

Sports

Guilford's Coward throws no-hitter

Tom Gallagher
STAFF WRITER

Guilford Senior Chad Coward pitched a no-hitter in the second game of a double header against Eastern Mennonite last Saturday to give the Quakers their tenth victory in as many games. The game was also Coward's fourth straight complete-game shutout.

Center-fielder Steve Danis lined to right for a double in the bottom of the first inning, reaching home off a Kevin Moore single and an error by Eastern Mennonite's Chris Severs, providing the margin in a 1-0 victory.

"It was definitely Chad's day. Eastern Mennonite was a good ball club, but he was on, and when he's on, he just shuts you down," said catcher Nick Black.

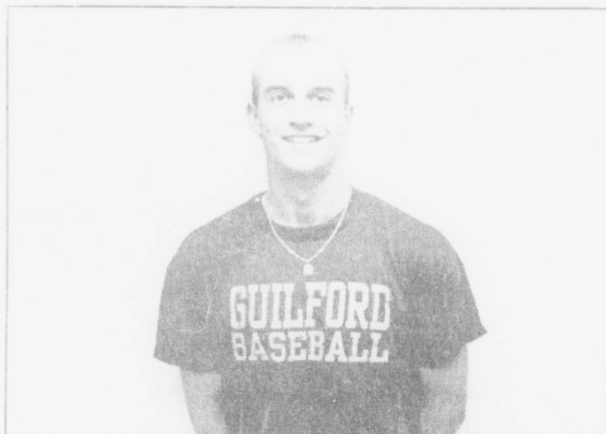
Family and friends had traveled from Coward's hometown of Silver City, N.C., to witness his feat. Coward maintained his focus throughout the game. "He just went right at 'em and got 'em out," as Black described Coward's

play.

Coward aced 11 of the 23 he faced on the day. The seventh inning proved to be his best as he struck out the final three batters, leaving Eastern Mennonite's Joey Coleman hanging on a low slider to seal the no-hitter.

Coward mixes a slider that Black calls "one of the nastiest that I've ever seen" with hard fastballs that consistently reach between 85-90mph. "He threw hard stuff and his slider was good enough to keep all their hitters off-balance," said Head Coach Gene Baker.

"I had a couple of times in the past where I was in the last inning and gave up a hit," said Coward. But this day would be different. "In the last inning I kind of got in the zone and I knew I wouldn't give it up. I struck out the side on pure adrenaline. I was



Coward's no-hitter was Guilford's first in nearly three decades.

pumped up, probably throwing harder than than in the first inning."

It had been 28 years since Rick Fulton threw a no-hitter for the Quakers against Johns Hopkins in 1972, although Coward and fellow senior K.C. Chambers have thrown one and two hit games before.

Chambers picked up his fifth straight win in the first game of the double-header, a 3-2 victory which improved Guilford's record to 15-5 overall and 4-0 in

the Old Dominion Athletic Conference (ODAC).

At press time, Coward had 40 strikeouts through 32 innings with an earned run average of 1.69. Opponents had a batting average of .175 versus Chambers and .123 against Coward. Baker expects Coward to be selected in June's professional draft and added that Chambers and senior left fielder Kevin Moore also have a strong likelihood of being signed.

"With Chad, K.C. and Kevin, this is our third season together, so this is the culmination of all the hard work they've put in over the past three years... We want to win the conference. It's always been our goal," said Baker as he prepared the infield for Tuesday's game against Albright College.

Guilford played Lynchburg College in a Wednesday home game and will travel to Virginia Wesleyan on Saturday for another double-header.

Their next home game will be against Averett College on Wednesday, March 29th, at 3:00pm.

Butch Estes: Year in Review

By Sarah Herndon
STAFF WRITER

Butch Estes wants to put the interest back into Guilford basketball. Seated in his shared office overlooking the Alumni Gym, Guilford's first-year men's basketball coach shared his past and constructed a view of the future for me.

Estes' first year at Guilford has been enjoyable, the team has doubled its wins and was only one game out of sixth place. His players have eagerly adopted a year-round training program, which helps them to stay in shape off-season. He has plenty of future goals, however.

Estes wants to improve the attendance and interest in Guilford College. Both Guilford's student body and members of the greater Greensboro community should attend games. He underscores the importance of students at local high schools attending the games to help boost interest in the college and hopefully motivate more area athletes to apply.

Recruiting is never far

from his thoughts. One of the biggest challenges of coming to Guilford is recruiting without scholarships. Guilford is a private liberal arts school and a highly academic environment. Though education comes first, often the families he talks to cannot help but be focused on scholarships.

"What I have to do is educate them on the advantages, recruit larger pools of players," says Estes. He does not view the academic orientation of the school as a drawback; rather, he prefers working in this kind of environment.

When asked if the new YMCA will make a difference in the program, Butch enthusiastically agrees. He says it will be instrumental in building the kind of community he is hoping to have. It is also a main selling point for recruiting.

"We talk about it every night in every home we go to," says Estes.

Estes is ready to build the team and the community, as well as recruit quality athletes who are academically motivated. "I think we have all the resources to be good," he asserts.

JOM java!



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Good ol' cans of Bud (King of Beers) ... 1.13 w/ Guilford discount
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