

Potpourri

Currie explores career change

Doug Brumley
Sports Editor

It was September, 1974. Gayle Currie had graduated from UNC-G only four months earlier, and had just been hired as head coach of volleyball and women's basketball at Guilford College. July 1, 1992. Eighteen years later, Currie is named interim athletic director of Guilford College. After serving under three athletic directors and taking on several various responsibilities during her stay at Guilford—coaching women's basketball, coaching volleyball, coaching women's tennis, serving as assistant athletic director, as well as working in intramurals—Gayle Currie has finally reached the top of the athletic department ladder. The position—which opened when Phil Roach left early in the summer to join the athletic department of Rollins College—has already proved to be an educational one for Currie. "You would think after 18 years of being in an institution that you would know pretty much about it," said Currie. "I have already learned so much being on the other side of the desk about what happens at this institution that you just don't know about when you're involved in the world of coaching." Making that transition from one side of the desk to the other is going

to be the biggest challenge, according to Currie. "As a coach, we live with emotion. Our careers are built around being emotional, being intense, being driven. And I think administrators are definitely driven but in a more low key. So I am trying to de-program myself from being a coach to being an administrator." And a major aspect of life as an administrator is meetings. "I have an awful lot of meetings to go to which is a big challenge for me because it's a big time-consumer," said Currie. "But they're informative and helpful in learning more about how the college works as a whole and how the athletic department is just a piece of that." Besides meetings, Currie's duties include ensuring the department's compliance with all NCAA regulations, representing the school at the NCAA convention, working with the Quaker Club—the group of Guilford athletic boosters, budgeting, scheduling, and performing other day-to-day duties such as informing staff and student-athletes of the latest institutional and NCAA guidelines. One of Currie's goals as athletic director is to "make sure that every student-athlete on our teams knows that I am sincerely interested in getting to know them as a person." Working as A.D. will give Currie

the opportunity to observe the other fall and spring sports she usually misses while coaching volleyball or women's tennis. Another goal is to maintain the level of interest and support from the Quaker Club, which according to Currie has been more active in the last few years than ever. "I want to know those people, whether they pay \$35 to join the Quaker Club and support our programs, or whether [they] give over \$1000—each of them is important to me because they're somebody that I know has an interest in Guilford athletics and I appreciate that. And I want them to know how much I, and the staff, appreciate that." Currie, as a result of her duties as Director of Athletics, has had to cut back on her involvement with the two teams that she has coached for the past several years—volleyball and women's tennis. Chuck McCracken has been named associate head coach of volleyball and former Guilford tennis stand-out Emily King will assume the role of associate head tennis coach. Both will be working on a volunteer basis. "Chuck and Emily will be running the actual practices, the day-to-day activities—ordering of equipment, making travel arrangements, purchase orders, requisitions, getting advances for meals—everything that is involved with having practice or

getting the team to the match," said Currie. "I will basically oversee the overall budgetary process and the scheduling and the recruiting for next year." Currie may very well be returning as full time head coach of those teams next year. Her term as interim athletic director expires July 1, 1993, and a permanent selection will be announced at that time. Currie's name may or may not be in the running for the permanent position. "That depends on two things," said Currie. "Number one would be, when next spring comes, whether I decide that this is something I want to pursue on a permanent level. It's an extremely demanding and challenging job...It's a great personal growth opportunity for me, and after nine or ten months I think I will have a pretty good idea of whether it's something I would like to consider as a career change." "I think, on the flip side, that the college, after having nine or ten months to look at how they feel it's working for them, [could decide] whether they would want to invite me or have me to be considered as a candidate for the job." The structure of the position in question may change, according to Currie. The administration is currently looking at several different models, which, as an example, could add teaching responsibilities to the

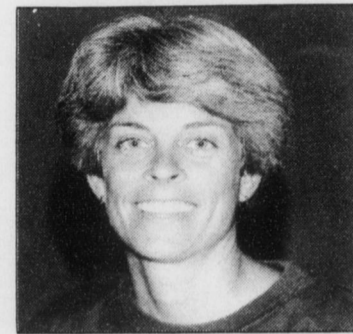


Photo by John Bell

position of athletic director. Another possible model, according to Currie, is the combination of the positions of director of athletics and director of intramurals. "If I were to decide to become a candidate," said Currie, "I think I have had experience in each of those areas, so that however it was structured...I could possibly qualify." Whether or not Currie finds herself in the position of athletic director this time next year, it is obvious that she is concerned about making a difference through her performance as interim A.D. this year. Her goals of knowing each player and booster on a more personal level as well as her desire to see more faculty and student interest in the athletic events indicate her attempts at increasing the community's awareness of Guilford's athletic department.

