

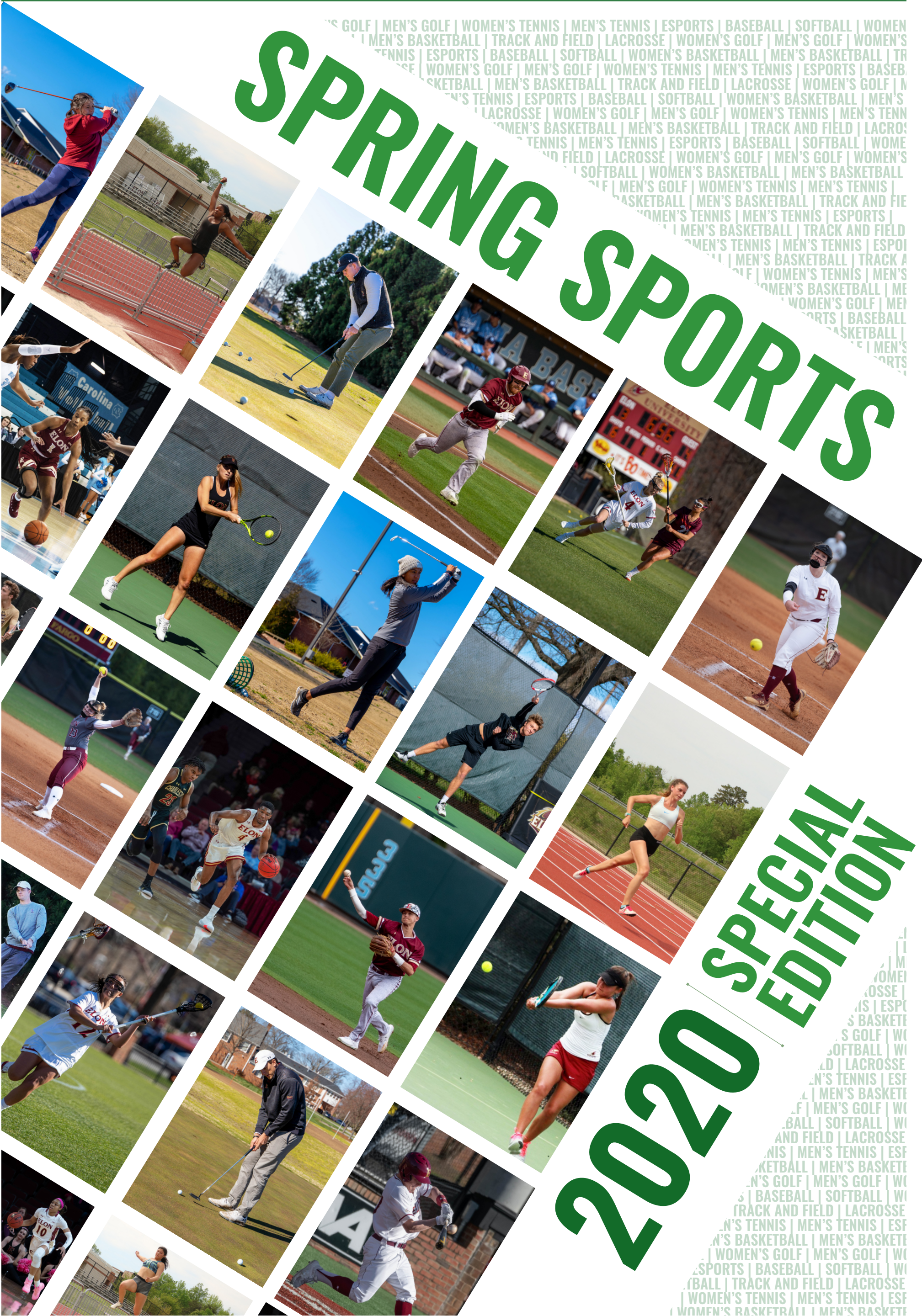
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2020  
VOLUME 47, EDITION 20  
ELON, NORTH CAROLINA

# THE PENDULUM

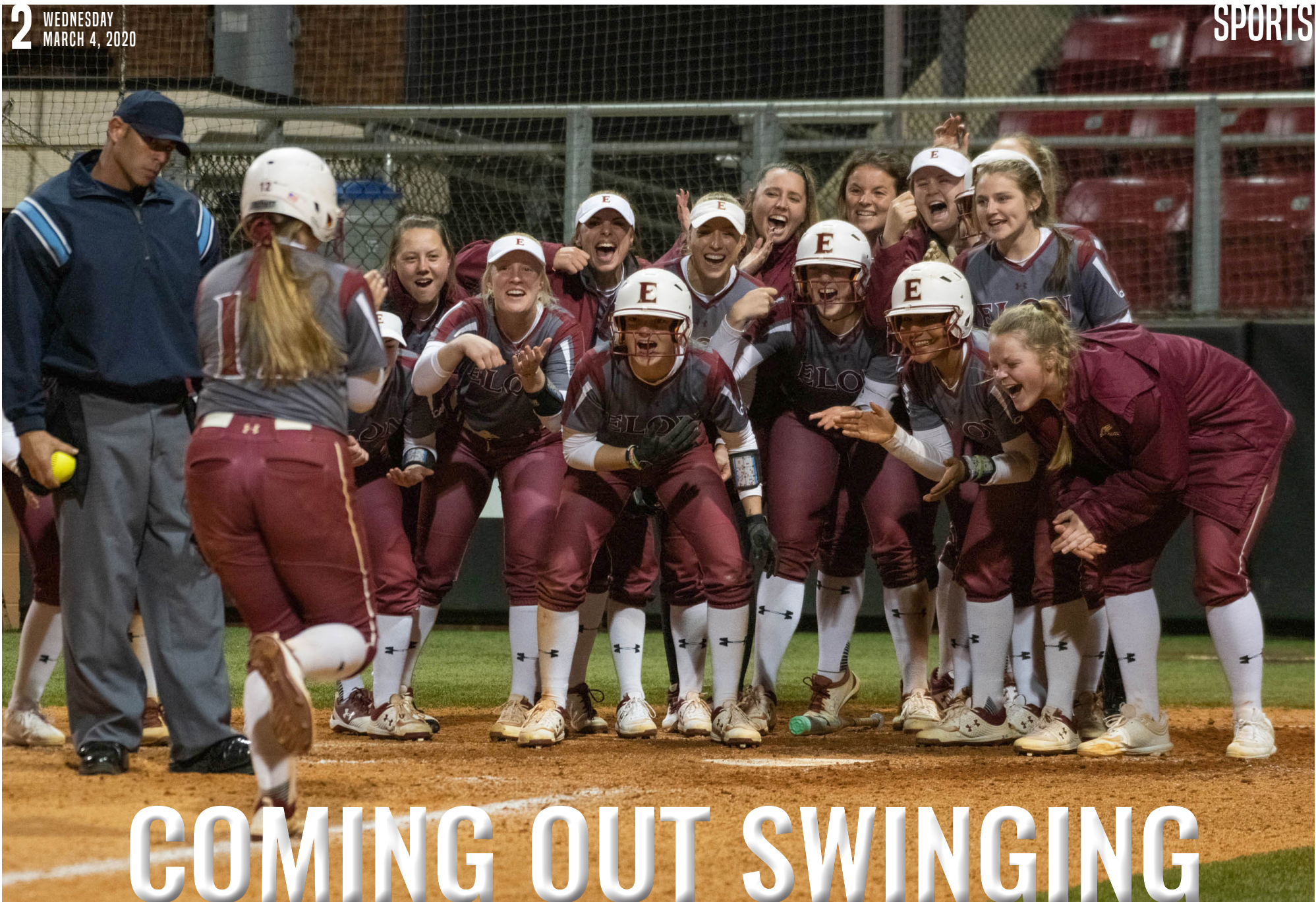
# SPRING SPORTS

SPECIAL  
EDITION

# 2020







THOMAS DENOME | ASSISTANT COPY CHIEF

Elon University's softball team celebrates a 3-run home run from Megan White during the game against the University of Rhode Island on Sunday, Feb. 8. The Phoenix beat the Rams 5-0.

Elon University's softball players grind to elevate the team after last year's historic effort

**Caitlin Rundle**  
Elon News Network | @caitlinr\_21

At the end of a historic season for Elon University's softball team, head coach Kathy Bocock braced herself to lose seven seniors. Those seniors had been working together for the past four years, and according to Bocock, had a level of comfort with each other that could only come with experience. That experience and trust in each other led to a historic season, with the team working its way to the Colonial Athletic Association's championship game against number one seed James Madison University. This was the first CAA championship game the Phoenix have ever appeared in, and Bocock doesn't intend for it to be the last.

Bocock said the championship loss is not something she dwells on anymore, and she is looking ahead to this season.

"Believe it or not, I might have thought about it June and July, but once August rolled around, I have a whole new group," Bocock said. "I really appreciate everything that we did last year and all the hard work that all the young ladies put in. But for me, that's the past now. We're trying to move forward to a new year."

The Phoenix ended its last season with a 33-20-1 overall record and a 13-7 record in the CAA. This year, the Phoenix is riding the momentum, taking on big-name schools like University of South Carolina, Duke University and Boston College early in its roster.

A major accomplishment for the Phoenix this preseason was coming out of its game against University of North Carolina Chapel Hill with a win on Feb. 26.

Senior Morgan Reich has played games against UNC before and said she was doing her best to stay relaxed against the Tar Heels. "We played really good defense. I felt like we were doing the job, both ways," Reich said. "As a whole, I think we were just really into the game and being very serious."

Bocock said that none of her players seemed nervous, and she praised her team for not feeling pressure playing UNC. Bocock said her team played that game like it was just any other game.

During softball's preseason, the Phoenix earned a number two rank in the CAA preseason poll, receiving one vote for a first place spot. At first, Bocock said she was surprised they were ranked that high, as the team had graduated seven seniors of a 19-person team and welcomed six new freshmen. This year's roster has 18 players.

The CAA preseason poll is submitted by conference coaches. Coaches cannot vote for their own team, and ranks are assigned after all votes are in.

"I go in and actually do my homework, and look at all the teams and who they've graduated and then what they should be," Bocock said. "Being picked second is awesome because that's how far our program has come. It shows that so many people have so much respect for us."

“

THESE YOUNG LADIES  
ARE INCREDIBLE  
STUDENT ATHLETES  
FOR WHAT THEY DO  
ON A DAILY BASIS

**KATHY BOCOCK**  
HEAD COACH

Those six new players combined with the sophomore class make up for almost 80% of the roster. Bocock said it reminded her of her 2016 team, which was comprised of two seniors, Kayla Caruso and Emily Cameron. That year also featured a roster in which over half of the players were underclassmen.

The lack of experience in her current team doesn't bother Bocock, though, because she already has been able to recognize the physical talent the group possesses.

"All of them have so much great potential, but it's maturing for them right now and trusting themselves. It's not their physical wellbeing; it's their mental," Bocock said. "They're probably their worst enemies at times. But as far as their softball skills, stuff like that, they're still learning, but the more they learn, the better they can get."

As a senior, Reich also gets a chance to

observe the new players and agrees with her coach that her fellow teammates have potential.

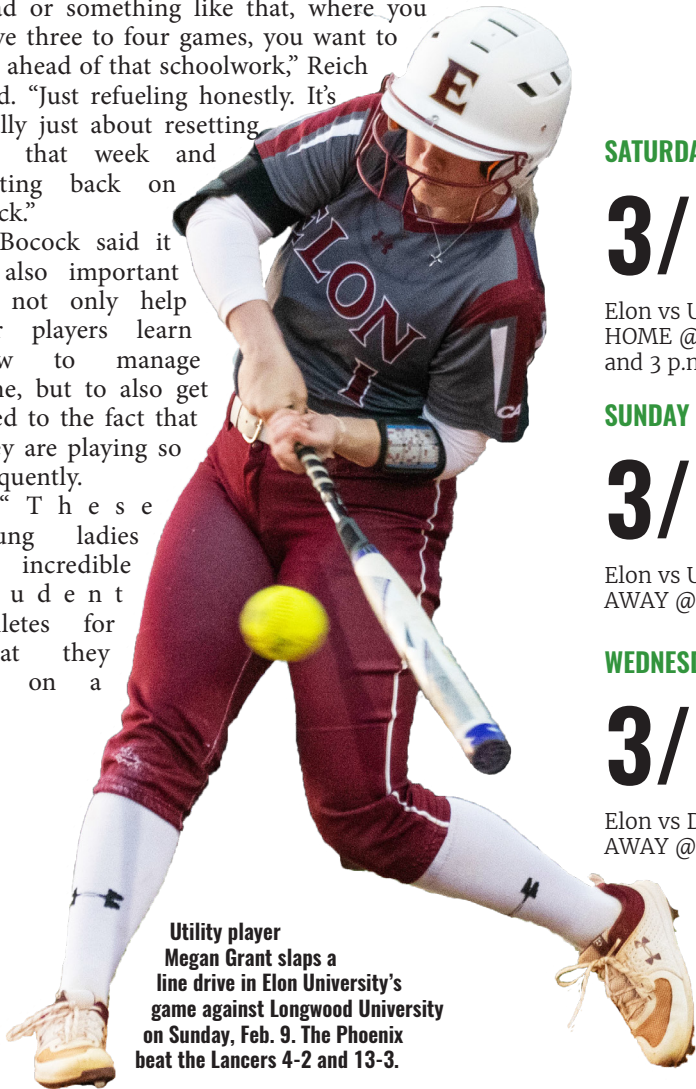
"It'll be really fun to see how they play in the next few games," Reich said. "I just think that they can play so many different positions, and so you never know what can happen at any given moment."

Bocock said one of the largest adjustments for any freshman she has is time management. Unlike most other sports on campus, baseball and softball will play almost 60 games in the main season. Reich said that for new players, it can be hard to manage their time effectively, but it becomes second-nature with experience.

