



BALANCING CULTURES AND SPORTS

Guilford athletes share what it is like when their culture impacts their sports

Milica Samoukovic
Reporter

Student athletes often express similar challenges, such as injuries and finding time for school, but a lesser-known challenge some athletes face is accommodating their religion and culture with their sports.

For example, Ridha Khan, junior basketball player, is Muslim. She has embraced her faith and culture while balancing basketball. Obstacles like “dress codes” that must be followed can interfere with uniforms of athletes.

“As a girl you’re not supposed to show as much skin, so we are required to wear leggings,” said Khan.

Religious holidays and traditions can also interrupt the balance between the sport and home life, in addition to affecting practices and games. Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, which is celebrated by Muslims by fasting. During fast, Muslims are only allowed to eat and drink at a specific time, so students who practice a sport during the time of Ramadan may experience dehydration.

“During the summer I fast, so I can’t

eat or drink during the day, so when we have practices I can’t drink,” said Khan.

Rituals that the team may have formed together, such as praying for a game, can also make situations uncomfortable for the athlete. Sheptim Jakupi, senior football player, is of Muslim faith. At times, he found himself conflicted between his team and his beliefs due to team traditions.

“Before games and such they (the football team) would pray and I would go along with it to try not to cause any trouble,” explained Jakupi.

Certain dress requirements in different reli-

gions or cultures are seen as violations among referees because of the way that specific dress can affect the player or other players.

“Once, last year, they (the referees) said I couldn’t play because my head piece was dangerous,” said Marquoya Polite, freshman basketball player, who attended West Middle School. “Since then, people have asked me before my games if I’m allowed to wear it or if it will come off, and it never has.”

Players also receive comments from team members on specific things like their wardrobe or eating or drinking habits.

For example, polite wears a hijab, a head covering worn in public by some Muslim women, and her teammates have mentioned her wearing it.

“They’re like ‘you’re a good player but you’d be even better if you didn’t have it’, and I tell them it’s a part of me,” said Polite.

Wearing religiously-appropriate clothing can interfere with players’ ability to function while playing their sport, but with time most athletes learn to adapt and embrace it.

“I am used to it (wearing my head-piece in a game), but it can get annoying sometimes,” explained Polite. “I was dribbling a ball in a game and I was like ‘I can’t see’, but it was fine, I learn how to work with it.”

Although bringing their religious and cultural traditions with them in their sport can cause discomfort or difficulties, these athletes are more than happy share information on their cultures and educate others on their traditions.

“Everyone always asks me the same amount of questions,” explained Khan. “If they’re curious, it’s fun for me to let them know.”



Marquoya Polite enjoys playing guard for her first year as a Guilford Viking.
Olivia Hagerty/PHOTO

BEARS vs. PACKERS

Chicago Bears and Green Bay are still one of the biggest rivalries in the NFL since 1921

Nick Eichstaedt
Reporter

The Chicago Bears and Green Bay Packers have one of the oldest and most heated rivalries in football over their 96 year existence. The Packers have a large fan base in the school considering we’re in Illinois and are so close to Chicago, which some may find surprising. This is often attributed to Rockford being close to the state line of Wisconsin and the Bears sub-par record as of recent years. Many students here are diehard fans of their team and have been for generations.

“My entire family has always been Packers fans, we watch every single

game,” said Garrett Gustafson, junior. “My grandpa was at the very first Super Bowl back in 1967. He even got a signed football from the game.”

The Chicago Bears and Green Bay Packers met for the very first time on November 27th, 1921 in a 20-0 Bears victory. The game took place at Wrigley Field in Chicago, where the Bears played their home games until 1970. The two teams have been in the same division ever since, playing each other at least two times a year, and have met for a total of 196 times including two playoff games, which is an NFL record. In this series the Packers hold a slight advantage at 96-94-6. As of recent games the Green Bay Packers have dominated the matchup winning 15 of the last 18 games

since 2010.

