-RHYNE#	12:00
Mar. 1	at Methodist	2:00
Mar. 3	at High Point	3:00
Mar. 5	NO. CAROLINA A&T	3:00
Spring Break at Jacksonville, Florida		
Mar. 7	Edinboro	7:00
Mar. 8	North Florida	1:00
Mar. 9	Fairmont State	TBA
	Shenandoah	TBA
Mar. 10	Kenyon	TBA
Mar. 11	Ohio Valley (Exhibition)	10:00
Mar. 13	LYNCHBURG*	2:00
Mar. 15	BROCKPORT STATE	2:00
Mar. 17	HAMPDEN-SYDNEY*	3:00
Mar. 18	N.C. WESLEYAN	3:00
Mar. 21	HIRAM#	1:00
Mar. 22	NORTH ADAMS ST	2:00
Mar. 23	at North Carolina A&T	3:00
Mar. 26	at Lynchburg*	3:00
Mar. 28	EASTMENNONITE*#	12:00
Apr. 1	at Emory & Henry**	1:30
Apr. 4	RAND-MACON**	1:00
Apr. 5	at UNC-Greensboro	2:00
Apr. 7	at Lenoir-Rhyne	3:00
Apr. 11	at Virginia Wesleyan*#	1:00
Apr. 12	WASH & LEE**	1:00
Apr. 15	at Hampden-Sydney*	3:00
Apr. 16	at Ferrum	7:00
Apr. 18	NEW NEWS APP.	12:00
Apr. 21	FERRUM	3:00
Apr. 24	at Shenandoah	3:00
Apr. 25	at Bridgewater**	1:00
Apr. 29	ODAC Quarterfinals	TBA
May 2	ODAC Finals	TBA

HOME GAMES IN CAPS

*Old Dominion Conference Game

#Doubleheader

Baseball Roster

No	Name	Pos.	Bats	Thr	Yr	Hometown
1	J.J. Rogers	OF	L	L	SO	Raleigh, NC
2	Jeff Smith	SS/2B	L	R	JR	Greensboro, NC
3	Jerry Marshall	P/3B	R	R	SO	Danville, VA
4	Shane Handy	OF	R	R	SR	Randleman, VA
5	Clarence Inscore	OF	L	R	SR	Raleigh, NC
8	Wayne Williamson	SS/2B	R	R	SO	Danville, VA
9	Jeff Thigpen	C/OF	R	R	JR	Burgaw, NC
10	Bron Thompson	OF	L	L	JR	Warsaw, NC
11	Kevin O'Neil	2B	L	R	FR	White Sulphur, WV
12	Tim Smith	OF	L	L	FR	Chapel Hill, NC
13	Scott Abell	2B	R	R	SR	Fredrick, MD
14	Chan Whitson	P	R	R	JR	Asheboro, NC
15	Scott Stier	3B/C/P	R	R	JR	Cocoa Beach, FL
17	Stephen Goins	P	R	R	SR	Harrisburg, NC
19	Tony Smith	P	R	R	JR	Winston-Salem, NC
20	Leon Pinkett	OF	R	R	JR	Baltimore, MD
21	Rick Beville	P	R	R	JR	Emporia, VA
22	Johnny Hughes	P	R	R	JR	Creedmoor, NC
23	Chad Axford	OF	R	R	JR	Staunton, VA
24	Stephen Folks	1B	R	R	JR	Greensboro, NC
25	Rob Merry	OF	R	L	JR	McLean, VA
26	Marty Stern	P	R	R	SO	Pompano Bch., FL
27	Clint Acrey	C	R	R	FR	Durham, NC
	Brindon Christman	OF	R	R	SO	Eden, NC
	Jude Crayton	C	R	R	FR	Brookings, SD
	Jonathan Petrash	2B/P	R	R	FR	Kesington, MD
	Ty Simmons	P	R	R	JR	Tobaccoville, NC