

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2019
VOLUME 45 EDITION 2
ELON, NORTH CAROLINA

THE PENDULUM



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THE PENDULUM

A PUBLICATION OF
**ELON NEWS
NETWORK**

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Volume 45, Edition 2

Elon News Network is a daily news organization that includes a newspaper, website and broadcasts. Letters to the editor are welcome and should be typed, signed and emailed to 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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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.

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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 Anton L. Delgado at jdelgado@elon.edu to report a correction or a concern.

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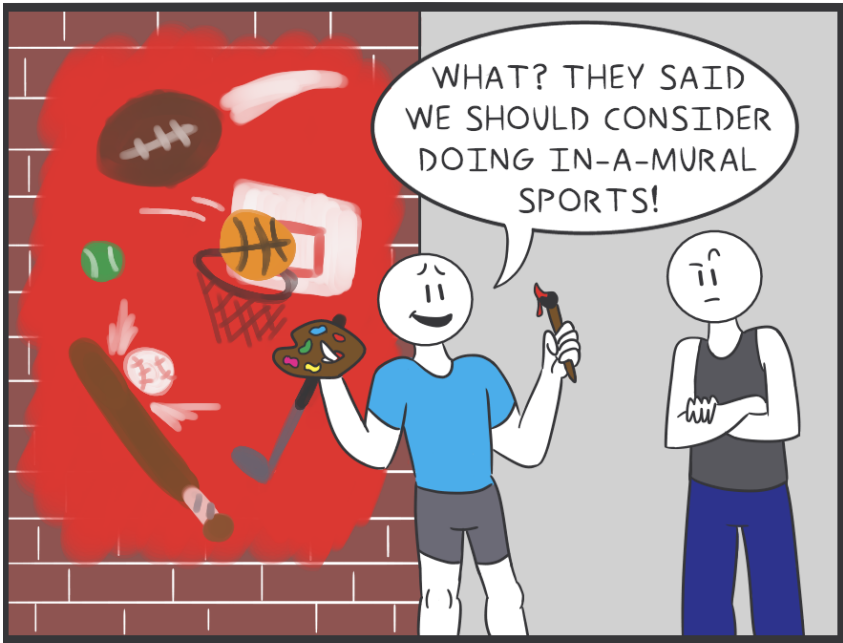
Ted Thomas, Ella Williams and Emily Jacobs contributed to the design of this edition.

CORRECTIONS FOR: Volume 44, Edition 26

NEWS
In the article titled "Police officers and faculty train for potential active shooter scenarios," the actual number of community service officers is 12. Elon News Network regrets the error.

COMIC

INTRAMURAL SPORTS



COMIC SAMS – SAM POROZOK

CALENDAR: AUG. 29 – SEPT. 3

WOMEN'S SOCCER 7:00 P.M. RADFORD, VA 29	WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL 3:00 P.M. MOON TOWNSHIP, PA 30	MEN'S SOCCER 5:00 P.M. DURHAM, NC 30	WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL 7:00 P.M. MOON TOWNSHIP, PA 30	PHOENIX CLUB ELON FOOTBALL 8:00 P.M. GREENSBORO, NC 30
CROSS COUNTRY OPENER 8:15 P.M. ELON CROSS COUNTRY COURSE 30	WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL 2:30 P.M. MOON TOWNSHIP, NC 31	FOOTBALL 6:00 P.M. GREENSBORO, NC 31	MEN'S SOCCER 12:00 P.M. DURHAM, NC 01	WOMEN'S SOCCER 5:00 P.M. GREENVILLE, SC 01

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. It is Kevin _____ second season as the head coach of the men's and women's cross country team at Elon University. *See Page 9 for answer.*
2. Elon University's football team will be playing the William & Mary _____ in the Homecoming game on Nov. 2. *See Page 6-7 for answer.*
3. The North Carolina Central _____ will be playing the Elon University Phoenix in the first volleyball game in Schar Center this season on Sept. 10. *See Page 3 for answer.*
4. Forward Bethany _____ scored Elon's women's soccer team's first goal of the season for a 1-0 win over Canisius College. *See Page 11 for answer.*
5. Elon's men's soccer team played Campbell University in the fire preseason game at _____ Field, which ended in a tie. *See Page 10 for answer.*

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



LIAM O'CONNOR | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Then-freshman outside hitter Leah Daniels and then-sophomore middle blocker Natalie Cummins jump to block a hit from Towson University players on Oct. 3, 2018.