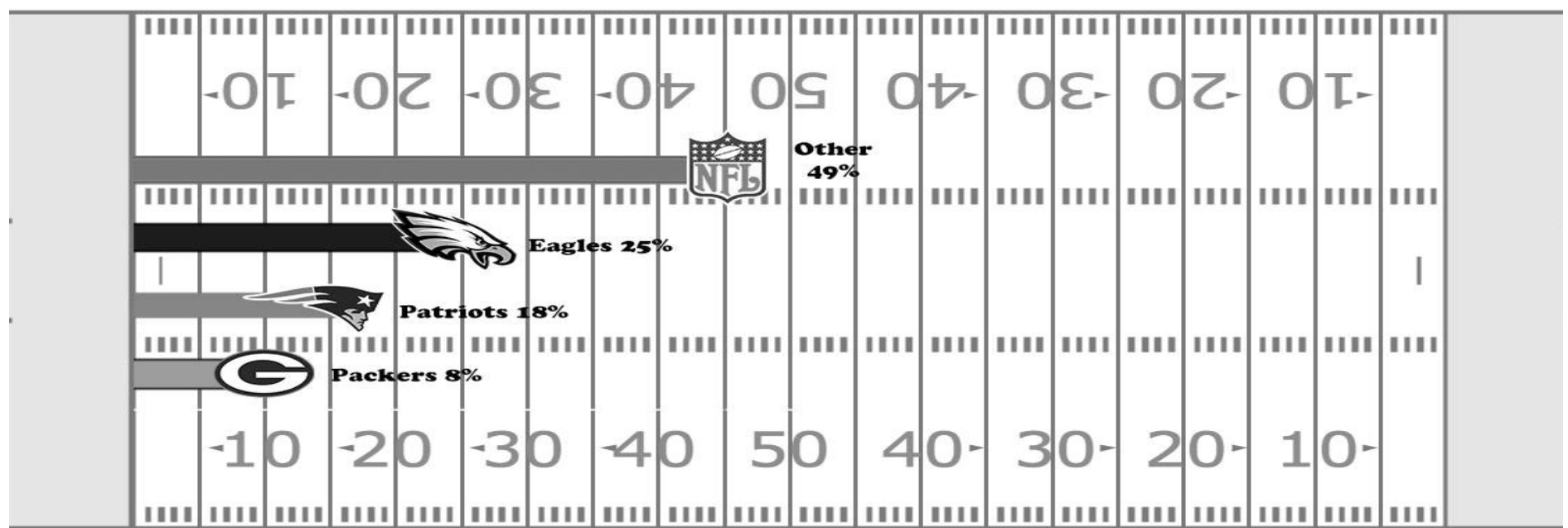
“It’s definitely been a tough matchup for the Bears as of recent years, but I think we’re trending in the right direction,” said Jeremiah Oudomsouk, freshman.

The most recent meeting took place on November 12th in a 23-16 Packers victory at Soldier Field. This game saw two unfamiliar quarterbacks start, as this was the first game since 2009 that Jay Cutler and Aaron Rodgers did not play in a meeting between the two teams. Jay Cutler was cut by the Bears earlier this year while Aaron Rodgers was sidelined with a broken collar bone in week six. “I think at least 80% of our recent success has been due to Aaron Rodgers,” said geometry teacher Nathan Johnson. “With his injury everybody else has had

to step up and I think it’s going to make us stronger in the end.”

Brett Hundley started in for the Packers, while Mitchell Trubisky started for the Bears. Trubisky was drafted in 2017 in the second overall pick. The rookie played his first game five games into the season, after the Bears benched Mike Glennon, and has started ever since. Trubisky has widely been considered a vital part of the team’s future by most fans. “I think he has potential to be a great quarterback for the Bears,” said Jack Holmstrom, sophomore, “I’m really excited to see what he can do for our future.”

SUPERBOWL LII PREDICTIONS



Information provided by Jeff Larsen;100 students polled



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SPORTS 11

COACH IN THE SPOTLIGHT: David Woosley

Guilford teacher and three sport coach embodies the Viking spirit

Olivia Hagerty
Editor-In-Chief

It was a warm fall night for the Boylan vs Guilford 2017 girls' tennis match, and Dori Russo, sophomore, and the crew were neck and neck with the Titans. Coach David Woosley helped create a strategy of 'standing back,' a tennis term for playing off the net, and reminded ev-



Hannah Willis, senior, celebrates with Coach Woosley and her team at the 2017 girls tennis banquet. Hannah Willis/PHOTO

ery girl of their strengths. Russo, playing with her doubles partner Lyndsy Martin, took his advice and won, adding to the Viking score; the team ended up beating the Titans after an unexpected win.

"We weren't expected to win against Boylan because they were in the same seed as us," said Russo. "But Woosley created a strategy so we were able to win."

Like Russo, many people have been inspired by Coach Woosley. Health and Physical education teacher, boys & girls' tennis coach, and wrestling coach, Woosley has made an impact on Guilford athletics and academics for the GHS Vikings. Three years after coming into the Viking Ship, Mr. Woosley has found his place.

"I have been to three schools and this place is by far the best place I have worked at," said Mr. Woosley. "I love Guilford. There is so much diversity in the student body and I love the interactions with the students here."

Coaching three sports has opened the door for many connections and relationships for Mr. Woosley. Dylan Burton, senior wrestler, has been motivated and determined to improve with his coach's help.

"He has showed me that no matter how many times you get knocked down and

beaten, you will always be able to get back up and work harder to be better," said Burton. "Woosley has humor. It's like no other and he never ceases to get a laugh out of me."

Mr. Woosley never fails to get students involved in the three sports he plays because he wants as many kids as possible to try the sport. Russo never saw herself playing tennis, but Woosley encouraged her to do it and she doesn't regret it.

"He recruited me for tennis after I had never thought of being involved in a fall sport until he talked to me," said Russo. "He is very dedicated and cares for every one of his players both individually and as a team."

Never thinking he would be a head coach of three sports, Mr. Woosley decided to step in the position and go for it. Balancing coaching and teaching can come with many challenges, but with the help of his supportive wife, family, and staff, he is able to accomplish it.