"Off-days are really good days to just catch up with schoolwork. I spend most of my day just trying to get ahead for the week, especially because when you know you have a midweek game, and then if you're on the road or something like that, where you have three to four games, you want to get ahead of that schoolwork," Reich said. "Just refueling honestly. It's really just about resetting for that week and getting back on track."

Bocock said it is also important to not only help her players learn how to manage time, but to also get used to the fact that they are playing so frequently.

“T h e s e  
young ladies  
are incredible  
s t u d e n t  
athletes for  
what they  
do on a



Utility player Megan Grant slaps a line drive in Elon University's game against Longwood University on Sunday, Feb. 9. The Phoenix beat the Lancers 4-2 and 13-3.

daily basis," Bocock said. "We're not taking anything away from the other teams, but baseball and softball is long. I know basketball is both semesters, and it's long, but they don't play that many games. So they get more practice time and then games, whereas once we get started, we have a little bit of practice, basically, and a lot of games."

The preparation has already paid off for the Phoenix. Its talent and potential are showing in its early games. It is also what Bocock is hoping will get her team exactly where she wants them.

"Championship game for sure. And this year, trying to win it," Bocock said. "We tried to win it last season, we fell a little short, but definitely, that's where we want to see ourselves."

SATURDAY

3/7

Elon vs UNCG  
HOME @ 1 p.m.  
and 3 p.m.

SUNDAY

3/8

Elon vs UNCG  
AWAY @ 1 p.m.

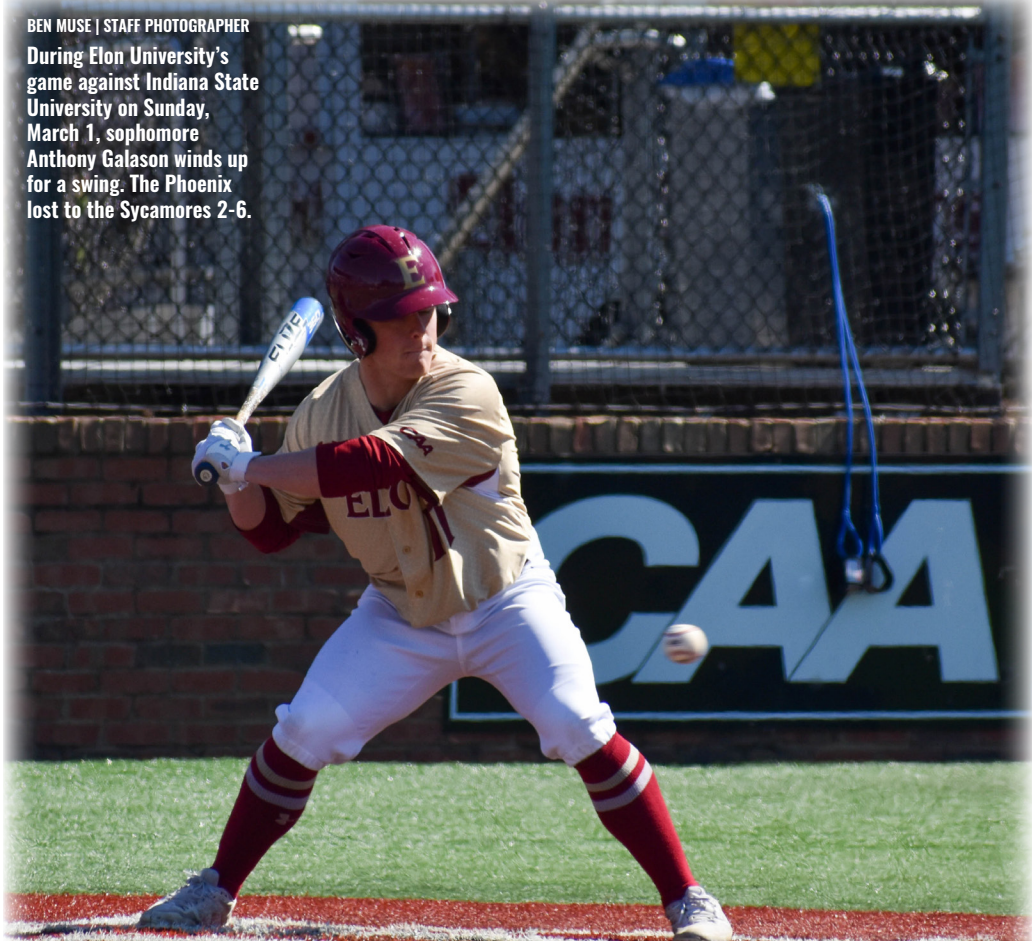
WEDNESDAY

3/11

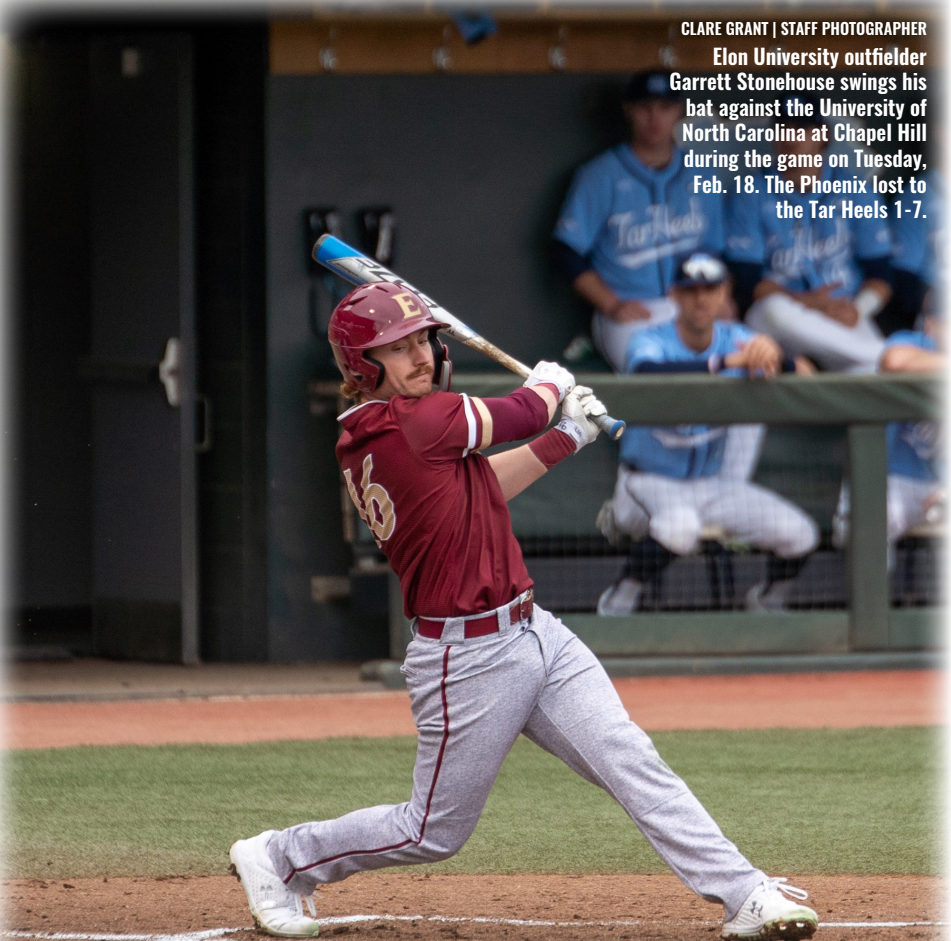
Elon vs Duke  
AWAY @ 6 p.m.

UPCOMING GAMES





BEN MUSE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
During Elon University's game against Indiana State University on Sunday, March 1, sophomore Anthony Galason winds up for a swing. The Phoenix lost to the Sycamores 2-6.



CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Elon University outfielder Garrett Stonehouse swings his bat against the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill during the game on Tuesday, Feb. 18. The Phoenix lost to the Tar Heels 1-7.

# CLOSE IN THE DUGOUT, CLOSING ON A TITLE

Baseball veterans confident in the team's atmosphere as it starts the season with hopes of tournament success

**Jon Sarver Jr.**  
Elon News Network | @sarver\_jon

After falling one victory shy of taking home the conference championship last season, Elon University's baseball team is moving forward and making another run at the conference championship in 2020.

Junior pitcher Jared Wetherbee said consistency is key for returning players.

"Last year's in the past, but I think coming into this year, all these older guys are just focused on having those consistent results year-to-year," Wetherbee said. "Coming into this season after such a great year last year, all the older guys are looking at each other like, 'Let's repeat it. Let's get back there again, and let's end this one with a win.'"

“

WE LOST A LOT OF GUYS, BUT WE'RE GONNA BE A DAMN GOOD TEAM THIS YEAR. WE HAVE A LOT OF YOUNG GUYS WHO ARE READY TO GO. AND WE GOT A LOT OF VETERANS WHO ARE READY TO LEAD.”

**JARED WETHERBEE**  
PITCHER

As Elon (6-6) takes the field, a unique set of skills and experience flood the diamond. This year's team features freshman pitchers and position players navigating their first collegiate season, sophomores taking on larger roles and

upperclassmen trying to lead the Phoenix back to the top of the Colonial Athletic Association standings.

Senior utility player Garrett Stonehouse echoed a similar sentiment and said this year's squad is talented enough to get back to the top.

"We have a big picture and we want to obviously fulfill that goal," Stonehouse said. "[We] came up a little short last year, and that's kind of been our motivation. We want to get to that next step, and we obviously believe that we have enough talent to do so."

The Phoenix has steadily risen in the conference ranks since entering the CAA and was able to finish the 2019 regular season in first place. In 2017, Stonehouse's first year, Elon finished in sixth place in the conference.

Now in his fourth season as a Phoenix, Stonehouse said this year's upperclassmen and freshman have a closer relationship than previous seasons.

"We're a tight-knit group. ... We do everything together on and off the field, and that's something we never really had, especially in the early years," Stonehouse said. "It's not just your senior class out there doing that; it's from freshmen. Your freshmen hanging out with seniors and vice versa, so it's a good mix."

The Phoenix are 12 games into the 2020 season. While the pitching staff has seen notable changes, Elon's offense has remained consistent.

Infielders Cam Devanney and Ty Adcock moved on to professional baseball, but a few of the returning seniors include Stonehouse, infielders Adam

Spurlin and Joe Satterfield, catcher Nick Cicci and outfielder Tyler Stanley.

Despite having experienced veterans who can create an advantage for the Phoenix, head coach Mike Kennedy said

performing on the field is just as important.

"Getting experience is a big factor being successful at this level, but the experience doesn't always mean you're gonna be successful," Kennedy said. "You've got to be able to handle the bat and execute certain situations. You got to keep getting better."

After starting in nearly every game as a freshman, sophomore outfielder Anthony Galason said taking on a big role in his first season taught him the importance of failure. He also said he hopes to be a resource for the freshmen on the team.

"This game is hard. You got to learn how to fail and play right," Galason said. "Hopefully, I could teach them how to play hard and learn how to fail and be a good teammate on and off the field."

Galason also said he is focused on the aspects of the game he can control.

"No matter where I'm at in the lineup, it's a blessing that I'm able to be here," Galason said. "I'm just going to play as hard as I can every single day. ... The only thing I can control is my energy and my preparation."

In his third season, the left-handed Wetherbee has become the top weekend starting pitcher for the Phoenix, assuming a role that was once held by now-Baltimore Orioles minor league pitcher

Kyle Brnovich. Behind Wetherbee on the weekend crew are freshman Spencer Bauer and senior Dean McCarthy.

In three 2020 starts, Wetherbee has maintained a 1.76 ERA to go along with 22 strikeouts in over 15 innings. He said playing behind players like Brnovich and George Kirby, now a pitcher in the Seattle Mariners system, has helped him prepare for his new role.

"I was blessed with such a great opportunity to be

behind two great guys and great pitchers," Wetherbee said. "It has put me in a real good position to sort of assume that role."

The 2020 season is still in its the early stages, but conference play is right around the corner. With a blend of both new and weathered players up and down the Phoenix's roster, Wetherbee said this year's team will be great.

"We lost a lot of guys, but we're gonna be a damn good team this year," Wetherbee said. "We have a lot of young guys who are ready to go. And we got a lot of veterans who are ready to lead."

WEDNESDAY

3/4

Elon vs NC A&T  
AWAY @ 4 p.m.

FRIDAY

3/6

Elon vs Illinois  
HOME @ 4 p.m.

SATURDAY

3/7

Elon vs Illinois  
HOME @ 2 p.m.

SUNDAY

3/8

Elon vs Illinois  
HOME @ 1:30 p.m.

TUESDAY

3/10

Elon vs East Carolina  
HOME @ 6:30 p.m.

## UPCOMING GAMES



THOMAS DENOME | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Sophomore pitcher Jared Wetherbee takes the mound in a game against Indiana State University on Friday, Feb. 28.



# Following through on a PROMISE

The memory of a season-ending loss motivates women's tennis to follow through on last season's dream

Caitlin Rundle  
Elon News Network | @caitlinr\_21

The loss of one match ended Elon University women's tennis teams' collective dream to make it to the conference title last year. The memory of losing to the College of William & Mary is keeping the team — especially head coach Elizabeth Anderson — motivated to achieve what last year's team couldn't.

Anderson said she doesn't want to forget how it felt to come that close but still fall short. She said she reminds herself of that match for one reason: motivation.

According to Anderson, athletes never forget those types of losses. She said it's important to look back and grow from it, a practice Anderson is trying to instill in the teams' three new players.

“TEAM CULTURE FOR US IS WORKING HARD. IT'S JUST DOING ALL THE LITTLE THINGS RIGHT.”

ELIZABETH ANDERSON  
HEAD COACH

“I think for them as players, also for me as a coach, it challenges you,” Anderson said. “You want to be successful, and you want the team to do the best that they can. The toughest times are the times that you learn the most. You can grow the most also as a team.”

Senior Alex Konjaev said she recognizes the mixed emotions from the girls who played William & Mary. The match came down to just one point, making some players feel as if they should've done more, while other players think of it with pride. But it's a match that, like Anderson, Konjaev said she tries to remember.

