

Sports

Women of the Year: hard work pays off

Basketball, continued from page 1.

Entering the Salem Civic Center before the title game, it seemed the fans were more excited than the players were. The fans were smiling, nervously awaiting the game to start and the winning to begin.

Again the Quakers made the fans nervous in the first half, especially with the loss of Dara Burke to a knee injury. Then, the second-half run began, a run that was becoming the team's trademark this season. The team averaged 37.2 points in the second half of their games this season.

With minutes left in the championship game Guilford knew they would be bringing home the title. The smiles were beginning to appear from the women in gray uniforms and as the buzzer went off the tears began to flow.

Before the nets came down the team would not only receive the conference plaque, but three team members would receive awards for being the top players in the tournament. Junior guards Erin Beacham and Amy Evans were named to the All-Tournament Team. Senior Arden Miller

was named Most Outstanding Player of the tournament with her teammates chanting "Arden, Arden" in the background.

With the ODAC title came another first, an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament.

Quakers vs. Angels

With a regular season record of 22-6 the Quaker Dome would host the first round of the tournament between the Quakers

of Guilford and the Angels of Meredith. Let the fun begin! Decorating, sign making and face painting would be the pregame preparations for the school. For the players it was just like any other game, with one exception. "We made up hand signals before the game, predicting the huge crowd" said Amy Evans. In the gym no one could hear a thing.

As the game began every point scored by the Quakers meant a large cry from the crowd. Going into half-time, with the help of freshman forward Jennie Keichline's 11 points off the bench, the Quakers were up 34-29. "I just went out there and did what I could for my team," said Keichline when asked about her performance in the win.

"Yeah, all of a sudden she'll (Jennie) get hot and you just let her go," said Coach Barb Bausch.

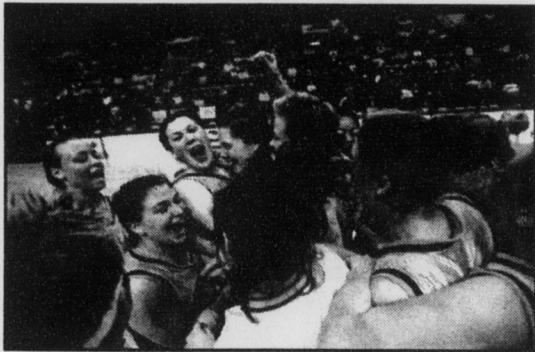
Then the second half began

and the widely known Guilford second-half run was soon to begin. With 14:45 left in the game the Quakers made a 16-7 run. The Angels tried to come back, but it was not going to happen. The Quakers came away with a 23-point win, 80-57.

"Words are hard to come by," said Coach Bausch when asked how she felt after the game. She spoke of how the women on the team feed off each other. No matter who goes into the game, a

All Good Things Must End?

The win in the Quaker Dome meant packing up and traveling to Texas to play Hardin-Simmons. The season would end there for the Quakers with a 106-77 loss. The loss put an end to a great season for the Quakers and the end of the careers of seniors Arden Miller and Marlo Biernacki. Miller ended her career with her 9th double double with 14 points and 10 rebounds in the defeat.



Quaker jubilation upon winning the Old Dominion Athletic Conference (ODAC) Title.

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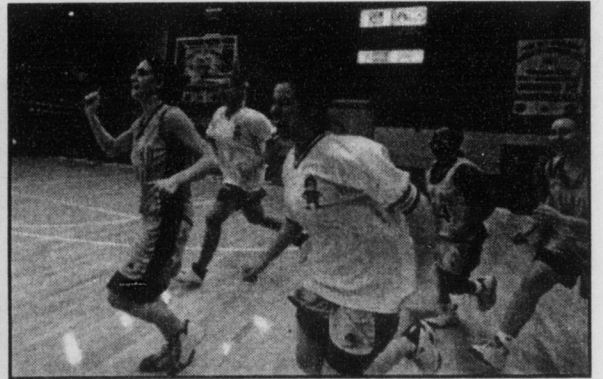
Guilford accomplishments this season

- First team to win the Old Dominion Athletic Conference (ODAC) title
- First to get a NCAA Tournament bid
- First to win a NCAA Tournament game
- A team that broke the school record for most wins in a season, 22
- Two players named to the ODAC Team
- Three players named to the ODAC Tournament Team
- One named Most Outstanding Player of the tournament
- First team in years to pack the Ragan-Brown Fieldhouse

starter or a sub off the bench, they feel the energy and want it to continue.

Senior forward Arden Miller echoed that in saying "I know somebody is just gonna step in and take over where I left off... I have confidence in my teammates."

Though the season has ended there is only more to come next season. Losing only two seniors and returning everyone else, the future of the Quakers is bright. Next year will begin another season of highs and lows and hopefully more nights of packing the Quaker Dome.



Images from the ODAC & NCAA Tournaments. All photos courtesy of Sports Information.