Women's soccer team blanked by Randolph-Macon

Doug Brumley
Sports Editor

The Guilford College women's soccer team received a rude welcome to the 1992 season from a strong Randolph-Macon squad last Saturday, losing their opener 8-0. Randolph-Macon, who finished last season as conference champion, may be even better this year, according to Quaker Head Coach Pam Howe. "I think we played well for our first game," said Howe. "We have twelve new people and I think that it takes a little time to get everybody in communication." As Howe sees it, that communication is the key factor in determining the success of the team. She plans to continue work on basic passing, receiving, and controlling drills that will improve this communication in the future. Howe also plans to work on the team's conditioning. As for the game last Saturday, Howe credits the defense as being

the strongest point of the team. "Even though we lost 8-0, I think [the defense] played a good game and worked very, very hard." Goaltender Melanie Ray, although letting eight balls get past her, turned away 35 shots. The Quaker offense mustered three shots, none of which found their way into the net. Howe was pleased with the performance of the newcomers to the team. "They played very well. I think that the first game is always a jittery thing. It was a long trip and I think that the people adjusted very well to it." As far as the future is concerned, Howe may look to make some changes. "We aren't settled right yet in our line-up, so probably a little bit of the line-up will change." The next women's soccer game is at High Point on September 10.

Intramurals are coming! Intramurals are coming!

By Joe Wallace

Intramural Director Joyce Clark expressed her anticipation for the coming year at the first 1992-93 unit representative meeting. "This year's Intramural competition could, and should be one of the best years in recent memory," said Clark. With soccer slated to begin on Wednesday, September 9th, and flag football the following Tuesday, Clark and the rest of the Intramural staff have been working hard to make this year's program a success, and with enough support and participation, it will be. And participation does not appear to be a problem. For soccer alone there is enough interest to have seven men's teams and five women's teams—possibly six if there turns out to be as much interest as reported in Binford Hall. That hall's two women's floors may be separated into opposing teams, according to Clark. All of these teams seem to be poised for the competition and this year's soccer play should be extraordinary. The same goes for flag football, although at this time it is not known exactly how many teams will be participating. As far as support goes, there are at least twenty-one unit representatives,

but more help is needed. Referees are needed for both soccer and flag football. An officiating clinic is being held for flag football on Monday, September 14th, in the Alumni Gym at 7p.m. Anyone interested in officiating flag football should attend the clinic, and if you are unable to attend but would still like to referee soccer or flag football, please contact Joyce Clark at her office in the Alumni Gym. Any and all help is needed and very much appreciated. So what else is coming up for fall Intramurals? In addition to the usual soccer, flag football, tennis, and volleyball, the Schick Three-on-Three basketball tournament will take place in December. Also, for the first time, tentatively scheduled for September 18th will be the Guilford College Co-ed kickball tournament. More information on this event will be provided soon, but begin now forming your teams of five men and five women—or four men and six women, if you want—to participate in what is sure to be a fun-filled day of kicks, catches, and victories. For more information about these or other intramural events contact Joyce Clark at her office in the Alumni Gym or your Unit Representative—conveniently listed here for

you. Then come out and enjoy the fun, the excitement, and the thrill of competition.

INTRAMURAL UNIT REPRESENTATIVES		
BINFORD:	1st:	Jon Wallace #3056 Tim Randle #3056
	2nd:	Irene Kelly #3078
	3rd:	Liz Murphy #3147
BRYAN:		Jon Mitchell #3399 Greg Lowandrowski #3488 Sarah Keith #3426
DAY HOPPS:		Ray Jones 294-8162 Scott Stier 852-6541 Renne Lenoir 665-1830
ENGLISH:		Justin Hopler #3291
MILNER:	1st N:	Billy Hardison #3645
	1st S:	Wayne Williamson #3620
	2nd:	Sharon Ladd #3670
	3rd:	Randy Scott #3783 Jeff Wilson #3789
APARTMENTS:		George Hamilton #3919
ALTERNATIVE HOUSING:		Susan Little #2615 Wendy McReynolds #2616
MARY HOBBS:		Kate Walker #3207
SHORE:		Chris Wotteran #3598