“I know some players on my team, even though they played really well, and had an amazing match, and an amazing win and other people didn't, some people kind of just try not to think about it because it was heartbreaking for them,” Konjaev said. “For me, it was a good thing to sometimes look back at it because my level was so good in that match. Sometimes I want to think like, ‘Oh, what was I doing there that made me so successful?’”

Anderson has been coaching the Phoenix for 16 years. She said this team's ability to face adversity stands out. Anderson said as a coach, she tries her best to push all her players to be the best they can be, but when she sees the players want it for themselves — as this team has — it makes her job that much easier.

“I think that separates the good teams and the great teams and the championship teams,” Anderson said.

Anderson  
h a s

specifically focused on team culture and chemistry, which she said is an important part of a team's makeup for a roster of eight players. However, culture and chemistry aren't the only points of emphasis for Anderson.

“Team culture for us is working hard. It's just doing all the little things right,” Anderson said. “From a team chemistry standpoint, I think really enjoying playing for each other and enjoying building each other up and having a lot of really good excitement. They're cheering for each other and pumping each other up, and that, I think, has been really impressive to me this year.”

The Phoenix ended last season with a 13-12 record and graduated three seniors. The team picked up three new players this year: two current freshmen, Shauna Galvin and Kiana Rizzolo, and a transfer from the University of South Carolina Upstate, sophomore Victoria Saldh.

Saldh has wasted no time making her mark at Elon, earning her first CAA Player of the Week in February.

“It hasn't been the easiest, as a transfer, to go from one school to another, and she just really embraced it,” Konjaev said. “Playing next to her, I thrive off of her energy. I'm just really proud of how hard she competes in every single match that she plays.”

Anderson said  
s h e

UPCOMING GAMES

FRIDAY  
3/7  
Elon vs. JMU  
AWAY @ 11 a.m.

SUNDAY  
3/13  
Elon vs. College of Charleston  
AWAY @ 2 p.m.

FRIDAY  
3/10  
Elon vs. Clemson  
HOME @ 5 p.m.

recognizes Saldh's talent and is excited to see her continue to grow.

“She's just an incredible competitor,” Anderson said. “Victoria approaches every day as, ‘I'm going to get better. Every day I'm locked into practice.’ [She's] extremely coachable, just works really hard, and her game has really taken off.”

The Phoenix has had to prove itself early, playing schools such as Duke University, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill and East Carolina University in preseason play. The Phoenix was victorious over East Carolina but fell to UNC and Duke. Although the mentality stays the same for the Phoenix regardless of its opponent, Anderson said games like those are learning opportunities.

“We pick up on some different things that they may be doing that we want to do,” Anderson said. “Their intensity level and their footwork, and they're really getting to the balls really well. I mean, they're very focused at that level. Sometimes some of it is a focus intensity level that separates it.”

Though small in size, Anderson said every player will have her own role to play in hopes of making it to the championship game.

“This season is all about a journey. It's all about improving. You're just trying to continue to get better. Ultimately, our goal is to win the conference, but there's a lot of steps along the way,” Anderson said. “I think just continuing to keep our focus on having the best culture that we can, having the best chemistry, having players continue working hard every single day — If we focus on those small things, then I think it will give us the best chance of getting where we want to go.”

## BY THE NUMBERS

8  
consecutive wins by the women's tennis team.

4  
of the last eight wins the team has won without conceding a point.

CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Sophomore Olivia Archer hits the ball back to a UNCW opponent at the Jimmy Powell Tennis Center on Saturday Feb. 22. The Phoenix won 5-2.



# DEFENDING the King’s court

Men’s tennis looks to repeat historic 2019 conference championship anchored by veteran leadership

Colby Cook | Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork



THE EARLY SIGNS OF spring also signal the beginning of the 2020 men’s tennis season. The Phoenix looks to maintain its CAA Championship and make it to the NCAA tournament for the second consecutive season.

The road back to the NCAA tournament will not be an easy one. The Phoenix has already tackled the Research Triangle with games against two ranked teams, the North Carolina Tar Heels and the North Carolina State Wolfpack. The Phoenix has also played in Durham against Duke. The experience will likely serve as a meaningful practice for later in the season.

“BUT HERE, IT’S DIFFERENT. IT’S A GROUP, SO IT DOESN’T MATTER IF YOU LOSE OR YOU WIN. IF THE TEAM WINS, IT’S POSITIVE FOR THE TEAM.”

CAMILO PONCE  
JUNIOR

“We all know that what we’re trying to do is peak in April,” said Michael Leonard, men’s tennis head coach. “We know there’s a lot of potential in this team. ... We’ve got to get healthy, and we’ve got to continue to work hard. And we think if we can do that, then we can be in the hunt at the end of the season.”

The tough tests at the beginning of the schedule were planned for Leonard, now in his 16th season at the helm of the Phoenix program, anchored by juniors Camilo Ponce and Kyle Frankel.

“We always try to stack a schedule. ... It’s good to kind of get used to the highest caliber to kind of see where you stand,” Leonard said. “I think it is good for our players, kids like Camilo and Kyle, to play against the best. They want that opportunity. ... They look forward to that opportunity.”

Elon still has to play East Tennessee State, Virginia Commonwealth and the U.S. Naval Academy, all of which made the NCAA tournament last season. The Phoenix will also face off against conference foes William & Mary in Williamsburg, James Madison University in Harrisonburg and College of Charleston at the home at Jimmy Powell Tennis Center.

Ponce, hailing from Quito, Ecuador, is one of the older faces on the team. He said he looks to assist the younger players while building upon his stellar 2019 season. He was named All-CAA Second Team in doubles his sophomore season, and he won the championship-clinching match at the No. 5 position at the 2019 CAA Championships.

“I try to motivate them, push them hard and also have a good relationship with them, so they can hear me and also I can learn from them as well,” Ponce said.

Ponce knows the team dynamic is at the core of the collegiate game. He said the team aspect of college matches differs from the tournaments he was used to.

“I was playing more international tournaments, and it’s all by yourself. So you work for yourself. You are looking for results for yourself,” Ponce said. “But here, it’s different. It’s a group, so it doesn’t matter if you lose or you win. If the team wins, it’s positive for the team.”

Improvement is integral to success for Leonard as the Phoenix tries to reach the NCAA tournament for the second year in a row.

“Our goal is each day to try to get better and try to improve in each match,” Leonard said. “You see a difference in our competitive nature and our ability to kind of fight through adversity and things of that nature.”

Leonard said he is looking forward to the change of venue and the players’ opportunity to travel together.

“I don’t mind going the road some,” Leonard said. “We’ve been [at Jimmy Powell] several years in a row. So, I’m actually looking forward to the guys traveling and being together.”

It will be a difficult journey for the Phoenix if it wishes to repeat as CAA champions and return to the NCAA tournament, but Leonard said his staff is striving to maximize the team’s potential.

“From my side, our objective as a team is to be — when we get to the conference tournament — be as competitive as we can and get the best we can give in the court. And hopefully, we can do that,” Leonard said. “And get the championship, of course. But, it’s a long path. Every match is going to help us improve.”

## UPCOMING GAMES

WEDNESDAY  
3/4  
Elon vs. College of Charleston  
HOME @ 3 p.m.

SATURDAY  
3/7  
Elon vs. Richmond  
HOME @ 1 p.m.

TUESDAY  
3/10  
Elon vs. Naval Academy  
HOME @ 3 p.m.



BEN MUSE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Junior Camilo Ponce practices his swing at the Jimmy Powell Tennis Center.



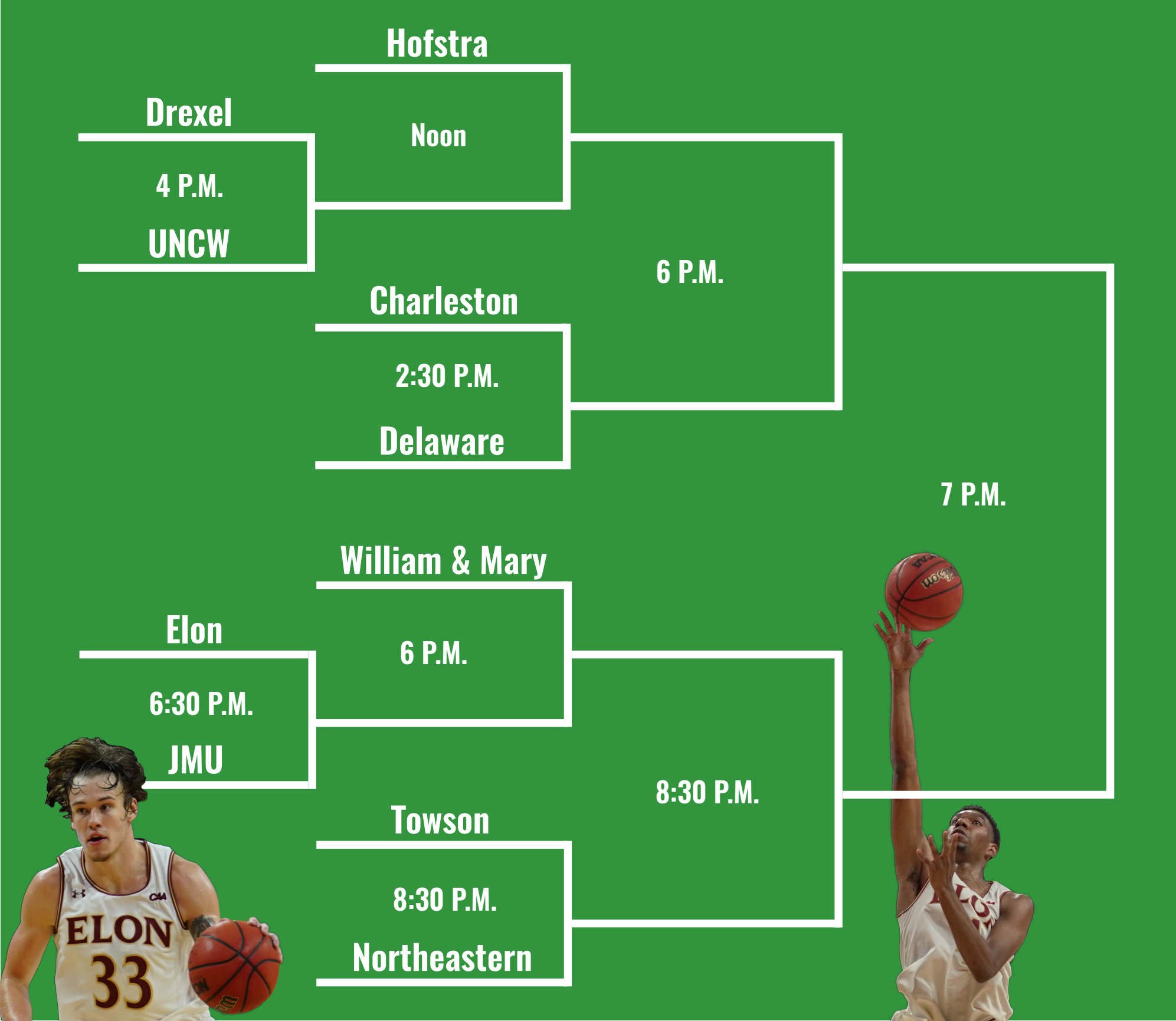
# CAA MEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

FIRST ROUND  
March 7

QUARTERFINALS  
March 8

SEMIFINALS  
March 9

CHAMPIONSHIP  
March 10



CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Junior forward, Simon Wright, dribbles down the court against Indiana University of Pennsylvania in Schar Center on Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2019.



CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Graduate guard, Marcus Sheffield II, goes for the layup against Indiana University of Pennsylvania in Schar Center on Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2019.

