

## Women's basketball shoots for ODAC championship

**Carlos D'Agostino**  
Staff Writer

After an 84-51 win against Bennett College on Nov. 7 and a 73-89 loss to Methodist College on Nov. 1, Guilford's women's basketball team has experienced a taste of both victory and defeat.

Although the athletic events were scrimmages, which do not count as regular season games, the predominantly first-year team benefited from competing at a collegiate level of play.

With a 13-player roster and only three veteran players, including sophomore guard Dionne Graham, junior guard Jennifer King, and senior forward Courtney Hill, the team has a lot to learn.

"I think we have a lot of potential to step up, come in, and continue where we left off," said Hill.

After finishing last season with an overall record of 17-9, the women's team

continued to post winning statistics. Guilford finished third in the conference and advanced six seniors into the professional world.

Guilford is ranked sixth out of 11 teams in the Old Dominion Athletic Conference (ODAC). Having won two consecutive conference championships since 2001, many of the team members feel as if they are underrated.

"I feel like we're underestimated in the conference, but we're going to continue to work hard and surprise a lot of people," said Graham.

It is up to the returning players to lead the team to victory, especially since first-year student athletes look to upper-classmen for guidance.

"We have the potential to do great things," said first-year player and center Brittiany Green. "The key for us is to stay focused and keep up our intensity."

According to head coach Stephanie Flamini, the 2004-05 season will serve

as a rebuilding year. Nevertheless, the ladies have every intention of having a winning season.

"They're working very hard at practice and there's a lot of potential out there," said Flamini. "If we can get it all together, we can have a pretty good year."

The Quakers open the season today at 8 p.m. against Ferrum College in a four-team tournament in Ferrum, Virginia.

On Nov. 23 at 6 p.m., Guilford competes against city rival Greensboro College, and the women's first home game is Sat., Dec. 11 against ODAC rival Emory & Henry.

The first conference game, which could help send the team to a championship, takes place on Dec. 7 against Hollins University at 7:00 p.m. in Roanoke, Virginia.

Guilford ends both season and conference play on Feb. 19 against Lynchburg College in Lynchburg, Virginia. ☼



ALL PHOTOS BY TALEISHA BOWEN/GUILFORDIAN

Lady Quakers at practice Nov. 17

## Men's, women's teams gear up and settle in for winter games

**Aaron Varnam**  
Staff Writer

The fields are turning brown and it's getting too cold to play outside sports. That must mean it's time for the winter sports held in the Ragan-Brown field house: men's basketball, women's basketball, and women's swimming.

The men's basketball team finished the regular season third in the Old Dominion Athletic Conference (ODAC) last year with a 15-11 record, and this year they are looking for a top spot.

"We know we have talent and depth, but it will take time to develop our chemistry," said Tom Palombo, head coach for the men's basketball team. His team, which graduated seven seniors last year, will have a tough time in a talented

ODAC that consists of many strong teams.

"I think developing the younger players and playing hard every night will be the key to winning the ODAC," says Palombo. "Sophomore Genaro Lawhorn and senior Ashford Gray are two of the most experienced players on the Guilford squad and need to stay healthy in order for us to take full advantage of this season."

The men's basketball team has a game this week against Division II Shaw Nov. 13 in the Ragan-Brown Field House at 3:00 pm.

The women's basketball team was 17-9 last year and tied for third in the ODAC, but the squad is having a problem in the beginning of their season this year. The team, like the men's, graduated six seniors last year and has only three returning

players: senior Courtney Hill, junior Jennifer King, and sophomore Dionne Graham.

"We're young. Ten out of thirteen players are freshmen this year," said Stephanie Flamini, head coach of the women's basketball team. "I feel positive that we have an opportunity to finish anywhere depending on how our freshman adjust to the competitiveness of collegiate basketball."

"Our key to winning is staying healthy and being able to play well up to and during the time of the ODAC tournament, so we can make our goal of getting to the NCAA tournament," said Flamini. "I think that it's not how we start, it's how we finish."

The Lady Quakers open the season Nov. 19 against Ferrum in a four-team tournament hosted by Ferrum. Their first home game is

Dec. 11 against ODAC-rival Emory & Henry.

The women's swim team may be new, but it is already making a big splash.

With a convincing win against Emory & Henry 146-28 in their first-ever swim meet Oct. 30, the women are looking for leadership to take them to an even more successful season than originally thought.

"It's hard with all of us coming from different swimming backgrounds because swimming is both a team and individual sport," said Nikki Mallmann, a sophomore at Guilford, "our leadership is mixed, but what it basically comes down to is experience and performance."

The women will compete next at Randolph-Macon Nov. 20 at 2 p.m. ☼