Elon volleyball welcomes five new freshmen and embraces a new identity

Alex Reynolds

Sports Director | @reynolds14_

Elon University Volleyball takes the court this year with a brand-new identity. Not only is the team without their leading scorer from last year, but they also must run the gauntlet that is the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) with a team that is a third freshmen.

Volleyball is not required to come to campus early like the football team, which can make training five new freshmen difficult. To make up for lost time over the summer, the team started the pre-season with a retreat to Boone, North Carolina to prepare in a low stress environment.

The preseason retreat was something brand new for head coach Mary Tendler and her players. The retreat included practicing at a local high school, cooking together and hanging out together without cell phones.

"I wasn't sure what to expect. But it was great. I was worried that we were going to do some fun stuff and team bonding things, but then practices were going to be an after-thought. But actually, our practices there have been the best yet," Tendler said.

The concept of the retreat proved to be an effective way to bring the team together which is vital as the team will face numerous challenges in 2019.

Life without Terry

Outside hitter Kam Terry ('19) was one of the most dominant outside hitters in Elon history. In her four-year career, Terry has tallied 1,346 kills which stands fourth all time in Elon Division I history. Last year, during her senior year, Terry was the undisputed leader on the team. Not only was she the only senior outside hitter, but she took nearly twice as many swings as the next highest outside hitter: 1,134 attempts to 598. As a result, Terry was the leading scorer for the Phoenix by a mile, outscoring the next closest hitter by 162 kills.

Terry was undoubtedly a great hitter for the Phoenix but a hitter is only as great as her setter. Fortunately, the Phoenix has a great



LIAM O'CONNOR | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Then-freshman outside hitter Leah Daniels attempts a spike against Towson University players on Oct. 3, 2018.

one. Kodi Garcia is one of the best setters in Elon history and is still only in her junior year. Garcia was the setter for Terry's last two seasons and tallied 2,089 assists in that time. Garcia will be joined by sophomore setter Haylie Clark who played in 64 sets her freshman year and scored 201 assists.

Though Terry took the majority of the swings last year, her legacy is left in good hands. In 2018, two freshmen stood out as the next top Phoenix hitters, Leah Daniel and Kellyn Trowse. Daniel and Trowse combined for 1,187 attempts and totaled 185 and 197 kills respectively. Though the two players stood in the shadow of Terry last year, they are poised to take control of the Phoenix offense this season.

"I think they seem to be all on the same page. And they seem to all be driven to succeed. And they're bringing it every single day in practice," Tendler said.

Defensive development

Defensively, the Phoenix have more experience with a strong mix of veteran leaders to aid the development of the new defensive players.

Both of the team's seniors are middle blockers: Elizabeth Coil and captain Nori Thomas. They are joined up front by junior Natalie Cummins. The blockers totaled 184 blocks and averaged 1.82 per set which was fifth best in the

CAA. There are also two new middle blockers Claire Richey and Jenn Krzeminski to learn under the veteran blockers, a process Thomas said is going exceedingly well.

"We had five newcomers who are just absolutely crushing it. I'll tell everybody that asks me, 'oh how's the team looking this year?' and I'm like honestly, we're stacked this year. I've never been on a team where we've had so much depth," Thomas said.

Behind the core group of blockers, the team has experienced a new change of leadership. Junior defensive specialist Isabella Seman has made a leap to co-captain this year alongside Thomas. Coach noted that Seman is one player in particular that is forced to grow into the role of a defensive leader. Seman sat behind two seniors in 2018 and is now the oldest defensive specialist, charged with training new defenders.

"[Seman] is doing a great job and not just competing against them, but also teaches them and makes sure they understand things," Tendler said.

Looking ahead

Phoenix volleyball is set to return to the court Aug. 30 when they travel from Elon to Township, Pennsylvania for the RMU Sheraton Invitational where they will take on McNeese State University, Robert Morris University

and Manhattan College. The team follows that up with the Liberty Invitational in Lynchburg, Virginia before returning home for the Demon Deacon/ Phoenix Challenge in Schar Center. CAA play starts for the Phoenix just in time for Family Weekend when the team takes on Hofstra University Sept. 27 and Northeastern University Sept. 29, two games that are vital.