**ENTERTAINMENT  
AND SPORTS  
ARENA**

**WASHINGTON D.C.**



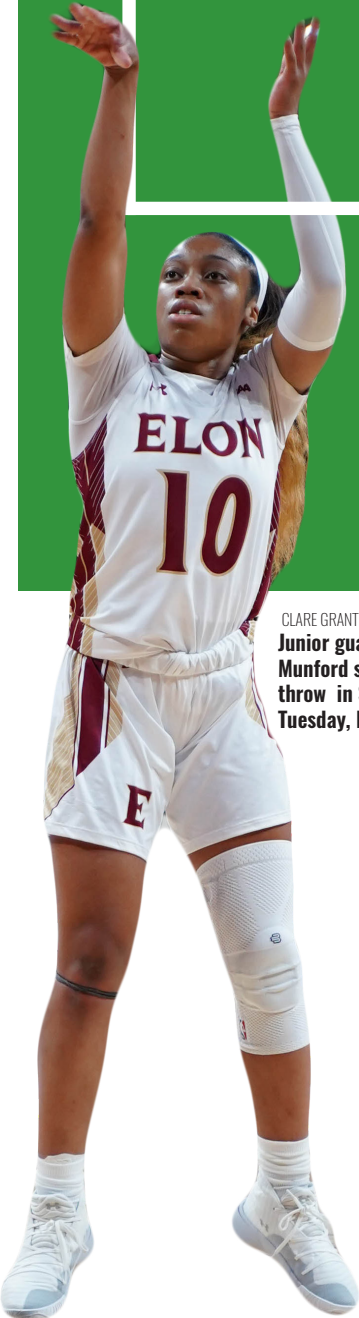
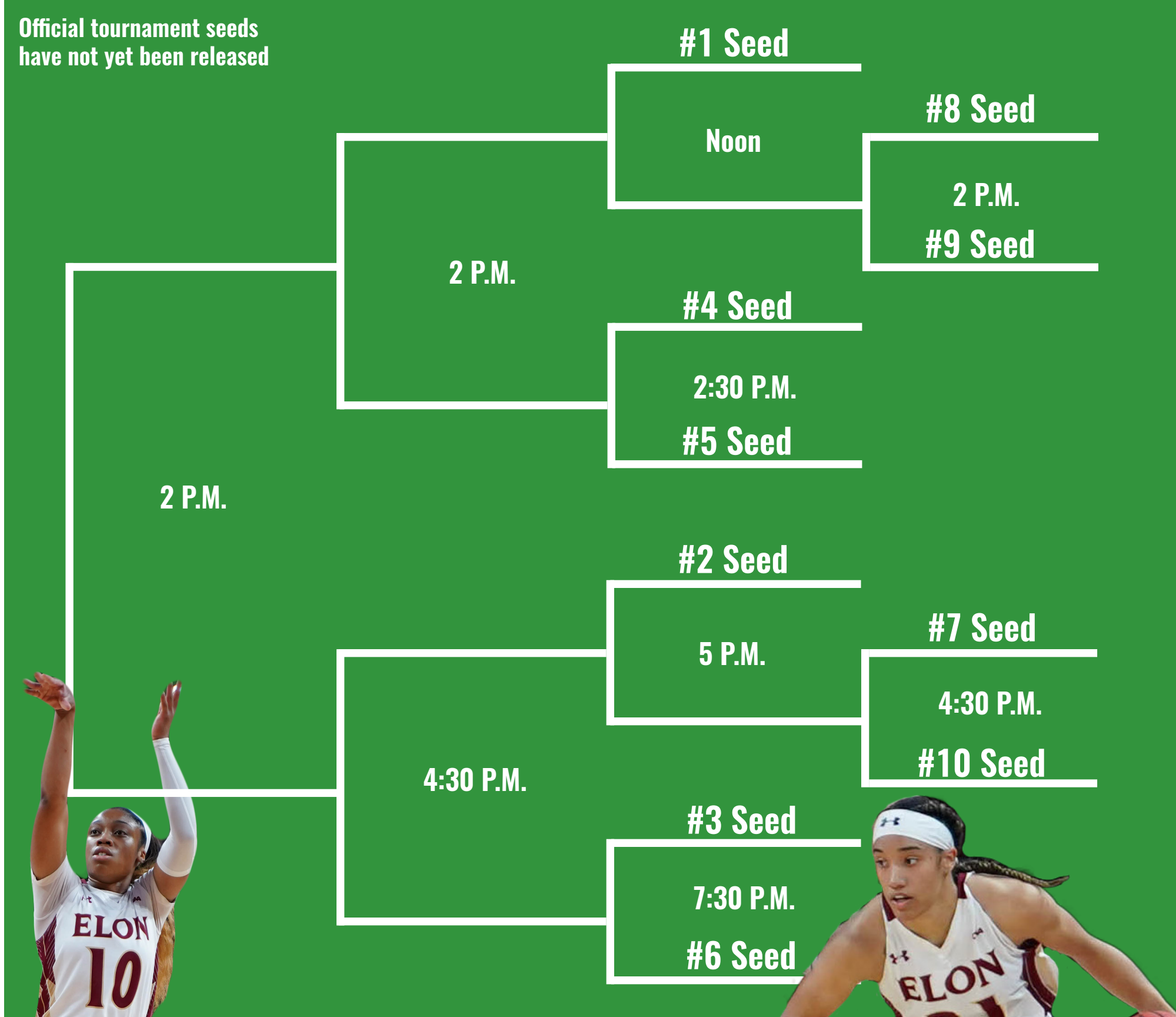
# CAA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

CHAMPIONSHIP  
March 14

SEMIFINALS  
March 13

QUARTERFINALS  
March 12

FIRST ROUND  
March 11



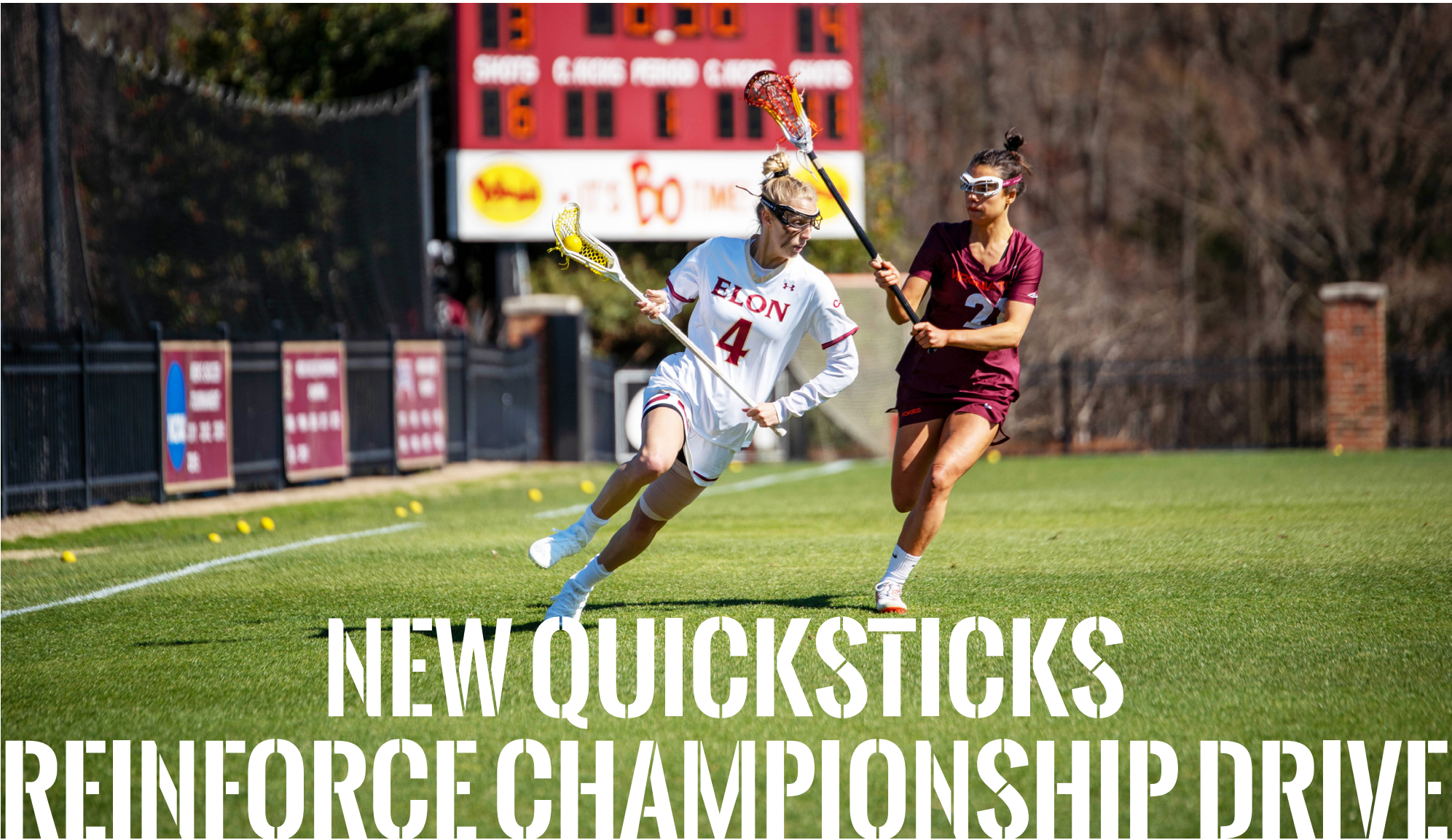
CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Junior guard Saadia Munford shoots a free throw in Schar Center on Tuesday, Nov 5.

SCHAR CENTER  
ELON UNIVERSITY



CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Junior guard Ariel Colón pushes the fast break against the Winston-Salem Rams in Schar Center on Tuesday, Nov. 5.





# NEW QUICKSTICKS REINFORCE CHAMPIONSHIP DRIVE

Junior and attack player Sara Bouwman keeps away from the Virgina Tech Hokies at Rudd Field on Saturday, Feb. 22. The Hokies beat the Phoenix 14-7.

CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Loaded with returning and new talent, the lacrosse team aims for its first conference final appearance

Alex Reynolds  
Sports Director | @reynolds14\_

There is a new leader behind the crease for Elon University’s women’s lacrosse. Two main point scorers led the team last year: sophomore Mae McGlynn and freshman Kaley Thompson. Current freshman midfield/attack Hannah McCarthy is taking up a major role on offense.

McCarthy established herself as an offensive weapon in the unranked Phoenix’s 14-7 loss to No. 22 Virginia Tech. She put up a team-high of four points with a goal and three assists.

Thompson transferred to the University of Michigan, leaving the Phoenix without the reigning Colonial Athletic Association Rookie of the Year. McCarthy took over for Thompson at the x-attack position, meaning she spends a lot of time behind the goal, reading defenses and finding open teammates.

Coach Josh Hexter referred to McCarthy’s role as the “quarterback” of the offense. Hexter said he gives her this distinction because of her ability to run the offense in addition to her passing skills.

“We’ve put a lot on Hannah’s shoulders. As a freshman, it’s a lot,” Hexter said. “As we start to

grow as an offense and she becomes more comfortable in that role, I think we’re going to thrive.”

Despite having experience as the primary scorer from behind the net for her high school team, McCarthy has had to adapt her strategy on the field. Now, she has to look for experienced goal scorers and deliver accurate passes. So far, she leads the Phoenix in assists with five this season.

McCarthy said the toughest part of her position is adapting to the speed and strength of the older defenders.

“There is definitely more physicality in college lacrosse,” McCarthy said. “The biggest challenge for me was being able to have someone shove me a little and then not get a call.”

McCarthy comes to Elon as part of a freshman class that is already pushing the team forward. Her offensive counterpart, freshman Cassidy Crieghton, is tied for fourth on the team in goals scored. McCarthy and Crieghton linked up for a goal against Virginia Tech.

“We’re all competitive with each other. Like, very competitive,” McCarthy said. “We all want to take everyone’s spot, and I would say we’re all very hungry.”

## Vivacious veterans

There are a number of returning leaders that complement the rising young stars. These veterans, such as junior attack McGlynn, are the backbone of the team. McGlynn scored a staggering 42 goals last year, a mark that ranks third all-time for the Phoenix behind Stephanie Asher ’18 in 2015 and 2017. She was efficient from the free position, scoring a program-record 14 goals on penalty shots. So far in 2020, she has shown no signs of letting up, leading the team with 12 total points in four games.

But Hexter said he hasn’t relied on McGlynn as heavily to produce points this year. In the game against Virginia Tech, McGlynn barely saw the field. Meanwhile, younger players, such as McCarthy, Crieghton and sophomore attack Cate Mackel, were able to deliver eight combined points for the Phoenix.

“Mae is almost impossible to stop one-on-one,” Hexter said. “But we have some other players who we thought might be better in the zone offense where it’s a little more hands and vision rather than straight-up dodging one-v-one.”

This balance of passers, shooters and dodgers give the offense many weapons.

Backing the team up is a defense that has veterans at its core, including senior defender Palmer Vorhees and junior defender Ashley Duggan. Senior attack/midfield Cami Lynch is

“

THE COMPETITION  
REALLY HELPS US  
BECAUSE WHEN  
CONFERENCE TIME  
COMES WE’RE NOT  
AFRAID, WE PLAY  
FEARLESS

CAMI LYNCH  
SENIOR

another leader on the Phoenix team. She said she has high hopes for this mix of veterans and young talent.

“Out of all the years I’ve been here, we had a really great team my freshman year and played awesome, but this year, the team I would say is probably the best,” Lynch said.

## Feet in the fire

In 2019, the Phoenix (6-12) took on a top 25 ranked team eight times. The team did not win a single game against those opponents. Two of the games were against James Madison University, the eventual CAA champions.

It has become routine for the Phoenix to schedule the top teams in the country. The

team has three top 25 teams on the schedule in 2020. In the past five years, the Phoenix have played 37 nationally-ranked opponents. The Phoenix has not won a game against a top 25 opponent since 2017 when the team made it to its first and only NCAA tournament.

Lynch was a freshman on that storied team. Now a senior, Lynch said the competition over the years made her better.

“We don’t really want to go out playing teams that we know we could just easily beat,” Lynch said. “The competition really helps us because when conference time comes, we’re not afraid. We play fearless.”

The next match against a ranked team comes on March 17 when the Phoenix will travel to Durham to take on the Duke University Blue Devils. Last year, the Phoenix was pummeled by the Blue Devils 18-5. This was the first of five straight losses to top 25 opponents. But this year, the Phoenix will not have to run the same gauntlet.

If the rankings remain unchanged, the Phoenix will not have another top 25 matchup until they host JMU on April 19. The CAA also contains some of the stiffest competition on the Phoenix’s schedule. The Hofstra University Pride have catapulted to the top of the conference this year, scoring 58 goals in their first four games of the season.

Despite the difficult schedule, Lynch said she and the team have aspirations to capture their first conference championship.

“This year is special because I think it’s the one year I know that we actually can potentially win our conference,” Lynch said. “Looking forward, that’s obviously our main goal: make it to the NCAA tournament. ... But for now, just focusing on the little wins to get there.”

UPCOMING GAMES

FRIDAY  
4/10  
Elon vs. Towson  
HOME @ 6 p.m.

SUNDAY  
4/19  
Elon vs. JMU  
HOME @ Noon

FRIDAY  
4/24  
Elon vs. W&M  
HOME @ 5 p.m.



CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Freshman and midfielder Hannah McCarthy looks for an open player to pass to during their game at Rudd Field against the Campbell Camels on Saturday, Feb. 8.



# Track & Field STRIDES for illusive conference championship

The Phoenix looks to end three year title drought with success

**BreShawn Holley**  
Elon News Network | @breshawn\_holley

The women’s track and field seniors are chasing the glory of winning a championship after coming close the past three years.

The freshmen and sophomores are looking to follow in the footsteps of the upperclassmen with the goal of getting to the championship. With all of the cross country runners on track this spring, they look to bring Elon its second conference championship in the same year.

Director of Track & Field and Cross Country Mark Elliston said the team’s success hinges on each player’s ability to be there for one another.

