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Ex-New Hanover standout leaving her mark at Guilford

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While it's not a metric easily kept, a basketball player's consistency throughout the season is monitored about as closely as any stat sheet number. Consistency builds confidence; a player trusts his or her abilities, which gives a coach one less thing to worry about.

For Guilford College center and New Hanover High School alumna Morgan King, among a stat sheet full of impressive numbers, her consistency shines brightest.

King came to Guilford after an impressive career at New Hanover and immediately produced for the Quakers. As a freshman, she played in all 27 games, averaging a team-best 7.9 rebounds a game, fifth in the Old Dominion Athletic Conference.

As a sophomore, King started 25 of 26 games. She averaged third or better in team points, rebounds and blocks per game. As a junior, her numbers landed her on the All-ODAC second team while her team captured a conference title.

Now a senior and team captain, King is busy putting the finishing touches on a brilliant career. She's averaging a career high in points per game (12.3) while leading Guilford to a 10-2 start. Captaincy is a role King says she's learning to embrace.

"Since I was a freshman, we've had a bunch of great captains and leaders," King said, "and this year, I get to be just that. All I'm trying to do is replicate what (the other captains) have done over the years."

That leadership, something King admitted was one of her focal points, isn't going unnoticed.

"She's stepped it up as a senior and a leader this year," said Guilford coach Stephanie Flamini. "She has stepped into a leadership role, knowing that she has to play well every game for us to be successful."

Guilford, picked second in the ODAC preseason poll, can push to the top of the league with upcoming games against Randolph-Macon and Eastern Mennonite coming in the next couple weeks.

Also to come in the near future: King is nine points from 1,000 in her career. She would be the 18th player in program history to reach that milestone. It was a goal that King said she set for herself as a freshman, but not one she'll spend too much time dwelling on.

"In the moment, I'm sure it will be a cool experience," King said, "but winning the game will be much more important to me."



Former New Hanover High School basketball standout Morgan King is approaching 1,000 points for her career at Guilford College. Photo courtesy Guilford College

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