"Every year we've played at Northeastern, we've lost to them and five times at their place. So, we talked this year about going against some of our teams we don't necessarily see as rivals but see as people that we're itching to beat," Thomas said.

This season, the Phoenix are projected to finish eighth in the CAA in front of only the William & Mary Tribe, according to a preseason poll by the conference's nine volleyball coaches. The Phoenix finished 4-12 in conference and 13-15 overall. Though the Phoenix faced many challenges last year and are starting with a new identity this year, Tendler and her team are ready to turn heads and defy expectations.

"We're excited to get back on the court again. And you know having a third of our players new, we're going to a different look to us," Tendler said. "I think some people that come to some of our matches they're going to be like, 'Wow she didn't look like that last year.'"

ELON VOLLEYBALL 2018 SEASON

13-15

is the volleyball team's 2018 overall record

1247

is the total number of kills the Elon volleyball team had during the 2018 season. A kill is a successful point scored

“

EVERY YEAR WE'VE PLAYED AT NORTHEASTERN, WE'VE LOST TO THEM AND FIVE TIMES AT THEIR PLACE. SO, WE TALKED THIS YEAR ABOUT GOING AGAINST SOME OF OUR TEAMS WE DON'T NECESSARILY SEE AS RIVALS BUT SEE AS PEOPLE THAT WE'RE ITCHING TO BEAT

NORI THOMAS
SENIOR CAPTAIN

TOP SPORTS EVENTS



SEE MORE MEN'S SOCCER
| PAGE 10

ZACH OHMANN | PHOTO EDITOR

MEN'S SOCCER

ELON UNIVERSITY V.S. DUKE
OCT. 15 AT 7 P.M.

Men's soccer has a wide mix of top-level and in-conference opponents this year, sometimes, being one in the same. Four Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) foes are in the top 100 of the National Collegiate Athletic Association's (NCAA) rankings. However, there may be no more exciting match than that against Duke University when the Blue Devils make the 37-mile trek west on I-40 to Elon. Duke starts the season as a top-15 team in the country but things could be drastically different by the time the two meet on the pitch in mid-October. The two were supposed to meet last year in Durham but rain dampened the occasion and the game was canceled. However, when they met in 2017, Elon dropped a 1-0 decision on a 13th minute goal when the Blue Devils were No. 19 in the country. Elon will know exactly what type of squad they will have at that point and could give Duke a run for its money to bolster morale before the end of the year.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

ELON UNIVERSITY V.S. UNC WILMINGTON
SEPT. 26 AT 6 P.M.

The women's soccer team is off to a hot start this year, winning both its exhibitions and both of its first two games, all without conceding a goal thus far. The University of North Carolina at Wilmington comes to town on Sept. 20 to open the new conference year. The two were only able to meet on the pitch once last year as storms canceled their initial meeting. The two dueled to a scoreless draw after two extra periods in the last match of the season. Elon has yet to beat UNCW since joining the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) and this will be a great test for a young team who is on a roll so far this year. The women's team this year will have to increase its offensive output. Elon was in the cellar for nearly all meaningful offensive categories. While they were stronger defensively, they will be put to the test in late September when the Seahawks come to town. UNCW was first in goals per game, and second in total goals, assists and points. Elon will see just how good they are as a complete unit.



SEE MORE WOMEN'S
SOCCER
| PAGE 11

ZACH OHMANN | PHOTO EDITOR

FOR FALL 2019



SEE MORE FOOTBALL
| **PAGE 10**



SEE MORE CROSS
COUNTRY
| **PAGE 9**

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO BY JEFF SOCHKO

CROSS COUNTRY

ELON OPENER
AUG. 30 AT 8:15 P.M.

Every year, Elon cross country gets one opportunity to run at home in the fall, at the Elon Opener. This year, that will come on opening day for the Phoenix when they set course for a new season on Aug. 30. This race may have even more emphasis for the Phoenix as its women's team tries to decide what to do with Alexandra DeCicco. The Providence College transfer has one year of eligibility left and head coach Kevin Jermyn is trying to decide whether she will be most effective this year or next year. The way he will decide is to allow DeCicco to run a few races — including the Phoenix Opener — and then decide whether she will be utilized this year or if she will run unaffiliated this year and return next year. Both teams will have to take advantage of the opportunity to sleep in their own beds on the eve of the race and spend the day on campus before their semesters are filled with lots of travel.