"The teaching and coaching aspect is so hard as far as managing time, but I make it a point to balance everything the best I can," said Mr. Woosley. "My



Coach Woosley critiques a wrestler's form during a 'live match' at practice. Olivia Hagerty/PHOTO.

goal is to make everything as fun as I can because life would be boring without having fun. It has all taught me how to manage time and be a hard worker."

Guilford's goal is to be 'Guilford Strong', and with the help of people like Mr. Woosley it is accomplished every day. Woosley takes pride in what being a Viking stands for and couldn't be happier about what he gets to do on a day to day basis.

"Guilford and its athletics is on the rise," said Mr. Woosley. "We as a whole are always improving and getting better. I don't have a dream job anymore because I'm living it."

MASCOTS ON THE OFFENSE?

Jeffrey Larsen
Reporter

Sports teams today often have logos and mascots based upon two things: animals and history. In the three major American sports – football, baseball, and basketball – 34% of all teams' logos/mascots are animal based. History driven logos tend to be associated with the city or region the team is located in, and this may influence the way teams are named. History has inspired names such as the New England Patriots, derived from the region's efforts in the American Revolution, or the Pittsburgh Steelers, which is based on the city's vast steel industry.

Many of these teams have positive and accurate historical depictions, but some do not. Some teams have inaccurate and even racist depictions of certain cultures. The culture depicted the most, though, is that of Indigenous Americans.

"We (as a people), need to be sensitive to any language or images offending all cultures, including Native Americans," said Ms. Itasha Montgomery, Spanish teacher.

The example dominating headlines is that of the Washington Redskins, a professional football team that has been in existence since 1933. For many teams now being criticized for cultural insensitivity, the offensive part of their image is the logo, and not the language. With Washington, the imagery isn't seen as being too offensive; rather, it is the name

that is the part that offends many. The name has been traced back to several different origins; some say it was derived from a European term for face painting, while others say it is a reference to scalping. Either way, these are not fondly remembered origins for Native Americans. But Washington's owner, Dan Snyder, has vowed to never rebrand the team.

"A Redskin is a football player," said Snyder, "A Redskin is our fans, the Washington Redskin fan base. It represents honor, represents respect, represents pride, hopefully winning." (www.washingtonpost.com).

Conversely teams like the Florida State Seminoles and the University of Utah Utes, both received Native American blessing for their existing names and imagery.

"If the depiction is negative or portrays a certain people in a negative light, then it shouldn't be," said senior Lance Hainchek, a die-hard Florida State Seminoles fan.

Other teams have received outcries to change their logo. An example of this would be the University of Illinois, who, for some, is perfectly fine, and for others, need to completely cut ties with Chief Illiniwek, the team's mascot.

"Hononegah Indians and Chicago Blackhawks are fine," said Maya Peyneta, Junior, who is half Zuni Pueblo, a northwest New Mexican Tribe. "But Washington Redskins is a bit offensive knowing that we were discriminated against and called 'Redskins.' it's a racial slur."



Lance Hainchek and his dog Duncan named after Duncan Keith, defenseman on the Chicago Blackhawks, repin' their favorite hockey team. Lance Hainchek/PHOTO

A look into GHS BASKETBALL

Kai'terra Ross
Reporter

The 2017-2018 boys and girls basketball season has begun, and both teams hope to prove they have what it takes to compete to be on top of Nic-10's list.

"I hope the entire basketball program works to better their best on a daily basis," says Matt Huels, head coach of girls' varsity team. "If a commitment is made to get better each and every day, then a positive change will happen over the course of the season."

Coaches and players are excited for the new season and hope to see better things coming. Nik Stadelman, sophomore varsity player, believes this team has a lot to offer and is looking to improve on last year's 3 win season.

"I hope to see our team working better together than last year," said Stadelman. "Hopefully we are in higher Nic-10 standings than last year."

Both teams' goals this season are to improve from last year and work on different individual skills to get better.

"Working together, communication skills, and relationship bonding on the court will definitely help us get better this year," said Ty'Meria Taylor, junior.

Myliaha Ezeofor, sophomore, wants to improve the game and get to know her new team mates this year. Transferring from Lutheran High School, Ezeofor has accepted her new team and is ready for the season as

a Viking.

"I can describe my team as hardworking and funny," said Ezeofor. "Everyone on the team is very welcoming and helpful."

This year's boys' team consists of nine returning players and five new players. Only having one senior, eight juniors, and five sophomores, the boys hope to accomplish a lot with such a young team. "We're new and green this year," said Joshua Williams, junior. "The competition level we will be playing on is ridiculously high because our team is so young, but we are definitely ready for what we have to take on."

Accomplishing goals that a coach has set is always on an athlete's mind. Daviona Storey, senior, loves the game, her team, and playing for Guilford. Her final season is something important for her.

"From day in and day out

the game is always on my mind," said Storey. "Our team is a family, we may not get along but I can call on them and vice versa. I hope as a team we can accomplish goals our coach has set for us."

The girls' team has ten returning girls and four new girls. Of the four girls, two are freshmen, and two are juniors.

"This year's team has great depth," said Huels. "Each day in practice all girls are committed to competing against each other to make each other better."



Matt Huels & Dean Martinetti/PHOTO