

Volleyball wraps up successful season

AMY BROACH
staff writer

The Lady Quakers finished up the 1996 volleyball season last Saturday with a loss to Washington and Lee in the ODAC Tournament, yet the tradition still continues.

After a 3-game romp over Emory and Henry in the quarterfinals Friday night, the Lady Quakers had to face the top-ranked Washington and Lee to make it to the ODAC finals, but it was not meant to be. "I think we were a little bit nervous at the beginning (of the game versus Washington and Lee), but we eventually laid back... and played extremely well," said assistant coach Craig Lenniger. "We played our hearts out, but we lost a few close calls... it's very tough to end the season that way." Coach Chuck McCracken, out of town on a conference trip, was unavailable for comment.

Players also noted the semifinal loss as tough to swallow. Senior blocker Angela Lett said, "it was disappointing not to be able to go to the finals." Sophomore Monica Jaszczak notes, "we played really well (in the tournament), it just happened to be we played the

number one team in the conference, and they're going to be tough to beat."

However, the Quakers, who ended their season 12-9, who continued the winning tradition of the Guilford volleyball team, having their ninth winning season in ten years, have much to be proud of. The Quakers boasted many shining moments this season. Laura Nelson, an outside hitter, was named to the ODAC All-Tournament team, Lett was ranked sixth in the nation in blocking while Jaszczak was ranked 16th in blocks.

But as everyone knows, individual statistics alone cannot produce a winning sea-

son for a team. Lenniger notes the tenacity of the ladies. "This is probably the best team we have had at Guilford...it was a pleasure to work with a group of ladies that were in

every match until the end and who all got along."

Nelson agrees. "This team was a lot more solid than last year's. We were all-around good and got along really good together." Lett also notes the success of the team as a whole. "We gelled as a team, and were a lot more ef-

fective at team play. We didn't have to rely on key players; it was a team effort, which

was very effective."

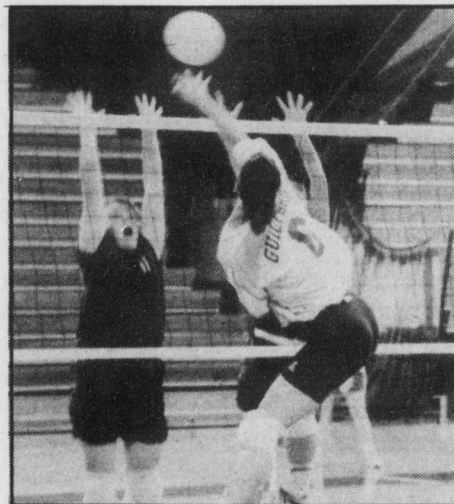
Spectacular games also highlighted this winning season. Both players and coach agree on one impressive evening. The Quakers defeated Centre College this season, which was ranked fifth in the south and in the national top twenty-five.

"It was the best game that I have ever seen in my volleyball career. It was so hard to try to coach, because I just wanted to sit back and watch. It was that kind of game," said Lenniger.

Jaszczak notes the game against Centre as "the best game I've seen the team play the whole year."

Next year should also hold many sensational nights for the Lady Quakers. Lenniger states, "we will miss our seniors greatly, but with four returning juniors and underclassmen who can step in and play where we need them most, along with a good recruiting class, the winning tradition will continue."

And in every Quaker's mind, the ability for the Guilford women's volleyball team to continue their winning tradition should be unquestionable.



Isaac Palant

The hits kept on coming for the Lady Quakers this season.

Men's soccer ends disappointing year

OWEN FINBERG
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Last Saturday, the men's soccer team lost a hard-fought 3-1 decision to ODAC foe Roanoke College. This was the last conference game of a disappointing and lackluster season for the Quakers.

In a season that was marked by injuries, players quitting, and one-goal losses, the team is optimistic that with a little help and hard work, next year's squad will be much improved.

Injuries to several players hurt the Quakers this year. "Throughout a three and a half month season it is hard to stay healthy without getting more than a day off at a time," noted all-ODAC performer Dax Baker. Baker himself struggled with tendonitis in both knees. Many of the other Quakers had nagging injuries. Unfortunately, with a small team, sprained ankles and strained muscles must be played through.

The small number of players was also a large problem. The team saw its numbers dwindle from a preseason roster of 20 down to only 12 of the original team by season's end.

Those twelve players fought hard but fell one goal short on eight out of twelve losses.

"The core of guys we had was talented but we were two or three quality players short of a strong unit," senior co-captain Steve Diamond said. "It was disappointing to work so hard in the off-season and then not have the supporting players we needed."

Those new players hopefully will be coming, thanks to new head coach Mike Thorne. Thorne has been involved in Greensboro area soccer for years. He has coached both high school and club soccer before accepting the Guilford job. This experience will be helpful in bringing in valuable talent. As

Coach Thorne said, "We are going to miss Diamond and Denis [Byrne] but we're working hard to bring in talented freshmen."

Despite the needed newcomers Guilford returns ten varsity letter-winners, including likely two-time All-ODAC selection Baker. A tough season, such as the '96 campaign, is hard to forget. Hopefully, that memory will push the Quakers to a much improved year in 1997.



Isaac Palant

Struggles on the field were not the only problems for men's soccer.

AROUND THE USA

Sports news from the week that was

Smoltz, Hentgen snag Cy Youngs

As expected, John Smoltz captured the NL Cy Young Award. In a mild upset, the Blue Jays' Pat Hentgen beat out Andy Pettitte in the AL voting.

No drop-off for Bulls

Chicago opened the NBA season right where they left off, racing out to an 8-0 start. Meanwhile, the Charles Barkley-led Houston Rockets head the pack of Western Conference contenders.

Are you ready for some football?

Frank, Al, and Dan will be in Dallas Monday night as the Cowboys host the Packers in the best NFL matchup of the weekend. Dallas is an early 4-point favorite.

Mayor rips 49ers' Grbac

San Francisco mayor Bill Young trashed the performance of '9ers quarterback Elvis Grbac against Dallas, calling him an "embarrassment to humanity." Grbac and his wife have been struggling with the spinal bifida contracted by their 9-month-old son.

Cardinal women top AP voting

Stanford headed the pre-season AP basketball poll released this week, followed by Alabama and Georgia. Cincinnati is ranked #1 in the men's poll.

Broncos continue to roll

Surprising Denver has the NFL's best record with a sparkling 9-1. This week they take their show on the road, travelling to New England to take on the surging Patriots.

Walton endorses SAT prep class

Syracuse freshman phenom Winfred Walton will sit out the year following discrepancies in his SAT scores, which took a 300-point jump after his first attempt. The NCAA is investigating.

Surprising Panthers lead NHL

The rat business is booming in Florida, as the Panthers boast a 10-2-4 record. Colorado remains hot in the Western Conference, sporting a 12-4-3 mark.