FILE PHOTO BY ELON NEWS NETWORK

FOOTBALL

ELON UNIVERSITY V.S. JMU
SEPT. 28 AT 2 P.M.

There is no question that this is the single biggest sporting event on campus this fall. Family Weekend, Homecoming, all of that is a great time; but nothing will compare to the last Saturday in September when the Dukes of James Madison University (JMU) step on campus. Besides a great game that will unfold on the gridiron, there are so many storylines to unpack. First, Elon dethroned the Dukes last year in Harrisonburg, Virginia. It was the first time in three years that JMU had lost a game in conference. It sparked a wild celebration back at Elon and was the school's coming out party in the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA), proving that they belong competing with these other teams. Then, we have the coach standing 53 and a third feet apart from first year head coach Tony Trisciani. In a shocking pre-Christmas move, second-year head coach Curt Cignetti resigned from Elon to take over at JMU. There is going to be a feeling that hasn't been in the air for some time at Elon: hatred. Elon wants to prove that last year wasn't a fluke and show the former head coach he made a mistake jumping ship. The Dukes want to show who really runs the CAA. This game will be what makes or breaks Elon football culture on campus.

VOLLEYBALL

ELON UNIVERSITY V.S. NORTHEASTERN
UNIVERSITY SEPT. 29 AT 12 P.M.

Elon volleyball hits the ground running early this year with lots of tournaments. However, it doesn't get any easier for the team when it hits the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) portion of its schedule. The litmus test for the team will come on Sunday, Sept. 29 when Northeastern University pays a visit to Schar Center. The story of Elon's year last year was not being able to close out matches. Time and time again the Phoenix went into the fifth set last year — five times to be exact, including twice against the Huskies — but the team dropped three of five games that went into the deciding set. If the Phoenix can reverse its fate in the fifth set then their fortunes can swing for the entire season.



SEE MORE
VOLLEYBALL
| **PAGE 3**

ZACH OHMANN | PHOTO EDITOR



2019 FOOTBALL

**NORTH
CAROLINA A&T**

Aug. 31
6 P.M.
Away

THE CITADEL

Sept. 7
2 P.M.
Home

RICHMOND

Sept. 14
6 P.M.
Away

**WAKE
FOREST**

Sept. 21
TBD
Away

**JAMES
MADISON**

Sept. 28
2 P.M.
Home



ELON

LL SCHEDULE

FILE PHOTO BY JESS RAPFOGEL

**NEW
HAMPSHIRE**

Oct. 5
3:30 P.M.
Away

DELAWARE

Oct. 12
2 P.M.
Home

**RHODE
ISLAND**

Oct. 26
1 P.M.
Away

**WILLIAM
& MARY**

Nov. 2
2 P.M.
Home

MAINE

Nov. 9
2 P.M.
Home

TOWSON

Nov. 23
2 P.M.
Away

GROWTH ON THE GRIDIRON

Football faces changes in leadership and personnel in Trisciani's first year

Alex Reynolds

Sports Director | @reynolds14_

Elon University football (6-5) takes the field in 2019 with all eyes on them after their groundbreaking 2018 campaign. A new coaching staff, returning stars and seniors poised to end their careers on a high note gives fans at Rhodes Stadium a lot to stand up and cheer for.

"We're thrilled. Football season is just about here. This is what we work for. This is the reward for all the work in the season," said Tony Trisciani, first year football head coach.

Reloading the offense

Game one on the road against North Carolina A&T State University will see the Phoenix offense at full strength for the first time since Oct. 13, 2018. Junior Davis Cheek, the star quarterback, is back from a debilitating knee injury suffered at the University of Delaware in Week Six. Prior to his season ending injury, Cheek completed 66% of his passes for 1,018 yards. Cheek is rejoining a fully loaded offense that is returning four of his five favorite targets including Elon's top wide receivers senior Cole Taylor and junior Kortez Weeks. Before Cheek's injury, the trio combined for 40 receptions and 562 yards.