**SOPHOMORE SUCCESS**

Haywood earned All CAA for the 100-meter, 100-meter hurdles and the 4x100 meter- relay.

“They push each other [and] encourage each other,” Elliston said. “That’s really what it takes to be a team that can go in and do something worthwhile.”

Senior Skylar Barthelmes said winning a conference championship would be a great testament to the team’s hard work.

“Winning would be such a great end to everything that’s been happening because obviously we’ve seen the excitement, we’ve seen the downfall. So winning would just be a huge, huge thing to happen,” Barthelmes said.

The team features a number of returning accomplished athletes. In 2019, senior Melissa Anastasakis earned All-Colonial Athletic Association honors for the fourth straight season after finishing third at the CAA championships. Anastasakis ran a personal record time of 21:05.98 in the 6k at the Eastern Carolina University Pirate Invitational. Anastasakis was also the runner up at the James Madison University Invitational with a time of 21:39.0 in the 6k. At the NCAA Southeast regional championship, Anastasakis finished 49th overall.

As a senior player, Anastasakis is excited for underclassmen players to further develop as effective players, speaking to her role as a mentor on the team

“I’ve definitely progressed throughout my time here every year consistently, you know, improving my own personal marks,” Anastasakis said. “I hope that’s something that the incomers and my younger teammates kind of, you know, look up to and hopefully aspire to follow.”

Barthelmes in 2019 set a new school record in the weight throw with a mark of 55’ 8.25” (16.97m) at the Darius Dixon Memorial Invitation. Barthelmes placed second in the weight



ALEX REYNOLDS | SPORTS DIRECTOR

Rounding the corner of the Jerry and Jeanne Roberston Track and Field Complex, senior Melissa Anastasakis practices her distance running.



THEY PUSH EACH OTHER [AND] ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER, THAT’S REALLY WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A TEAM THAT CAN GO IN AND DO SOMETHING WORTHWHILE.

**MARK ELLISTON**  
DIRECTOR OF TRACK & FIELD AND CROSS COUNTRY

throw with a toss of 54’ 4” (16.56m) at the JDL College Team Challenge. Barthelmes finished fourth overall in the shot put with a throw of 42’ 3.25” (12.88m) at the JDL DMR Invitational. At the end of the season, Barthelmes’ record-breaking season earned her All-CAA in throws and in the javelin.

According to Barthelmes, her biggest personal goal for the season is to qualify for regionals.

Elon sophomore Jordan Haywood is in the top three for women’s outdoor 100-meter dash. Sitting in the third spot with a time of 12.06, Haywood sits behind Simone Jackson and Sydney Griffin who both ran in the 2016 season.

Teammate and sophomore Alex Tudor sits at the 6th spot for the fastest time for women’s outdoor for the 100- meter dash, with a time of 12:33.

Haywood earned All CAA for the 100-meter, 100-meter hurdles, and the 4x100 meter- relay.

“It’s always great too, you know, seeing teammates thriving, especially like the freshman group that we have. It’s been really strong. So just to see them continuously improving and like, meeting their goals and exceeding them. That’s always great,” Anastasakis said.

Junior Moira O’Malley won the high jump at the JDL Team Challenge with a mark of 5’ 5” (1.65m) in the 2018-2019 indoor season. In the same season, O’Malley was the runner-up in the high jump with a cleared height of 5’ 5” (1.65m) at the Darius Dixon Invitational.

During the outdoor season, O’Malley continued her success. O’Malley was named 2019 All CAA for high jump and 4x100 meter relay team.

Younger players on the team speak to the mentorship from veteran athletes as being something that pushes them to improve.

“As a freshman, having that leader to look up to kind of help me a whole lot and feel like I had confidence and that people above me really felt like they cared about what I was doing. So I feel like being a leader is really important,” Barthelmes said.

In the fall, Elon’s women’s cross country won its first-ever CAA championship, anchored by senior distance runner Scolasticah Kemei and freshman distance runner Maria Ahm.

Kemei was also named the women’s National Runner of the Week by U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association on Sep. 3. Kemei was also named the CAA Women’s Runner of the Week four times in the fall. And at the end of a record-breaking season, Scolasticah was named CAA Women’s Cross Country Runner of the Year.

Ahm came in and instantly set running records, earning recognition all throughout the season. She placed 11th overall at the CAA championship and earned All-CAA honors as a freshman athlete. To end her season on a high note, Ahm was named the 2019 CAA Women’s Rookie of the Year.

“It really catches on and inspires the others when they see their teammates not only get it done and working hard in practice, in the weight room, at home runs wherever they are on the track,” Elliston said. “It really does inspire them to step up their game, and to challenge them on the inside to say, ‘Am I doing everything I can?’”

The Elon track and field team will wrap up their indoor season in Albuquerque, New Mexico on March 13-14 for the NCAA Indoor Championships. The first outdoor meet of the 2020 season will be on March 19-21 at UNC Charlotte for the Charlotte Classic.

**CAA CHAMPIONS**

In the fall, Elon women’s cross country won its first-ever CAA championship.

UPCOMING MEETS

**FRIDAY - SUNDAY**  
**3/6-8**

ECAC Indoor Championships  
Boston, Massachusetts

**FRIDAY - SATURDAY**  
**3/13-14**

NCAA Indoor Championships  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

**FRIDAY - SATURDAY**  
**3/20-21**

Charlotte Classic  
**FRIDAY - SATURDAY**

**3/20-21**  
High Point Invite  
High Point, North Carolina

**FRIDAY - SATURDAY**  
**3/27-28**

Raleigh Relays  
Raleigh, North Carolina



ALEX REYNOLDS | SPORTS DIRECTOR

Junior Alyssa Zee practices the box jump at Jerry and Jeanne Roberston Track and Field Complex.



# GLOBAL GOLFERS DEVELOP FROM GROUND UP



From left to right: Junior Audrey Kennett redshirt junior Rae Spears practice their drives during practice at the W. Cecil Worsley III Golf Training Center on Friday Feb. 28.

CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Women's golf coach creates environment for international players to blossom

Alex Reynolds  
Sports Director | @reynolds\_14

For an international student coming to the U.S. for the first time, the transition can be overwhelming. There are aspects such as new culture, new friends and for some, a new time zone to get used to.

But for golfers, one of the biggest differences, believe it or not, is the grass.

Women's golf head coach Chris Dockrill said North Carolina grass is often unlike any surface international athletes have played on in their lives.

American golf grass can be easily divided into Bermuda, warm-season grass, and Bentgrass, cool-season grass. Elon University falls into what is called a "transitional zone," where no native grass grows. Neither Bermuda nor Bentgrass can thrive. Due to the school's geography, Elon golfers play on dormant grass, which is much tougher to play on, for most of the spring.

According to Dockrill, grass can have a big effect on a golfer's game. At Elon, golf balls sit on the ground instead of being fluffed up

on the grass. When the grass gets wet, it can add two to three strokes on a golfer's game, which can negatively affect qualifying scores.

"You do not see this in any other country," Dockrill said.

Dockrill has shepherded international players from all over the world, each with different backgrounds in course conditions. Two players he mentioned came to Elon from Iceland: Sunna Vidisdottir '16 and Hilda Kristjansdottir '18. He said these players needed time to adjust to Bermuda grass since they had never seen it before.

Women's golf captain and junior Adel

Vadkert is from Komarom, Hungary. She said the type of grass they play on at Elon is similar to the grass in her home country. But for Vadkert, the problem with the grass is not the density but the color.

"The grass that they have here dies during the winter, so it's like this ugly, yellowish, brownish, something color, and I can't really see the ball on it, and it just looks really bad," Vadkert said.

Vadkert was promoted to captain this season after a strong sophomore year. Last year Vadkert had her best performance at the Mimosa Hills Intercollegiate, where she won the individual title and led the Phoenix to a tournament win. As team captain, Vadkert is Dockrill's right hand. She makes sure new players are getting acclimated to Elon. Vadkert said she is helpful to new international students because she was once in their shoes.

"She can attest to the transition, you know, coming in and how tough it is," Dockrill said.

One of the new additions to the team is freshman Svarin Yuenyong, an international student from Bangkok, Thailand. Yuenyong is the only other international student on the golf team next to Vadkert. Like his past international players, Dockrill recruited Yuenyong almost completely online. When she expressed interest in Elon at an international college fair at her school, Dockrill reached out to her over Skype in place of a recruiting trip. Dockrill said he often uses Skype to connect with potential international students.

"That's a great thing with the internet now, you can speak to anybody," Dockrill said. "We set up a Skype. They get to know me; I get to know them. And we do everything over the phone or over the computer, and it's kind of neat."

For Yuenyong, the transition from Thailand to Elon was a big adjustment. There are over 9,000 miles in between her school and home, a 12-hour time difference, and as the Phoenix practice in the early spring in 50 degree weather, it is reaching 90 degrees in Bangkok.

"It's been pretty good — like, better than what I expected," Yuenyong said. "I was quite concerned at first because I haven't lived here

before. And there's so many things I have to adjust to the environment here."

As far as the turf goes, Yuenyong has transitioned well. Thailand has a similar latitude to southern North America, and therefore its golf courses use Bermuda grass, a staple in the southern states Elon plays in.

Transitions to Elon go past play on the course. With loved ones thousands of miles away, it can be hard for the athletes to connect with home.

There is a six-hour time difference between Elon and Vadkert's home in Hungary. The junior said she can't call home during the week because by the time she gets off from practice her friends and family are asleep. This limited communication took a toll on Vadkert. She took off her 2020 Winter Term in order to spend that time off the course and with loved ones.

"I was basically home for six weeks, which was really good for my mental health to be honest because I feel like with the season, I always need some time off," Vadkert said. "When we have the season, I'm putting more than 100% in, but then we have off-season. I just need some time off to think about something else."

International student-athletes sometimes need time to transition to the classroom as well. Players come in with different curriculum structures and different levels of English proficiency. Dockrill said he understands the strain his student-athletes are under both in and out of the classroom, and he institutes it in his coaching style. In order to have his players in the proper headspace to play golf, Dockrill allows players to skip practices in order to work on big projects. Dockrill said if players are thinking about a project they have to do after practice, they won't be focused on their play.

"Golf is a different sport," Dockrill said. "It's balance. You have to be mentally balanced. You have to have your work done. Your mindset has got to be focused on golf. I kept telling them if you're playing golf and you're practicing, go focus on golf. When you're at school, you focus on school."

The Elon golf team is very young. Vadkert, a junior, will be looked to as one of the most

experienced players since there are no seniors on the team. Yuenyong is a part of a freshman class that may be depended on more than past first-year golfers. The team will travel to Hilton Head, South Carolina, for the Low Country Intercollegiate tournament on March 14-15.

"We have a lot of youth on the team, and we have people coming in, so I'm very excited," Dockrill said. "You know, we had some great rounds last year, but we had some very poor rounds, you know? What I'm hoping for is consistency."

### SATURDAY - SUNDAY

## 3/14-15

Low County Intercollegiate  
Hilton Head, South Carolina

### FRIDAY - SUNDAY

## 3/20-22

Bama Beach Bash  
Mobile, Alabama

### SUNDAY - MONDAY

## 4/5-6

Mimosa Hills Intercollegiate  
Morganton, North Carolina

### FRIDAY - SUNDAY

## 4/10-12

CAA Conference Championship  
Pinehurst, North Carolina

# UPCOMING MATCHES



# CHIP SHOTS

# CHASING WEATHER

Men’s golf spends time in the Sunshine State to prep for 2020 campaign

Alex Reynolds  
Sports Director | @reynolds\_14

In the winter months when the weather is cold and the sky is dark, it can be hard to think about the bright green grass and shining sun associated with golf.

Elon men’s golf didn’t stick around for the cold of February. Instead, the team traveled to Palm City, Florida, to compete in the Martin Downs Collegiate tournament and prepare for the spring season.

“You chase weather this time of year,” coach Don Hill said.

Hill said the trip to Florida was very productive. Not only did the team produce good results, finishing fifth out of 14 teams, but players got much-needed practice time in optimal golfing conditions.

“Yes, we want to have the best finish we could possibly have winning a golf tournament, but you’re also chasing some practice time,” Hill said. “After the rounds, we had the opportunity to practice a little bit more and start doing those things that get you ready for the spring season.”

The trip to Florida also helped frame the mindset of the golfers. During the tournament, the team got a taste of peak-season golf life again. They were able to wear shorts and play in perfect weather. Hill said being exposed to these conditions right before the spring season reignites the players’ passion for golf.

“OFF THE COURSE IS WHERE YOU CAN REALLY DEVELOP THAT TRUST FOR YOUR TEAMMATES. SO WHEN YOU’RE OUT THERE PLAYING JUST KNOWING THAT YOU GOT A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH THE OTHER GUY WHO’S OUT THERE AS WELL.”

MAX FERRARI  
JUNIOR

“It gives you the golf bug,” Hill said. “As a golfer, that takes you right into, ‘Oh, gosh, it’s like watching the Masters. It’s like watching the PGA or the Tour Championship,’ ... those things that trigger those golf emotions where you’re like, ‘Okay, I’m ready to play some golf.’”

Over Winter Term and throughout the month of February, two players emerged as leaders on the team: junior Graham Hutchinson and redshirt junior Max Ferrari. Both players went through Elon’s Phoenix Leadership Academy where they learned leadership techniques that can translate to the team. Taking leadership roles was a challenge for two golfers who are used to going about their game alone.

“I’ve always been a pretty individual person,” Hutchinson said. “I’ve put a lot of work in over the years since I was a young kid, and I just have a feel as to what works for me — certain swing thoughts that work for me and how to approach my round when I’m out there.”

Hutchinson and Ferrari have posted some of their best career performances this year. At the Golfweek Program Challenge in early September, the two led the Phoenix in the standings at sixth and 13th respectively. At the Martin Downs Collegiate, they led the team again. Hutchinson finished fourth at 10 under par. Ferrari finished eighth at six under par.

As two of the more experienced golfers on the team, they have taken it upon themselves to set an example for the underclassmen.

