

Guilford loses see-saw battle to Virginia Wesleyan, 75-70

ROB MIRCHIN
sports editor

In Tim Wooten's absence, the men's basketball team lost to the Virginia Wesleyan Marlins by five points. In what can best be described as a see-saw battle, Guilford could only manage to play well in spurts.

Guilford started the game with good play from their five starters. Kevin Spainhour made a three-pointer to start the game's scoring. After that, Guilford continued to build a lead on the backs of Kenyatta Ramsey, Tharon Robinson, and Brad Cress. Guilford had a 19-14 lead when Virginia Wesleyan leaned on the see-saw and started to come back.

Forward Percy Slight helped the Marlins take a first-half lead that they never relinquished. Virginia Wesleyan made good shots and kept the Quakers from scoring by stealing the ball. The Mar-

lins took a seven-point lead into the locker room at half-time.

Guilford came out of the locker room ready to fight. Good saves and aggressive defense kept the Quakers in the ball game. However, Guilford was forced to leave a man open in their double-coverage defense. Virginia Wesleyan took advantage of this by getting the ball into the hands of the open man for repeated outside shots.

Guilford then did some see-saw leaning of their own. The Quakers closed to within four points with a Mike Norris three-pointer, but the Marlins kept scoring consistently. In addition, time was running out for the Quakers.

The Marlins finished strong by building a ten-point lead. That was enough to push the see-saw all the way to the ground and leave the Guilford men hanging in the air.

The game was representative of Guilford's up and down year. The men's basketball team now stands at 8-12 for the season.



A Fighting Quaker with ball in hand

Rob Mirchin

HOOPS

SCHEDULE

MEN'S BASKETBALL

at Chowan

Saturday * February 10 * 2:00

ROANOKE

Monday * February 12 * 7:30

ODAC TOURNAMENT

Saturday-Monday * February 17-19 * TBA

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

at Eastern Mennonite

Friday * February 9 * 7:00

at Bridgewater

Saturday * February 10 * 4:00

EMORY & HENRY

Tuesday * February 13 * 7:00

at Hollins

Saturday * February 17 * 2:00

ODAC TOURNAMENT

Thursday-Saturday * February 4 * TBA

Fearless Forecast: Mid-Season Basketball Edition

ADAM LUCAS
editorials editor

We've reached the magical mid-season mark, so it's time to take another look at the newly updated *Guilfordian* Top Ten. Here's the top teams as we see them, along with a few surprises and disappointments.

1. Kentucky: Count me in as a new UK believer. They struggled some at the beginning of the season, but their recent blowouts of anyone in sight have been a testament to their ability to play together. My only concern is that they might be peaking too soon.

2. Kansas: The Jayhawks remain my pick to win it all. The coaching is solid and so are the players. Freshman Paul Pierce has been an impact player. They haven't been as dominating as Kentucky, but they do continue to win.

3. Connecticut: This is a very good team that is getting very little credit. I would rate them in the best of the Big East, because Ray Allen makes them a team to watch out for when March rolls around.

4. Massachusetts: Yes, I know

that they're undefeated. However, their only quality win came against a UK team that was not at its best. This is basically a one-man team whose weak conference will hurt it come NCAA Tournament time.

5. Cincinnati: I like the way they play, but their coaching remains suspect. Fortson has been a pleasant surprise inside, and Damon Flint is finally beginning to live up to his potential. If defense wins championships, then this team has a shot.

6. Villanova: They had an impressive blowout of Carolina, but they need to play that way consistently. I'm still not convinced that Kerry Kittles will step up and make the big shot when it counts.

7. Iowa: The Hawkeyes have been up and down this season, but they still look like the class of the rather weak Big Ten. Chris Kingsbury needs to learn the definition of a good shot.

8. Utah: Yet another team whose weak conference will hurt it in the long run. They will undoubtedly have a gaudy record at year's end, but don't look for them to be visiting the Meadowlands.

9. Wake Forest: Wake has been somewhat of an enigma. They played Carolina in a great game at

Chapel Hill, but does a well coached team blow an 18-point lead in 17 minutes? With a few exceptions, the Deacons have done nothing to shed the "one-man team" label.

10. North Carolina: Repeat after me: "I will not doubt Dean Smith." All the ACC fans that thought this would be the year Carolina would finally finish lower than third are in tears.

Five Surprises: Penn State, Clemson, Texas Tech, Boston College, North Carolina.

Five Disappointments: Maryland, Virginia, Mississippi State, Louisville, Memphis.

Mid-year All-American team: Ray Allen, Harold Deane, Marcus Camby, Danny Fortson, and Tim Duncan.

Mid-year All-Freshmen team: Antawn Jamison, Paul Pierce, Stephon Marbury, Scoonie Penn, and Shareef-Abdur Rahim

Mid-Year Coach of the Year: We have a tie—Dean Smith of North Carolina and Jerry Dunn of Penn State.