In the absence of Cheek, the offense rallied behind the strong running back duo of senior De'Sean McNair and sophomore Jaylan Thomas that combined for 1,138 rushing yards, over 50% of the teams total rushing production and 10 touchdowns. The duo worked in perfect tandem due to their different styles of running. Thomas, the electric Offensive Rookie of the Year, averaged a conference high 6.5 yards per carry with his quick cutting ability that left defenders frozen in the open field. McNair was the bruiser on the team. At 5'8" and 214 lbs, McNair was called in for short yardage and goal line situations where he would bowl through defenders for a team high six touchdowns. Cheek noted that the development of experienced guys mixed with the fire of the younger players is what will make this year's offense so special.

"It's really amazing to see what we've done as players and the coaching staff as well, what they've done for us. And it's just really awesome to



ABBY GIBBS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Quarterback Davis Cheek prepares to throw the football down field during a game against Furman University on Sept. 8, 2018.

see and I'm looking forward to seeing the results," Cheek said.

Lockdown defense

The defensive side of the ball was the backbone of the Phoenix success in 2018. However, in 2019, it is the source of the most questions. The team will enter A&T without the leadership of former linebacker Warren Messer and will be playing with a major hole in the heart of their defense.

Messer ended his career a two-time STATS FCS All-American with 318 tackles (seventh in Elon FCS History) and 13.0 sacks (T-1 in Elon FCS History). With the change of head coach, Trisciani brought in his former fellow Villanova defensive coach, Billy Crocker, to take lead of the defense.

The Phoenix added three additional defensive coaches to Crocker's new staff in January 2019 which includes a new safeties coach, cornerbacks' coach and a new defensive line coach. The new coordinators will be inheriting a veteran side that features seniors on all three levels of the defense.

The defensive backfield is captained by senior Greg Liggs Jr., Elon's resident shutdown cornerback. Liggs nabbed a CAA high four interceptions and defended eight more on his way to being named Second Team All-Conference in 2018. Liggs

proved himself to be an excellent cover corner by recording 65 tackles, second only to Messer. Liggs is joined in the defensive backfield by fellow senior Xavier Williams and will be tasked with instructing a young group of defensive backs that includes former quarterback junior Jalen Greene. Greene is making a position change in 2019 to safety. The linebacker position will be the



FOOTBALL SEASON
IS JUST ABOUT HERE.
THIS IS WHAT WE
WORK FOR

TONY TRISCIANI
HEAD FOOTBALL COACH

hardest transition for the Phoenix who graduated not only Messer but also veteran linebacker Matt Baker. There are only two returning senior linebackers, T.J. Speight and Ryan Whitehead, who only started a combined five games in 2018.

Developing linebackers to replace the void that is Warren Messer is a tall task that will be a top priority for Crocker and company. In front of the linebackers stands an intimidating

defensive line led by senior defensive end Marcus Willoughby. The reigning Third Team All-CAA player terrorized opposing backfields with 58 tackles, 6.5 of which were for losses last season. Willoughby is not only a run stuffer but also the Phoenix premier pass rusher. In the past two years, he has 10 quarterback hurries and notched 9.5 sacks. He is joined by fellow senior Jordan Dollerson who tallied 33 tackles, 3.5 of which were for a loss in 2018. Willoughby said that Coach Crocker has put a twist on Trisciani's 3-3-5 defense, nicknaming them "The Men of Mayhem," for the way they chase down opposing ball carriers.

"We're flying around the ball. I feel like our defensive line is deeper than ever. Our linebackers are young but we're still going to get the job done. Our corners, with the addition of Jalen [Greene], are just getting more athletic on the field so we can run with teams like USF (University of South Florida) last year," Willoughby said.

Going to Greensboro

Aug. 31 will be the first time the Phoenix clash with A&T since 2015 when the Aggies downed the Maroon and Gold 14-7 at Rhodes Stadium. The Aggies went 10-2 in 2018, including a 24-22 win over Alcorn State in the Air Force Reserve Celebration Bowl. They also return some

FOOTBALL BY THE NUMBERS

6-5

was Elon University's overall record following the 2018-19 season, under former head coach Curt Cignetti

top players on both sides of the ball that will serve as tough matchups for the Phoenix. Liggs will likely be tasked with marking A&T's redshirt junior wide receiver Zachary Leslie who had 50 receptions for 676 yards and nine touchdowns in 2018. For Cheek, Taylor and the rest of the offense, they will compete against redshirt junior defensive back Mac McCain III and a defense that allowed only 14.2 points per game. Trisciani expressed his excitement to start his head coaching campaign against such a high caliber opponent.