“I definitely try to lead by example — getting everywhere on time, giving everything 110%, just trying to set a good example for some of the younger guys who are coming up as far as what is expected of you, going to class and then coming here, workouts, just all that kind of stuff, just being punctual,” Hutchinson said.

According to Hutchinson, his leadership, as well as Ferrari’s leadership, goes past just leading by example. Hutchinson said he gives younger players physical tips, such as pointers on alignment, and mental tips, such as how to get in the right mindset for a tournament. For Ferrari, teaching is more about letting the players grow by themselves and giving pieces of advice when they ask. Together, the juniors are trying to establish a



CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Junior Dustin Blank practices his putting at the W. Cecil Worsley III Golf Training Center course on Friday, Feb. 28.



CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Junior Graham Hutchinson lines up a putt at the W. Cecil Worsley III Golf Training Center course on Friday, Feb. 28.

work ethic for the program as a whole.

“When they’re juniors and seniors, they’re going to be in this position,” Hutchinson said. “They’re going to rely on the kind of stuff that they learned in their first couple years. So, if we can set a good example for the young guys right now, I think that’s pretty valuable.”

Winter Term was a turning point for the Phoenix. The team was able to get on the course a lot in January because the weather in Elon remained mild, even reaching the 60s at times. This allowed the golfers to get work in when they didn’t have tournaments to play.

“This J-Term, I really liked the way that we worked,” Hutchinson said “We worked, I think, harder than we ever have as a team.”

With only one class a day, the team spent a lot of time together on and off the course. Ferrari said the team is closer this year than last year. He added that when the team spends time off the course, it improves their game on it.

“Off the course is where you can really develop that trust for your teammates. So, when you’re out there playing just knowing that you got a good relationship with that other guy who’s out there as well,” Ferrari said.

Golf is, for the most part, an individual’s game rather than a team sport. But Ferrari said having trust in your teammates can improve an individual’s game. When golfers trust each other it allows them to play without hesitation and be willing to “risk it all.”

It lets you be more aggressive out there,” Ferrari said. “You don’t have anything to protect because you have other guys that you know are going to put good scores together.”

The Phoenix has five tournaments before the Colonial Athletic Association championship April 24-26, starting with the Pinehurst Intercollegiate, which begins on Friday. Ferrari said the goal for this season is much bigger than results; it’s about playing with no regrets.

“Obviously, winning conference would be sweet, and that’s what we’re trying to do and maybe go further than that. But more so, everyone having that own inner peace of ‘I feel like we left it all out there.’”

## UPCOMING MATCHES

- FRIDAY - SUNDAY

3/6-8

Pinehurst Intercollegiate  
Pinehurst, North Carolina
- MONDAY - TUESDAY

3/16-17

ECU Intercollegiate  
Greenville, North Carolina
- SATURDAY - SUNDAY

3/21-22

Tar Heel Intercollegiate  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina
- SATURDAY - SUNDAY

4/4-5

Elon Invitational  
Elon, North Carolina
- FRIDAY - SATURDAY

4/10-11

Stitch Intercollegiate  
Cary, North Carolina



# ACTIVATING ONLINE SUCCESS

As Elon's eSports team grows, so does desire for official club sport recognition and funding

Lauren Singles | Elon News Network | @lauren\_singles

A cascade of characters leap over obstacles and evade opponents. They face off against each other, fighting until the last breath. The match ends with one player left standing — it always comes down to the final seconds.

Suddenly, a giant arrow propels through the stage, smashing the opponent off the screen.

Link comes in first place, with Donkey Kong in at a close second as the victory animation rolls across the screen.

From classic Nintendo games like Super Smash Bros, to high-intensity shooter games like Call of Duty, eSports brings video games and competition to a worldwide stage — even at the collegiate level.

Elon eSports, which is composed of members of the eSports club on campus, is meeting with the club sports portion of Campus Wellness & Recreation to discuss being classified as a club sport for next year. The team is currently considered a programming club rather than a sport, according to junior Connor Simpson, president of Elon eSports. But for him, the difference between them and traditional sports is slim.

"The mental effort of those split-second decisions is what classifies to me video games as sports," Simpson said. "They don't require as much physically, but the reaction time is fully there."

Simpson told members that becoming a club sport means Elon eSports will receive funding from Campus Recreation & Wellness and will be officially listed under club sports, giving them more presence online and in the community.

Simpson said the bare minimum they would need for four computers and the gaming setup would be \$10,000.

"It is a lot to ask for money, but it's something that once we get it, we can just go," Simpson said.

Despite existing for seven years, there were only five people in the club when Simpson joined his freshman year after the university changed how they received the Internet.

"Three years ago was when the club just died," Simpson said. "They pulled out all the ethernet on campus — every PC, they turned into a Mac." According to Simpson, wireless connections create lag during video games, which affects a player's precision and timing when competing. PCs also offer a more stable connection as opposed to Macs for gamers.

Simpson stepped into a leadership role for the team during his second year and brought new people onto the executive team and the club itself. Now, Elon eSports has 60 active members.

The club even recently received a sponsorship from Game Fuel, an energy drink created by Mountain Dew. After Simpson reached out, the team received around 50

cases of free Game Fuel for the players.

Elon eSports plays a variety of games, including League of Legends, Super Smash Bros. and Rainbow Six: Siege. Each game has its own respective team within Elon eSports. The Rainbow Six: Siege team has seen success so far this season, currently ranked second out of eight teams in Collegiate Esports Association: Siege.

"We are currently in the top of our division in the one tournament that we knew we were going to be playing," Simpson said. "That's a tournament with 19 different divisions and eight teams each."

Recently, Elon eSports got an invitation to a tournament run by the College Rainbow Six League for the best 32 collegiate teams in the nation for Rainbow Six: Siege. Though they did not place into the competition from the trials, they were invited as them in as the 32nd team.

"Technically, we're among the top 32 teams in the nation," Simpson said. "There are other teams in the tournament that we've played before and have either gotten really close to beating with a different roster or beaten. We could be top 20 in the nation."

Freshman John Spitznagel joined the team during his first semester at Elon after searching through PhoenixCONNECT and seeing Elon eSports. He said he's been playing video games since he was nine and had watched eSports before coming to Elon. Participating in eSports was always something Spitznagel was interested in.

"I've always wanted to take a shot at the collegiate or pro scene," Spitznagel said.

At first, Spitznagel said he was cautious about playing because he did not want to mess up the strategies the team already used in their games. After playing more with the team, he became more experienced and comfortable playing. Now, he plays for their Rainbow Six: Siege, Overwatch and Destiny teams.

Spitznagel said the mental game of eSports is comparable to traditional sports.

"It's more about the hand-eye coordination," Spitznagel said. "Mentally, you have to take into account the entire space of whatever map you're playing."

Spitznagel said the team practices twice a week and has one or two games a week.

"On game days, we either get food before or after the game just as a team, and then we warm up an hour before just to get our mechanics warm and our minds focused on the game," Spitznagel said. "It's a good balance between school and just playing video games."

Rochelle Ford, the dean of the School of Communications, said she has asked faculty to include eSports in their curriculums and discussions. The school is also looking for new ways to introduce eSports to students.

"We're looking at trying to do a J-Term or an



CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Surrounded by Mountain Dew Game Fuel soda, junior Connor Simpson leads Elon University's eSports team in a discussion about the team's future plans on Wednesday, Feb. 25.

“

THE MENTAL EFFORT OF THOSE SPLIT-SECOND DECISIONS IS WHAT CLASSIFIES TO ME VIDEO GAMES AS SPORTS. THEY DON'T REQUIRE AS MUCH PHYSICALLY, BUT THE REACTION TIME IS FULLY THERE.

CONNOR SIMPSON  
JUNIOR

BY THE NUMBERS

\$10,000

is the minimum amount of funding Elon's eSports would need if Campus Recreation & Wellness supported the club. This would just cover four computers and the gaming setup.

intensive weekend or a master class on this topic," Ford said. "We are now sharing job opportunities and internships with a lot of the eSports companies, including the one in Cary, Epic Games."

Ford said she sees eSports as an interdisciplinary opportunity that could connect engineering, design, management and more. The university is also discussing where the team could be housed on campus, but a decision has not been made at this time.

Despite the possibility of advancements for the team, Ford said Elon is not looking to have an official NCAA eSports team.

"That's not a desire of the university," Ford said. "It was meant to be more of a fan engagement opportunity." She said there were possibilities of having halftime eSports matches during basketball games or setting up a gaming area in the lounge area of the Schar Center to entertain fans.



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2020  
VOLUME 47, EDITION 20  
ELON, NORTH CAROLINA

# THE PENDULUM

## Students returning from abroad promised reimbursements

The students flying back from Florence because of the Corona Virus risk are to be reimbursed, allowed back on campus

**Kyra O'Connor**

Enterprise Story Coordinator | @ko\_reports

Following the suspension of Elon University's study abroad programs in Italy, students returning from Florence are going to be reimbursed. According to the Global Education Center, students will be reimbursed for the flight, program fees and any remaining meal vouchers.

Following concerns over the spread of the new coronavirus, officially known as COVID-19, Elon required students and faculty to leave Italy by the end of last week. This included 20 students and one faculty member from Florence as well as five students from Elon's partner program in Sorrento.

Shanna Van Beek, communications manager of global education, said students in Florence will be reimbursed for the cost of the return flight as well as \$5,755 for program fees and meal vouchers. Elon aims to have the reimbursements processed to student accounts by Mar. 6.

"It's trying to recoup a portion of that, recognizing that we've had to implement a really significant change to the program," Van Beek said.

The Elon partner program in Sorrento through the Sant'anna Institute was also suspended on Feb. 29, with five students returning to the U.S. to complete coursework online. Van Beek said each program suspension is handled differently. As of March 3, students leaving Sorrento will be reimbursed by Elon for their return flight.

"We made the decision to suspend the program and recall students really before we had every other logistical question answered because we didn't want to be delayed in making that really important decision by getting caught up in the details," Van Beek said. "I know that's really frustrating for students and their families. We're definitely still working through all of that."

Elon University policy says if a location is under a level three or level four travel warning from the Department of State, the university prohibits travel to that location, Van Beek said. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Department of State have assigned Italy a level three warning. The CDC recommends avoiding non-essential travel to Italy, as there is "limited access to adequate medical care in affected areas."

See **Corona Virus** | pg. 4



## ROBBIE MILEY TAKES PRESIDENCY

THOMAS DENOME | ASSISTANT COPY CHIEF

Junior Robbie Miley hugs a friend after being elected as the next executive president of the Student Government Association in Moseley Center on Tuesday, March 3.

Six SGA positions left vacant, after 2,250 students cast ballots, approximately 450 fewer votes then last year

**Molly Healy** | Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

Junior Robbie Miley will be the next executive president of the Student Government Association.

Miley won the election over junior Brandon Veal by 25 votes. According to SGA, 2,250 students voted, and Miley won by a 1.1% margin. Student participation in the election dropped by about 17% from last year, when 2,705 students voted.

"I'm on cloud nine right now, I'm so excited," Miley said immediately after the vote. "I've been a part of this organization for two years. I've really put my all into this, and in this position I can really make a big impact."

Miley said he is looking forward to being the bridge between the student body and the administration.

"In this position, you don't necessarily have a lot of power, per se, but you do have a lot of influence and ability to get things done," Miley said.

Miley said his first order of business will be to fill the vacant positions in the SGA senate.

There are six positions still available, including executive secretary. He plans to reach out to different clubs and organizations

in search of candidates. The rest of Miley's cabinet has been filled.

Junior Jonathan Stettler won the seat for executive vice president by 613 votes and a 29.7% margin, beating junior Robert Cain. Stettler also expressed that his first priority will be filling vacancies and beginning SGA's transition.

The race for executive treasurer was uncontested, so junior Andrew Ciampa will be taking the position alongside Miley and Stettler.

The executive board will be sworn in during the Leo Lambert Awards Ceremony on Tuesday, March 31 at 5 p.m. in McKinnon Hall in Moseley Center.

Candidates, SGA members, friends and other students gathered in downstairs Moseley Center for the announcement of the victors on Tuesday, March 3. The winners of the other races were also announced.

Jessica Flacksenburg and Kyra Letsinger both ran unopposed, and will assume the positions of president and class senator respectively for the class of 2021. The positions of vice president, secretary, treasurer and second senator are vacant.

See **SGA** | pg. 5

### BY THE NUMBERS

# 25

is the number of votes Robbie Miley received ahead of Brandon Veal to win executive president.

# “

IN THIS POSITION, YOU DON'T NECESSARILY HAVE A LOT OF POWER, PER SE, BUT YOU DO HAVE A LOT OF INFLUENCE AND ABILITY TO GET THINGS DONE

**ROBBIE MILEY**  
EXECUTIVE PRESIDENT ELECT

**NEWS • PAGE 4**

New loop to the Mountain-to-Sea trail added

**LIFESTYLE • PAGE 6**

Student turns pottery passion into lucrative business

**OPINIONS • PAGE 8**

Women's History Month left uncelebrated



# THE PENDULUM

A PUBLICATION OF  
**ELON NEWS**  
NETWORK

Established 1974  
Volume 45, Edition 20

Elon News Network is a daily news organization that includes a newspaper, website, broadcasts and podcasts. Letters to the editor are welcome and should be typed, signed and emailed to [enn@elon.edu](mailto:enn@elon.edu) as Word documents. ENN reserves the right to edit obscene and potentially libelous material. Lengthy letters may be trimmed to fit. All submissions become the property of ENN and will not be returned.

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### EDITORIAL POLICY:

ENN seeks to inspire, entertain and inform the Elon community by providing a voice for students and faculty, as well as serve as a forum for the meaningful exchange of ideas.

### CORRECTIONS POLICY:

ENN is committed to accurate coverage. When factual errors are made, we correct them promptly and in full, both online and in print. Online corrections state the error and the change at the top of the article. Corrections from the previous week's print edition appear on this page.

