

Guilford Rugby beats Davidson into consensus

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Staff Writer

"Ball's out! Ball's out!" the girl behind me screamed.

"Wow," I thought. "That's an interesting cheer."

It took me a minute to realize what she meant. The ball was out from under the "scrum" and in play on the field.

This game, the game of rugby, is about balls - metaphorically as well as literally.

So, if you don't like the sight of blood, walk away now. For as you will see, rugby is a very bloody game.

When it comes down to it, rugby is more like a choreographed bar fight than a game. That's what makes it so much fun.

Swollen knees, scraped elbows, a mysterious scratch on the inner thigh ... these boys and girls do not play pretty. These players are tough.

From what I saw on Saturday, Jan. 28, the nature of the rugby player could be summed up in one statement I overheard right before the men's game. "I'm just glad to be alive, man; any day above ground is a good day."

During the women's match that day, a seriously busted nose took one player out of the game. She refused to leave her team until after the final play.

On this sunny afternoon the women's rugby team confronted Duke. It was an unfortunate defeat.

The men's rugby team challenged the Gastonia Men's Club supported by Davidson College.

The game went into overtime with the score at 10-10. Guilford won.

I got to talk to Tyler Cope who scored the winning try. I asked him how it felt.

"It feels better than anything. I got to tell you what ... I mean I'm in seven heavens right now."

I asked him, "How did you do it, Tyler?"

"It took a determination and courage ... well, a combination of courage and fear ... that's what it was," he replied.

Anthea Williams, junior, is a rugby fan and long-time friend of Cope. "Tyler? Yeah, Tyler's got the biggest balls of them all. I heard that he got cut one time and pure motor oil came out of his veins."

Super-fan Josh Laker chimed in. Josh is a Guilford alumnus and goes to every game he can. He is the person who brings the grill. He says his favorite part of the game is the cheer. He got one rolling to pump up the crowd, "Fight, fight, inner light! Kill Quakers kill! Knock 'em down! Beat 'em senseless! Do it 'till we reach consensus!"

There are some things I strongly advise one to consider before attending Guilford rugby games in order to maximize the enjoyment of the experience.

If you've never played rugby before, like me, the game can be very confusing. The rules are complex and, quite frankly, explaining them would just be boring.



Guilford's women's rugby versus Duke

Besides, the best way to learn this game is to witness the magic it creates for you. But, if you feel that you must know how the game works in order to enjoy it, here is what I've gathered.

If American football and European football were put into a blender (on liquefy), the rules of rugby would result.

A player can kick or run with the ball moving forward and can throw the ball laterally or backward, but not forward.

There are out-of-bounds lines and scoring areas and goal posts to kick balls through.

Continued on page 11

SAAC revives schoolyard classic, dodgeball

Landry Haarmann

Photo Editor

Saturday afternoon reminded me of the horrors of elementary school, the sound of rubber hitting flesh and sneakers screeching on floorboards. Saturday reminded me of the schoolyard game, dodgeball.

Saturday's game of dodgeball was different from the version I nostalgically recall playing. Instead of one kid in the center being pegged by everyone around them, there were two teams, men's lacrosse competing against a combination of the men's cross country and tennis teams.

While the dodgeball of yesteryear required nothing more than nimbleness or good aim, the dodgeball games of today are a team effort and require some type of game plan.

Cross Country runner Phil Newell had a strategy. "Try not to get too close to the half court line and throw low," said Newell.

Tennis player Mike Muir found the idea of a strategy laughable, "We didn't have much of a strategy," Muir said. "It was learning step by step."

Some members of the lacrosse team felt they went into the game prepared. Gates "Pain Train" Benson had one

thing on his mind when he stepped onto the court.

"Come out and obliterate," said Benson. "We're all just natural athletes. We followed the 5 D's of

Dodgeball."

The 5 D's of Dodgeball are "Dodge, Duck, Dip, Dive and Dodge," according to the 2004 comedy *Dodgeball: A True*

Underdog Story.

Muir felt somewhat like an underdog in Saturday's game. "Some teams are better at catching and dodging balls. In cross coun-

try and tennis you really don't do either," he said.

The lacrosse team, however, felt really good about the way they executed their strategy in the dodgeball game.

"We don't feel like we won; we know we did. It was a massacre," said Benson said.

His teammate Ian MacPhail felt that the reason they did so well is because the lacrosse team "works well as a team on the court and off."

As far as who won, I really couldn't tell you. I haven't got the slightest idea of how dodgeball is scored.

But the game wasn't meant to be played for a win. It was intended to be a game that would help create a greater sense of community amongst athletes.

"[The idea came from] the Student Athlete Advisory Council," said Randy Doss, Vice President for Enrollment and Campus Life. Doss said that the goal is "to better acquaint athletes from different teams with each other and provide halftime entertainment."

Saturday I was entertained by both the game and feelings about my own dodgeball memories. On the court, the feelings were different. Muir put it best when he said, "It was fun." ❧



This is not your mother's dodgeball