



Quaker's
ODAC hopes
still alive
despite
tough loss
to Roanoke

By Jordan Alexander
STAFF WRITER

The high-flying Quaker volleyball team hosted Roanoke College this past Friday in their final conference match. Stakes were high as a win would have given Guilford an instant bid to the eight-team Old Dominion Athletic Conference (ODAC) tournament.

Adding to the atmosphere, this was Guilford's "Dig for the Cure" match. The women wore pink hair ribbons in an effort to elevate breast cancer awareness. For each dig, a donation was made to the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

Following a tough first set, Guilford bounced back strong in the second, claiming six of the first seven points. As the set wore on, the Maroons climbed the score-sheet to a seven-point lead.

First-year Mary Moody ignited the Quakers by serving eight straight crucial points. Sensing the Quakers' fire, the Maroons coach Blair Trail called a critical time-out. Upon resuming play, Roanoke stole three quick points to extinguish the Quakers' hot run and barely seizing the second set.

Under pressure and now behind two to none, the lady Quakes crafted their finest set of the night. Capitalizing on several Roanoke errors, sophomore co-captain Arina Miller and senior Shanika Tunnell's strong serves helped Guilford to a lead. Points began to trade back-and-forth until Miller and Tunnell combined for a timely block to win the third set 25-23.

Unfortunately the Maroons overpowered the Quakers in the final set thereby improving their overall record to a conference-best 23-3.

But although a tournament berth for the Quakers is not secure, their chances still look good.

"If Randolph College loses to the higher seed Virginia Wesleyan, we would stay in a two-way tie with them. Since we beat

Randolph head-to-head we have the upper-hand right now," explained Gann.

Possibly adding to the confusion, a Sweet Briar College win would place them into a three-way tie with Guilford and Randolph.

"If Sweet Briar wins, it will go down to the third tie-breaker, which was decided a long time ago," said Gann. "Back in May every team pulled a number out of a hat; thankfully Tom Palombo pulled number one for us."

With all of their conference games played, the ladies can only hope to make the ODAC tournament.

If given the chance, Miller is confident they will get an upset as the number eight seed.

"When we played Randolph-Macon (23-7, 9-0 in ODAC) earlier this season we only lost by three points in the 5th set. We are right there. When we are on and playing like a team, we can beat any team in this conference," said Miller regarding a potential rematch with current one-seed Randolph-Macon.

As this season is coming to a close and the youthful Quaker team waits for their tournament news, the prospect for 2009's team looks bright.

"We are definitely going to be one of the teams to look out for next season. We have a lot of returning players and we are only losing one senior next year," said sophomore Courtney Kozar.

Asserting that several of her young players have stepped up and filled major roles on the team, Gann is noticeably thrilled with the leaps the team has made this year.

"I try not to look to next season until this one is finished, but of course seeing them grow so much this season has got me really excited for next season."

The team's last two season games are home on Oct. 30 against Ferrum and Oct. 31 versus Salem. With a little luck, these two matches will not be their last.

Guilford's Kimbrough joins the Washington Generals

By Sam Jenkins
STAFF WRITER

Graduating from his college basketball career at Guilford, former varsity basketball star Caleb Kimbrough '08 has become a professional athlete. Kimbrough has signed a one-year guaranteed contract with the Washington Generals, better known as the ineffective opposition to the Harlem Globetrotters' comedic basketball routine.

In each "exhibition," the Globetrotters consistently trump the Generals by using incredibly complex and entertaining trick shots and plays. The Globetrotters appear to have effortless control of the ball throughout the game, while the Generals try to keep up with a game of heavily disciplined "straight ball," which is ultimately unsuccessful game after game.

Considering his track record with the Quakers, helping the Quakers to a 76-36 record in his four-year tenure, Kimbrough may have trouble getting used to losing every game. After all, his college career was impressive and his fans and teammates all know him as a dogged competitor.

First of all, there are the awards. These little nuggets of honor include Guilford's 2006-07 Quaker Club Ideal Student-Athlete Award, the 2008 Nereus C. English '26

Athletic Leadership Award, and the 2007 Richard Joyce Sportsmanship Award.

Throughout Kimbrough's Guilford career, the 5-foot-9-inch, 170-pound guard averaged 6.8 points per game and 1.9 rebounds per game — righteous stats by anyone's terms. He had 358 career assists and 130 steals, which placed him third overall at Guilford College.

"The man was a baller," said die-hard Kimbrough fan and third-year Guilford student Rachel McClure, "A true shot-caller. He will be missed."

Kimbrough played his first Generals-Globetrotters game on Oct. 8 in Harlem, N.Y., but only after a week of vigorous training.

"I played in the second quarter and scored a couple lay-ups and a short jump shot," said Kimbrough in his regularly updated blog. "I also have been chosen to be the Generals player that puts a glass covering over the Globetrotters' basket (due to my height, ha...ha) in the third quarter (by means of a ladder)."

Kimbrough commented on the predictable ending of the game with lighthearted enthusiasm.

"Overall, our team did a great job in the show and shot lights out," he wrote. "Unfortunately, we came up on the short end once again ... losing to the darn Globetrotters

92-86! Maybe next time."

On Oct. 12, Kimbrough left with the Generals and Globetrotters for Tel Aviv, Israel, where they began their Mediterranean tour. They will return Dec. 26 for a game in Green Bay, Wis. The Generals play 110 games in 115 days.

Varsity basketball coach Tom Palombo is glad to watch Kimbrough reach success, but still reminisces about their glory days.

"Caleb was an outstanding leader and one of the hardest workers I have ever

said. "He was an unbelievably hardworking player and left everything on the floor."

"He very much deserved that," said Anderson in response to Kimbrough's recent success.

"We were all excited about Caleb's opportunity to continue his playing career," said Palombo. "He loves basketball. He wants to coach one day and this will give him experiences he can take with him as he gains valuable experience."

To learn more about Kimbrough's experi-

"Unfortunately, we came up on the short end once again ... losing to the darn Globetrotters 92-86! Maybe next time."

Caleb Kimbrough

coached," Palombo wrote in an e-mail. "He was extremely competitive and did not like to lose whether it was a practice, drill or a game."

Former teammate and sophomore T.C. Anderson viewed Kimbrough as a role model for the whole team.

"On and off the floor he was a leader," he

ence, read his blog at <http://www.calebkimbrough.blogspot.com> for day-to-day updates on his burgeoning basketball career.

"I check it everyday," said McClure. "It makes me proud to know I have actually touched, with my own hands, a real Washington General and that the dude actually went to my college."