

# Quakers make commitment to winning

Joe Wallace

Sports Editor

The beginning of the school year brings many familiar feelings. The freedom of leaving home, the enjoyment of seeing friends, fulfillment in broadening one's education horizon's, the excitement of another season of Guilford College Quakers football.

On September 10th the Quakers begin their quest for a winning season and the Old Dominion Athletic Conference (ODAC) championship when they travel to Methodist College. There they will try to put behind them the misery of the past two seasons.

"It's been a pleasant preseason," said Mike Ketchum, who is beginning his fourth year as the Quakers' head coach, "after last year's experience, this particular group of players seem much more committed to improving than in years past.

"There is a general agreement amongst the players and coaches, it's time to win football games."

Winning is on the minds of many. After Guilford won the ODAC championship in its inau-

gural year in the conference, Quakers fans, and the team, went through the next two seasons with sub-par records, not breaking .500 in either season.

But that is all in the past and this is a new season. Coach Ketchum has designed a way in which he hopes that championship prediction can come true.

"We were picked 5th in the ODAC," which is made up of 6 teams, "I think we'll do better," said Ketchum

"A lot is going to depend on how we do during our first three games," he added. "If we can go to Methodist, Chowan, and Hampton-Sydney and come away with the win, then we will probably win 7 or 8 games this year.

"But if we lose any one of those games, all the division is pretty even competitively

To achieve his goal, Coach Ketchum has made some changes. First, he selected 4 team captains. In the past the captains were alternated between games, but Ketchum seems to feel that the four he's chosen are the essence of character.

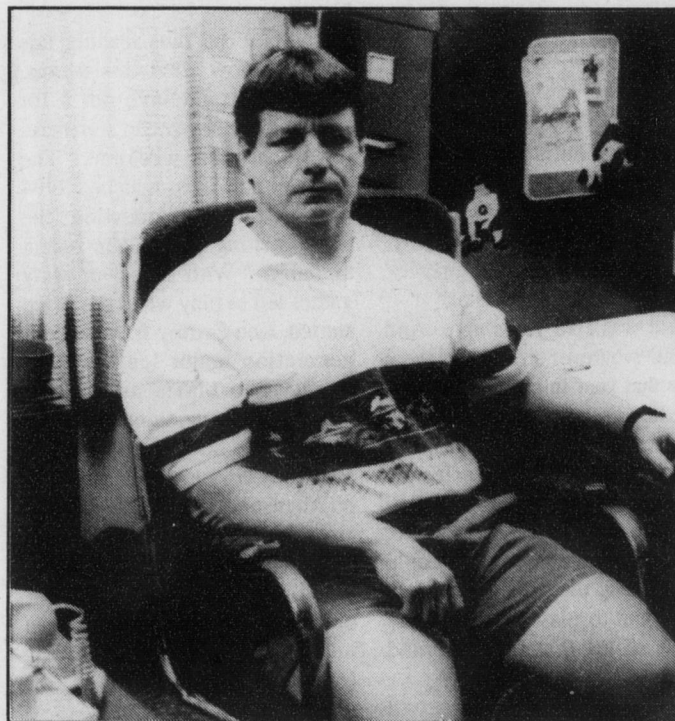
"You can't find anyone who gives more effort and who are excellent leaders both on and off the field than Bryan Garland, Mike Koger, Richard Baldwin and Renado Hairston," Ketchum said.

Ketchum and the rest of his coaching staff have also initiated other things to improve the team.

"Offensively, we've focussed on throwing the football more and improving the passing game," stated Ketchum, "and so far the change appears to be better.

"Defensively, we have emphasized speed. Since we only have a limited number of 'big' guys, we've made some position changes, moving our big guys to offense and our faster guys to 'D,'" Ketchum explained, "we are going to apply pressure with speed."

As long as the team remains optimistic and continues to put forth the effort it's shown in preseason practice (along with ample fan support), the 1994 Quakers football team should be pretty good. Perhaps now the phrase "there's always next year," will be proven a positive statement to the team.



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Coach Ketchum, who played for the 1974 Quakers, has also made a commitment to winning.

## SIDELINES

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case now, but there is a still an as yet unacknowledged problem. That is the lack of communication with the fan.

Baseball games are played with better athletes today than in the past; that is undeniable. But those involved in the sport of Baseball today seem indifferent and ignorant of its nuances its heartbeats, where its vital signs are and how to keep it healthy. Whether the owners claim an eventual victory in this or the players should be absolutely irrelevant. Baseball should not stop for money (owners want revenue sharing and the players to reduce their salaries to pay for

it). That is ridiculous. Of course the game is a business but businesses are about building and protecting one's assets, not warping and strangling the product until it's dead and unrecognizable. These striking people, these owners and players know nothing about baseball or they wouldn't be striking. The Cincinnati Reds' owner Marge Schott put it best when she told Newsweek earlier this month: "I don't know baseball. I'm just a woman who owns a team."

"The owners should put their books on the table," Orioles owner Peter Angelos told reporters the week preceding the strike. "If baseball has a problem let the owners prove it."

It seems they already have.

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