Contact  
[corrections@elonnewsnetwork.com](mailto:corrections@elonnewsnetwork.com)  
to report a correction or a concern.

### WHEN WE PUBLISH:

**The Pendulum**  
publishes weekly on Wednesdays

**Elon Local News**  
broadcasts Mondays at 6 p.m.

**ELN Morning**  
broadcasts Thursdays at 10 a.m.

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broadcasts Tuesdays at 4:30 p.m.

**ENN Radio Podcast**  
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## CORRECTIONS

No corrections were issued for the last edition of The Pendulum.

## GAMES

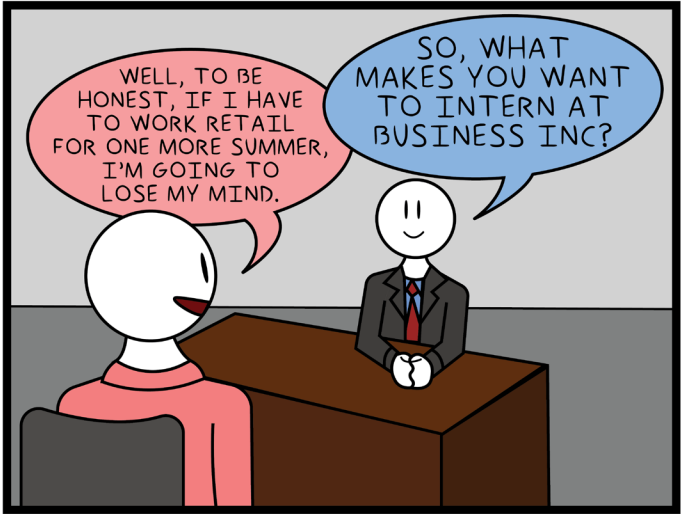
**How to Play:** Guess the missing word in the five clues, then find them in the word search below. Words can be found backwards, diagonal, etc.

1. A segment was added to the trail near \_\_\_\_\_ County Farm. *See Page A4 for answer.*
2. The Department of Performing Arts will be performing "Rites of \_\_\_\_\_" in its annual spring concert this weekend. *See Page A7 for answer.*
3. Elon men's tennis hopes to be in the \_\_\_\_\_ tournament for the second consecutive season. *See Page B5 for answer.*
4. Women's golf head coach \_\_\_\_\_ Dockrill said North Carolina grass is unlike any surface the athletes have played on. *See Page B10 for answer.*
5. Elon \_\_\_\_\_ is meeting with Elon University to discuss being classified as a club sport. *See Page B12 for answer.*

B O A M J W Q P W E P K G R R E N F  
E Q P A V B Z P A S S A G E G I E N  
G Z U X S W P A N J X P M L U K N H  
X F X M J Z Q A N W P D O E M K Y I  
W S P K O G B C D C G P C R F X A J  
B Q R H M U W N C K H F F D T Y X J  
U D S A K I G A O H S M D F U S M P  
C A A J S L C F D B R V Q H E Y W F  
F Q M M T F S R F O S I L S K H N U  
F Z S D T O L P S L R E S D X R M A  
D W N B C R A K C H V H K S T J O T  
B X I U T D T K T B C Q X R Q Q N C  
H Y F Y T F F J P Z U B C Q T N S Z

## COMIC

LET'S BE HONEST



COMIC SAMS - SAM POROZOK

## CALENDAR: MARCH 4 - MARCH 11

<b>LEIGH ANN HALLBERG, EXHIBITION   9 A.M.</b> Arts West Gallery 406 <b>4</b>	<b>ELON DAY CAMPUS COLLEGE COFFEE   9:40 A.M.</b> Alumni Gym <b>5</b>	<b>“UNCUT GEMS”   7 P.M.</b> Turner Theatre <b>5</b>	<b>SPRING DANCE CONCERT   7:30 P.M.</b> McCrary Theatre <b>6</b>	<b>“LOVING”   8 P.M.</b> Turner Theatre <b>7</b>
<b>“FROZEN II”   4 P.M.</b> Turner Theatre <b>8</b>	<b>VOICES OF DISCOVERY ANDREA GRIMES PARKER   7 P.M.</b> McCrary Theatre <b>9</b>	<b>ART HISTORY SPEAKER SERIES   6 P.M.</b> Yeager Recital Hall <b>10</b>	<b>NORTH CAROLINA AND THE 2020 ELECTIONS   7 P.M.</b> McCrary Theatre <b>10</b>	<b>STUDY ABROAD GENERAL ORIENTATION   5:15 P.M.</b> Koury Business Center 101 LaRose <b>11</b>





Sen. Bernie Sanders hosts a campaign rally at Winston-Salem State University on Thursday, Feb. 27.

MACKENZIE WILKES | POLITICS EDITOR



ISABELLA SEMAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Pete Buttigieg, former mayor of South Bend, Indiana, rallies his supporters in Raleigh as the South Carolina primary results trickle in on Sunday, March 1. Buttigieg withdrew from the race the next day.



ISABELLA SEMAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Joe Biden, former vice president, reacts to seeing a baby in the crowd during his rally in St. Augustine's University in Raleigh on Saturday, Feb. 29.



CLARE GRANT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

President Donald Trump speaks to his supporters in the Bojangles Coliseum in Charlotte on Monday, March 2.





PHOTO BY VICTORIA TRAXLER AND ILLUSTRATION BY TED THOMAS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER AND DESIGNER  
The new trail — named the Chain Gang Connector — is 1.8 miles long and is a less than 10 minute drive from Elon University's campus.

# Trail adds new section close to campus

A new segment of NC's state trail, the Mountains-to-Sea trail, has been added near Guilford County

**Victoria Traxler**  
Elon News Network | @victoriatrax

A new segment has been added to the Mountains-to-Sea Trail near Guilford County Farm, creating new opportunities for people to connect with North Carolina's outdoors. The trail is a 10-minute drive from Elon's campus.

The segment creates a 1.8 mile loop when combined with an existing trail for community members and hikers to enjoy. The loop goes through a wooded area, past a pond and over a small creek.

The new trail — named "Chain Gang Connector" — connects to the existing 1.1 mile Prison Run Pass trail. The trails are named for their connection to Guilford County Farm, previously known as Prison Farm, according to Guilford County's website.

Both trails connect to the 60.1 miles of MST that run through the Piedmont Triad — the region including Greensboro, Winston-Salem and High Point — known as Segment 9: Revolution and Textiles. The entire MST is nearly 1,200 miles.

The MST is a state trail stretching from the Great Smoky Mountains to the beaches of the Outer Banks. The trail starts at Clingman's Dome at the border of North Carolina and Tennessee, and ends in Nags Head, North Carolina. There are 18 segments of the trail, with Elon located in the ninth segment.

The trail is primarily maintained by the Friends of the Mountain to Sea Trail, a volunteer, community-based organization run throughout the state. The Friends have trail crew leaders for each segment who are in charge of maintaining and facilitating their sections.

Greg Yahn, trail leader for the Upper Haw River region of the ninth segment, has been a part of the Friends since 2009 and a leader since 2014. He is also one of the 115 people who have reported completing the MST, according to the Friends of the Mountain to Sea Trail.

"This is one of those things that's an enjoyable thing to do and you learn a lot about North Carolina while you're at it," Yahn said.

He completed the trail in 2014 after section-hiking it for three years. Continuous hikers, who attempt to complete the trail in one go, can expect to finish within three to four months, according to the organization.

During his time with the Friends

program, Yahn has overseen and participated in the maintenance of the trail and worked with local governments. This includes supervisor for Guilford County Farm, John Gladstone.

Gladstone has hiked the ninth segment of the MST. He said he enjoyed the walk by the old prison that is now Guilford County Farm, through wooded areas and crop fields.

"That's what I think the MST offers," Gladstone said. "It's that uniqueness all the way, you get the peaks of the mountains to the coast and everything in between is this beautiful farmland."

There are local trails that incorporate the MST in the Triad region. Gladstone said he tries to hike at least a mile every day through the local pathways and parks.

"They're beautiful trails, and some of the trails were established, and the MST kind of winds through those trails," Gladstone said.

Guilford County Parks and the Friends worked to create the new addition and the parking lot at the trail access point. The new trail took around a year to complete, according to Yahn and Gladstone.

About 15 to 20 volunteers meet once a month to clear trees, kill weeds and add any needed structures.

"There's this beautiful arch bridge that one of the members built and it's fantastic," Gladstone said regarding the

Chain Gang addition. "It's the showpiece of the trail."

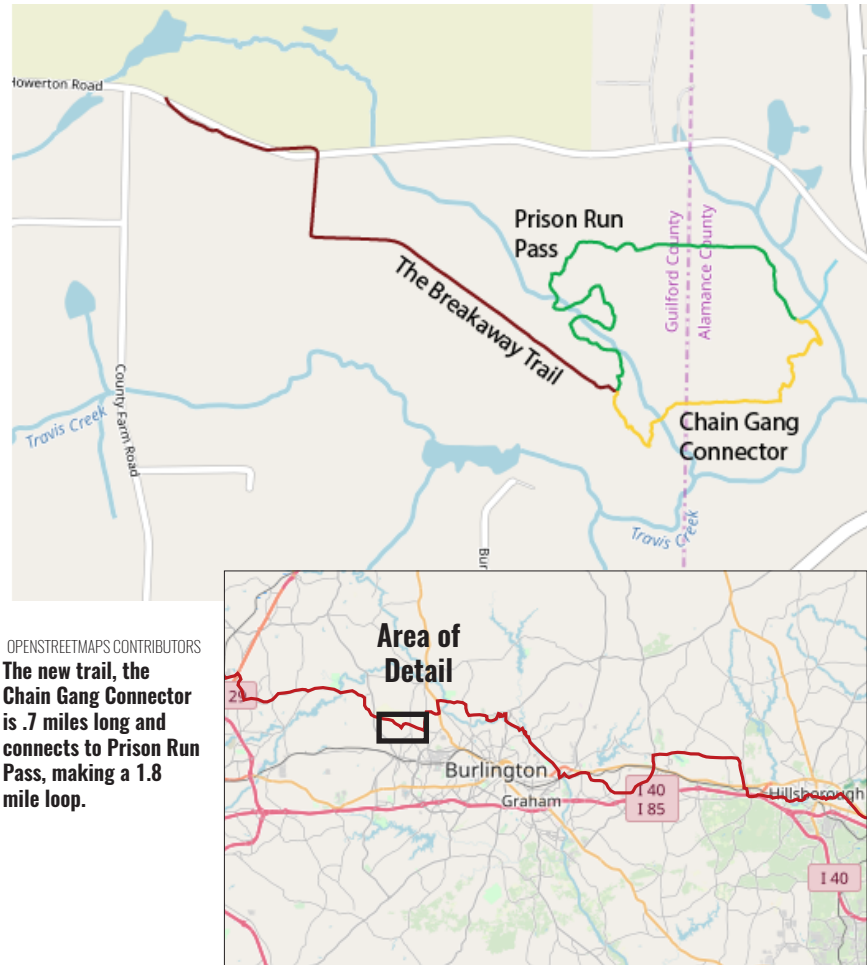
At the moment, 47.1 miles of the 60.1 total miles run alongside roads, according to the MST. While hikers can choose to bike on these sections, both the Friends and local governments are working to take the majority of the trail off the road.

However, property lines, industrial lands and infrastructure are just a few of many obstacles in the way of changing that.

"That's always in the conversation of how all the municipalities and organizations working with the MST — how we can make that happen?" Gladstone said. "And sometimes it's working with neighbors that are willing to have a trail go through their yard or their woods."

All MST sections near Elon are free and open to the public. Community members can visit the new section of the trail located by the intersection of Gibsonville-Ossipee Road and Amick Road Other trail sections of the MST are located along the Haw River in Glencoe or along the Eno River in Hillsboro.

"It is a great escape and to get outdoors, to get away from cities, the people, the traffic and to get out into nature," Gladstone said. "There is something soothing and easing with the mind and the body to get outside for a while."



# Funds to be returned for flights, meals and classes

**CORONAVIRUS** | from cover

Van Beek said the timing for sending students back was specific in part due to the constant changes with COVID-19 as well as the virus' impact on travel restrictions.

"We were worried that we might reach a point where our students in Italy would not be able to return to the United States," Van Beek said. "Should the situation progress to where students are being quarantined or restricted from returning back to the United States, that would be a very serious situation."

Similar precautions have been taken in the past. Van Beek said Elon worked with students who studied abroad during the Zika virus outbreaks in South America and Ebola virus outbreaks in Africa.

Senior Lecturer in Spanish and professor for the Florence program Ketevan Kupatadze hopes to act as a liaison between professors at the Accademia Europea di Firenze and students back in the U.S.

"This was still very much the beginning of their journey, and they were looking forward to the other three months that they were going to spend here," Kupatadze said. "Some students mentioned that they chose Elon because they would have an opportunity to spend a semester in Italy or abroad. To have to cut their semester short and return back without really completing the experience is really heartbreaking for them."

“

I KNOW THAT PEOPLE ARE WORRIED ABOUT THE VIRUS, AND I WANT TO ASSURE NORTH CAROLINIANS OUR STATE IS PREPARED.

**ROY COOPER**  
GOVERNOR OF NORTH CAROLINA

Students returning to the U.S. will continue their coursework online starting March 9. Van Beek said this is to give professors time to shift their course, initially designed for in-person instruction, to an online platform.

After Spring Break, students who were abroad are able to return to campus if they would like. While they are not required to, Van Beek said, it is an option.

"There will be communication from Residence Life later this week with exactly how that will look on campus," Van Beek said. "The details of where they are invited to live, what on-campus housing is available. ... Residence Life is working really hard to come up with a suitable option there."

Dean of Students Jana Lynn Patterson said after Spring Break, the university will focus on helping students transition if they choose to come back to campus.

North Carolina identified the state's first case of COVID-19 on March 3. The North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health conducted the test, which will be confirmed by the CDC lab. The person who contracted the virus is doing well and is currently in isolation.

