

Women's soccer hosts ODAC championship

Amasses best conference record in school history

BY ADRA COOPER | STAFF WRITER

On Nov. 1, the clock for the second overtime ran out and the Guilford women's soccer game against Eastern Mennonite was still tied 0-0. After 110 minutes without a goal, the fate of the game would be determined by a penalty kick shoot-out.

Senior goalie Veronica Zych, who recently won the Guilford Student-Athlete of the Week Award, successfully blocked Lindsay Snyder's shot during the final round, which was the fifth attempted penalty kick of the allotted five.

"Penalty kicks can be a goalie's nightmare but (Zych) handled it with ease, composure, and the game-winning save," said senior captain Rachel Gwinn.

With the pressure on, senior captain Emily Ott converted on her penalty kick, making the score 5-4 in favor of Guilford. By defeating Eastern Mennonite, the team advanced to the Old Dominion Athletic Conference (ODAC) tournament final.

The following Saturday, the first ODAC championship game ever to be hosted at Guilford took place between The Quakers and The Marlins of Virginia Wesleyan.

"Playing Virginia Wesleyan at home has been a long-standing dream of mine come true," said Ott. "I respect their players and coaches a lot and

I think that overall, they are one of the classiest teams in our conference."

Students, parents, and faculty gathered at Haworth Field to watch and cheer on the team.

Within the first five minutes of the opening half, Virginia Wesleyan's Jackie Ochs-Gregory headed the ball into Guilford's goal making the score 1-0. The two teams continued to battle up and down the field but neither scored for the remainder of the half.

Guilford came within inches of tying the match early in the second half when a 40-yard shot attempt from junior midfielder Micki Boulineau ricocheted off the cross bar of Virginia Wesleyan's goal. Shortly after, Marlin's Forward Jen Colwell converted on a pass from Christina Smith making the score 2-0 and putting the win out of reach for the Quakers.

The game clock ran out and Virginia Wesleyan walked away with an automatic bid in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) tournament.

"After the referee's final whistle blew, the first thing I did was smile because the energy of the Wesleyan players was a little contagious, but [I smiled] mostly because I thought that all of my teammates and I played a great game," Ott said.

Despite not going to the NCAA playoffs, the 2006 Quakers still compiled one of their win-

ningest seasons ever.

"The team finished with a 13-6-3 record for the overall season, which ties with the school record for the number of wins in a season," said Dave Walters, Sports Information Director/Assistant Director of Athletics. "The team also had a 9-1-1 record for their ODAC conference games. This is the best record for the ODAC conference that the women's soccer team has had in the school's history."

The team has also received a number of individual accolades from the conference. Forward

Jannah Carter, the Quaker's leading scorer, was selected to the First Team All-ODAC squad while Boulineau and midfielder Caroline Hemmeter were chosen for the Second-Team.

When reflecting on the Quaker's successful season, Ott said, "I think that what makes us a strong team is that we're scrappy, we love playing, and we all have different strengths that combine to make a diverse and dangerous arsenal."

The squad expects to return 15 letter winners in 2007.



CREDIT

THE TEAM IS LOSING SIX SENIORS: ERIN ROTHWEILER, JENNAH CARTER, VERONICA ZYCH, RACHEL GWINN, DIANA NEWMAN AND EMILY OTT

Discover Guilford's most unique 'sport': Amtgard

Medieval warfare with duct tape, foam noodles, and socks

BY KIP REYNOLDS | STAFF WRITER

It's a beautiful Saturday afternoon and a brisk fall breeze stirs the golden leaves of Guilford's campus. Oddly, the familiar autumnal sound is accompanied by the distinct whack of foam coming from the Quad.

Sandwiched between the Quaker's final home football game in Armfield Stadium and a decisive women's soccer game out on the soccer field, Guilford's devoted Amtgard members are lining up for combat.

Amtgard is a live-action role-playing game that revolves around warfare using harmless foam weapons. The objective is to score touches, not injuries. The foam weapons are constantly being repaired so that they are soft and safe to play with.

The objective of Amtgard is to kill an opponent by touching either two of their limbs or their chest. Once a limb is touched, it cannot be used to hold a weapon or hold up a person. There are many different games, such as Black Knight, where all the limbs must be hit to score a kill, but there is never a game that allows a blow to the head.

"We won't put up with people getting hurt," said CCE student and

Amtgard organizer Nathan Murdoc. While the weapons are soft, they can still pack a powerful punch if swung with malicious intent.

"We allow everyone to play but won't allow anyone to get injured. We chase off anyone who is just looking to release some aggression," said sophomore club member Paul Facknitz. While there has not been any major injury, any participant must sign a waiver form so they cannot sue Guilford if they are injured.

The official Amtgard game started in El Paso, Texas, in 1983 and has grown with chapters around the nation. Players take on roles such as assassins or knights and act accordingly to their class. The game has a complex hierarchy of knights and kingdoms that ties the role-playing aspect together with the organization of chapters.

Amtgard players began battling on Guilford's emerald quad in 2002. The game was then adapted to the local population. Guilford Amtgard has done away with the role-playing aspect in favor of raw foam carnage.

"The more rules you have the more people complain," said Murdoc. Amtgard players believe that a fast action battle is preferable to role playing for many reasons. A major reason is simplicity.

"There are over 30 pages of rules for the official game," said Facknitz. Players decided that the complex rules would detract from

the purpose of the game and that purpose is to have fun. Amtgard is not only entertaining but is also a good source of physical activity.

"This is one of the few geeky activities where I get a work out," said Murdoc. An Amtgard player must use their entire body to quickly dodge powerful thrusts, block charging opponents, and deftly strike their fearful foe.

To add a little more spice to Amtgard, there are many different weapons to use than the average foam sword. There are small swords, two-handed swords, spears, hammers, maces, shields, foam nunchuks. Players have even made javelins and throwing axes out of old socks and foam.

The weapons are crafted by the players during scheduled workshops. The Guilford College Yachting Club allocates a small amount of money to Amtgard for the construction and upkeep of the weapons. "The duct tape is the most expensive part of the weapons," said Murdoc.

Amtgard might seem like an odd activity but the payoffs are countless. A participant is able to enjoy robust physical activity, brisk air and beaming sunlight on the quad, and the unique satisfaction of whacking people with foam.

As Amtgard veteran and Guilford Alumni Brock Mitshowitz said, "I've been playing since I was a wee lad and Amtgard is the awesomeness."

Hall of fame continued

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Guilford it would be how everyone cared," she said. "People would stop me as I walked down the pathway and ask, 'Hey Jen, how was your tennis match?' This is a close knit campus and the people really care."

Steven L. Harwell was an All-American golfer who won three college tournaments and had All-American honors as a senior after he placed ninth at the NAIA championships.

"On graduation day, I had to make a choice: walk across the stage to get my diploma, or walk the fairways at what was probably the best collegiate tournament at that time," said Harwell, speaking of his time at Guilford.

Calvin Hunter won the ODAC Football Player of the Year Award, Guilford's 1991 English Athletic Leadership Award, and graduated with 13 school records, three of which still stand today.

He went on to get more education when he left Guilford. Hunter earned his master's degree in sports management from Georgia Southern University in 1994 and a doctorate in sport management from the U.S. Sports Academy in 2005.

Others went on to play professional sports, like Tony Womack, who just finished his 16th season of professional baseball. He played in the Pittsburgh Pirates' minor league system and in 1997, became

the team's starting second baseman. That same year, Womack led the National League in stolen bases and was selected to play in the All-Star game. Womack, who was unable to attend the ceremony, has since been a member of five different major league baseball teams and has played in five of the past eight postseasons.

While at Guilford, Womack hit .337 and had 37 stolen bases. He also ranked among the national kickoff return leaders in the one season he played on Guilford's football team. Womack also won the Best Undergraduate Male Athlete Award and the English Athletic Leadership Award.

Other inductees included Walter "Buddy" Smith who played in the 1969 North Carolina Shriners All-Star Game. He was NAIA All-District and received All-Carolinas Conference recognition in 1966.

Jay Terrell was a four-year baseball letter who won all-state, all-district, and All-Carolinas Conference honors as a senior in 1972.

"When they called and told me I was being inducted into the Hall of Fame all I thought was, 'they must have looked at some stats that I wasn't aware of,'" said Terrell modestly.

The ceremony took place on Nov. 4 in Dana Auditorium. As the ceremony concluded the inductees and their families took pictures and were then served lunch in the dining hall.