"I know that people are worried about the virus, and I want to assure North Carolinians our state is prepared," Gov. Roy Cooper said. "Our task force and state agencies are working closely with local health departments, health care providers and others to quickly identify and respond to cases that might occur."

Vice President for Student Life Jon Dooley updated students, faculty and staff on March 2, saying Elon is continuing normal operations, "even as we plan for a possibility that we could be affected on campus at some point in the future." As part of the preparation, Elon set up a special website dedicated to keeping the community informed as updates on coronavirus continue to develop.



# Elected students to be sworn in over the next two months

SGA | from cover

The class of 2022 will be represented by Hailey Jurgens as president, Daniel Dorociak as vice president and Jack Corby as treasurer. All three ran unopposed. Five sophomores ran for the two senator positions for the class of 2022, making it the most contentious race this election. Liam O'Connor and Andrea Sheetz won the positions.

Chase Solomon unseated Jumar Martin as the president of the class of 2023 by 21 votes. The positions of vice president, secretary and treasurer will be filled by Trevor Molin, Kimberly Castano and Kiara Hunter, who all ran unopposed. Blake Dixon and Victoria Burfield won the two senator seats.

The Academic Council Candidates were also decided. Sydney Coker will represent the School of Arts and Sciences on the Academic Council. The School of Education will be represented by Mackenzie Mason. Anita Harkov and Nolan Karfonta will represent the Love School of Business.

The representative for the School of Communications remains vacant.

The class and academic council members will be sworn in on the first business meeting of the new legislative term in April. There is currently no deadline for when the vacancies will need to be filled.

2023 ELECTION RESULTS

21 more votes were placed for Class of 2023 presidential candidate Chase Solomon than current president Jumar Martin.

## SGA ELECTS

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

- PRESIDENT Robbie Miley
- VICE PRESIDENT Jonathan Stettler
- TREASURER Andrew Ciampa

### ACADEMIC COUNCIL

- SENATOR Sydney Coker
- SENATOR Anita Harkov
- SENATOR Nolan Karfonta
- SENATOR Mackenzie Mason

### CLASS OF 2021

- PRESIDENT Jessica Flacksenburg
- SENATOR Kyra Letsinger

### CLASS OF 2022

- PRESIDENT Hailey Jurgens
- VICE PRESIDENT Daniel Dorociak
- SECRETARY Jack Corby
- SENATOR Liam O'Connor
- SENATOR Andrea Sheetz

### CLASS OF 2023

- PRESIDENT Chase Solomon
- VICE PRESIDENT Trevor Molin
- SECRETARY Kimberly Castano
- TREASURER Kiara Hunter
- SENATOR Blake Dixon
- SENATOR Victoria Burfield

LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE

## SHERIDAN PLACE & OAK HILL VILLAGE

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- Lawn Space



PASSION PROJECTS | This feature is a part of a series on students across campus turning their interests into a profit



Junior Thomas Cadman molds his latest project on a pottery wheel in the ceramics studio in Arts West.

ANNA TERRY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A student’s classroom passion for pottery turns into a bustling business

Anna Terry  
Elon News Network | @elonnewsnetwork

The motorized spinning of the pottery wheel matches the rhythmic hand motion of junior Thomas Cadman as he molds a chunk of clay into his latest piece of art.

According to Cadman, his whole body engages with the process as he works on the piece.

Cadman said the creative method he goes through is like “a type of meditation when you’re just on the wheel, really focused.”

Cadman said he discovered his passion for art during his sophomore year of high school. He signed up for a ceramics class to fulfill a requirement but ended up falling in love with pottery.

After finishing the class, Cadman continued to make pieces throughout high school, and enrolled at Elon University with the hope of following his passion. Now, pursuing a minor in studio art, Cadman has the opportunity to work on his ceramic skills.

“I like to make really big, tall pieces,” Cadman said. “I just kind of try to make my stuff functional ... but also very fluid and as big as I can make it.”

One day in 2018, Cadman said he opened his email inbox and found a message from

alumna Lindsey Reeth ’19. Reeth said she was looking for ceramic students interested in getting involved with the Elon Student-Made Store.

As a potter, Cadman is one of the student artists involved in Elon’s Student-Made Store.

“The Student-Made Store is this project where it takes students who either make art or some sort of product — whether it be jewelry, wood carving, just any various product — and it allows them to share that and sell that to the local Elon community,” Cadman said.

As a result of the considerable amount of time he has spent in the studio, Cadman found himself with too many pieces. So, he responded to Reeth’s email, hoping to sell some of his supply.

“We had been talking about how badly we wanted to find a student potter for so long, and here he was. We scheduled to meet him in the pottery studio, where he showed us pieces he had finished and pieces he was still working on,” Reeth said. “To say we were amazed would be an understatement. He made the most beautiful, vibrant, funky-shaped vases we had ever seen. And he was just a sophomore at Elon.”

Reeth started the store with Ryan McElhinney ’19 in 2016 during their sophomore year. Reeth said she felt somewhat ostracized on campus and was searching for an inclusive outlet. She said she found what she was looking for with her concept for the student-run art store.

“I felt that Elon was lacking a space like that, and I wanted to give people the chance to express themselves beyond the confines that can seem sometimes daunting on Elon’s campus,” Reeth said. “The store allowed me to get to know all different types of people and not only learn about their deepest

“THE STORE ALLOWED ME TO GET TO KNOW ALL DIFFERENT TYPES OF PEOPLE AND NOT ONLY LEARN ABOUT THEIR DEEPEST PASSIONS BUT ENCOURAGE THEM TO CONTINUE WHAT THEY LOVE BY GIVING THEM THE ADDED SUPPORT OF THE ELON COMMUNITY AND BEYOND THROUGH THE STORE.

LINDSEY REETH  
FOUNDER OF ELON STUDENT STORE

passions but encourage them to continue what they love by giving them the added support of the Elon community and beyond through the store.”

When looking for artists to get involved with the store, Reeth and McElhinney recruited a group of their friends. Once they had a few artists on board, the store continued to grow through word-of-mouth.

“It was somewhat of a domino effect because essentially every time we would meet someone who was making an awesome product, they knew someone else who was doing the same,” Reeth said. “And so from there, it just naturally expanded.”

Though not an artist herself, Reeth said she focused on the entrepreneurial part of the store by learning how to best market and grow each artist’s business. Since the store’s start in 2016, it has grown to feature the works of over 40 artists, including Cadman, and recently launched a website in the summer of 2019.

Cadman said the student store provided him many new opportunities as an artist. Since joining the store, Cadman has sold approximately 70 pieces, making close to \$700.

“The store allowed me to put a bunch of my products online, which was also something I never thought I’d be able to do,” Cadman said.

The student store holds events throughout the year, including its annual holiday market. Reeth hopes to expand in the future by selling to a wider range of people within the local area.

EXPANDING THEIR REACH  
The student store recently expanded into an online shop during the summer of 2019.

STUDENT STORE EVENTS  
The student store holds events throughout the year, which include its annual holiday market.



# BRINGING THE SEASONS TO THE STAGE

Elon University Department of Performing Arts creates a cohesive dance piece

**Quinn Corrigan**  
Elon News Network | @quinn\_corrigan

Spring might be approaching, but all four seasons will be brought to Elon's McCrary Theatre this weekend.

Elon University's Department of Performing Arts is putting on its annual spring concert, "Rites of Seasons." The performance puts a twist on the average dance show. Lauren Kearns, director and choreographer of the show, said the concept of the show is the result of a two-year research process. The show will finally be featured on the stage of McCrary Theatre on March 5-8.

**IF YOU GO**

**Where:**  
McCrary Theatre

**When:**  
March 5-7  
7:30 p.m.

March 8  
2 p.m.

different times of the year.

"Rites of Seasons" highlights the uniqueness of each season. The evolving ecological terrain of each season and the ritual of changing seasons are prominently featured in the movement, music and visual design elements," Kearns said.

Along with the 38 performers on stage, the show has a large technical and artistic team behind it. Kearns said it was a shared effort to execute the show.

"The four choreographers,

“

OUR LIVES ARE CRAZY ON A DAILY BASIS, BUT TO ME, IT'S ALL WORTH IT BECAUSE I TRULY LOVE THE PROGRAM AND THE PEOPLE.

**ALLIE STROUSE**  
SOPHOMORE DANCER

designers and music composer extensively collaborated to create a shared narrative and a seamless experience for the audience," Kearns said.

Kearns worked alongside three other choreographers: assistant professors of dance Casey Avaunt and Renay Aumiller and guest artist Yoshito

Sakuraba. While they each choreographed a certain season, they have worked together on many elements, such as the transitions from piece to piece.

Clay Stevenson, senior

“

I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE THE MOST BENEFICIAL FROM AN ARTISTIC POINT OF VIEW TO HAVE A COMPOSER CREATE ORIGINAL MUSIC.

**LAUREN KEARNS**  
DIRECTOR AND CHOREOGRAPHER

lecturer in music, is the composer for the show. Throughout each performance, dancers will be accompanied by live student musicians and singers.

After extensive collaboration between the technical and artistic sides of the show, it was decided this was an important element to incorporate.

"I thought it would be most beneficial from an artistic point of view to have a composer create original music and that having an original score created would support the cohesion of the show," Kearns said.

Sophomore Allie Strouse is making a return to the stage in "Rites of Seasons." She said the show is different from anything she's ever done. The process of bringing the piece to life was long, but Strouse said she enjoyed every second of it.

"I really enjoyed the process of working on this piece. We met during Winter Term for three hours every day in the morning, and it was really nice to work at it all at once and really set out focus toward it," Strouse said.

Strouse grew up dancing, and although she didn't fall in love with the art until high school, she said the dance program at Elon has only made her love it more. As a double m a j o r

in dance and strategic communications, she said she rarely has downtime.

"Our lives are crazy on a daily basis, but to me, it's all worth it because I truly love the program and the people," Strouse said.

Strouse is in the fall part of the show, choreographed by Aumiller, which touches on not only the season itself but the action of falling as well. Aumiller challenged the dancers during the first few rehearsals to think about times they have physically and mentally fallen or helped others who were falling. A big part of this challenge was having the dancers do a lot of personal writing. Strouse said her connection with the piece is a special one since she has experienced many ups and downs

throughout her life.

"I definitely think that there is a personal connection for all of us in the piece, and many of us continue to find more and more connections as we go," Strouse said.

The many artistic elements are just some of the reasons Kearns said everyone should take the time to see this show.



BEN MUSE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior Isabel Ganovsky goes through a dress rehearsal on Monday, March 2. Just a few days before the opening of the "Rites of Seasons."



# OPINIONS



GRAPHIC BY NYAH PHENGSIITHY

## A lack of recognition for Women’s History Month at Elon



**Lizzy Weber**  
Contributor

Weber is a junior studying history and political science with minors in African & African-American studies. Many of her classes have focused on women’s history.

Women’s History Month, which takes place every March, provides a distinct moment to recognize and discuss women’s history. Yet, Elon University’s recognition of Women’s History Month is inadequate given its academic and financial resources.

Elon’s approach to acknowledging Women’s History Month is modest, and it is clear Elon needs to cultivate more awareness for Women’s History Month — the university has sparsely officially recognized or celebrated Women’s History Month. A simple Google search yields scant results for Elon University’s recognition of Women’s History Month beyond a general notice on the university’s calendar.

Elon’s inadequate recognition of Women’s History Month is disheartening, considering women’s history is a fundamental component of evaluating current conceptions of women in the U.S.

Elon honored Black History Month in February with programming that included panels and forums regarding black history. This successful model of recognition could inspire future celebrations of Women’s History Month.

Women in the U.S. have sought basic citizenship and voting rights for over 250 years,

and even so, those rights were often only extended to wealthy white women. From voting rights to the modern feminist movement, the history of women is an inherent part of the U.S.’ story. Better yet, the history of women is an integral aspect of world history.

One cannot see the full picture of what it means to be a woman without delving into women’s history. The stories of women matter. Whether discussing the influence of historical female figures like Queen Elizabeth I or the achievements of female political activists in the 1960s civil rights movement like Ella Baker, these stories are essential to comprehending the current status of women in society.

Elon gives a minimal nod to this crucial lens on history. Above all, Elon needs to do more. Elon should initiate discussions about women’s history — from curating lists of relevant literature to carrying on the conversation in the classroom.

Prominent female historians who deserve recognition for their contributions to the field have written much of women’s history. From film representations of women’s history to keynote speakers to conversations with Elon history professors, Elon can

improve upon its current lack of celebration for women’s history month.

Belk Library and its archives are stocked with the stories of women — literature that people could use to expand their knowledge of women’s history if Elon sparks the conversation about it.

Creating a list of notable women’s history books or starting a book club could garner stronger support for educating the Elon community about women’s history. Using literature, students and the larger Elon community could dissect topics such as the women’s rights movement over time and the impact of important individuals on women’s history.

Elon could also address Women’s History Month by creating a weekly newsletter throughout the month highlighting influential figures, podcasts and literature that pertain to women’s history, especially as such educational resources are readily available to students.

Additionally, there is a thriving field of female historians — including the faculty of Elon’s own history department — that Elon could invite to campus to spur a stronger discussion of women’s history during Women’s History

Month.

Notably, showing documentaries and movies regarding women’s history, specifically from a range of diverse vantage points, can easily serve this educational vacuum. Elon University could show such film representations of women’s history at Turner Theatre, a resource that is accessible to the entire Elon community.

Furthermore, inviting a speaker to Elon’s campus who is or was directly involved in novel moments of women’s history, such as Jane Fonda or Diane Nash, would represent a greater endorsement of educating the Elon community about women’s history. In these ways, Elon could more robustly bolster Women’s History Month.

Highlighting women’s history in relevant literature, bringing speakers to campus, showing films focusing on achievements of women and hosting community conversations about topics in women’s history are just a few ways Elon can more poignantly address Women’s History Month. Discussions about women’s history should not be limited to one month; however, Elon University has the capacity to spark conversations about this lens of history during the month that is dedicated to doing so.