"It's going to be a great football game. You know our kids are familiar with their program, and probably a lot of their kids are familiar with our program. And it's gonna be a good football game," Trisciani said.

FILE PHOTO BY JESS RAPFOGEL

Defensive back, Greg Liggs Jr., runs towards the Towson University defense on Nov. 10, 2018.



KEEPING ON COURSE



FILE PHOTO BY EMMA GELLMAN

Six members of Elon University's men's cross country team run side-by-side during the 2018 Phoenix Opener in Elon, NC.

Cross country teams lace-up for hopeful conference championship season

Anton L. Delgado
Managing Editor | @antonldelgado

On average, recovery runs for Elon University's cross country teams are seven miles, more than double the distance from main campus to Burlington.

Both of the Phoenix's cross country teams are coming off one of the best seasons in Elon history — with the women's team nearly clinching the conference championship and Nick Ciolkowski peaking after four years of excellence.

Head coach Kevin Jermyn is entering his second year at the helm of both the men's and women's cross country teams and is excited to see what both can do.

"Our upperclassmen know the philosophy of how I work. Now there's a little bit more upperclassmen teaching down to the freshmen — it's not just coming from the coach," Jermyn said. "That helps us to be our best at the time of year we want to be our best because we know how this system is going to progress over the next two and a half months."

The cross country teams joined the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) in 2014. The conference is dominated by the College of William & Mary, whose men's and women's teams have won more than half of the conference championships in the last decade.

"William & Mary is the perennial champion in cross country," Jermyn said. "They are the standard of excellence for cross country in the CAA that we will be trying to chase after and see if we can break in ... and just keep on getting better and better each year."

The Elon Opener on Aug. 23 is both team's first race of the year. The outcome of the competition will form the foundations of Jermyn's expectations for this season.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TROY SAYLES | ELON ATHLETICS

Members of Elon University's women's cross country team go on a run in Greensboro on Monday, Aug. 26, the same week classes start.

“ELON CROSS COUNTRY IS VERY MUCH WHAT I THINK ELON ASPIRES TO BE, COMPETING FOR CHAMPIONSHIPS BUT ALSO SHOWING A HIGH LEVEL OF EXCELLENCE IN THE CLASSROOM”

KEVIN JERMYN
HEAD COACH OF MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

"We're excited to keep our progression to see if we can keep on, step-by-step, getting a little bit better than the year before," Jermyn said.

Men's cross country

Young — that's how Jermyn would describe the men's roster this year.

"The men had their best team in school history and our best results at both the conference and at a regional level, but we have a brand-new roster," Jermyn said. We have four guys returning from a roster of 10 from last year ... We have big goals but we are a different team."

Sophomore Andrew Miller, one of the returning runners who holds the team's fastest time for both the eight and ten-kilometer race, has his eyes set for finishing in the top five of the conference this year.

Miller considers his personal time to be just as important as his team's time.

"It's an individual sport, but the whole team contributes. There is a team score, we can win as a team," Miller said. "We're a really tight knit group right now and we all want each other to be great."

Returning to the team alongside Miller is senior Richie Kasper and sophomores Kieran Ungemach and Connor White. Joining their team are freshmen Martin Adams, Tamer Metwalli, Dillon Selfors, Mitchell Shannon and Aidan Tierney.

NEW CROSS COUNTRY MEMBERS

Men's

- Martin Adams
- Tamer Metwalli
- Dillon Selfors
- Mitchell Shannon
- Aidan Tierney

Women's

- Lila Bensky
- Ashley Irby
- Scolasticah Kemei
- Leandra Lorenz
- Hannah Miller
- Margaret Springer
- Anna Twomey
- Alexandra DeCicco

Women's cross country

Fresh from finishing one of the team's best seasons, women's cross country is hungry for the start.

"The women almost won their first conference title. It would be hard to start this year and not have that desire. They only missed by two points, that was almost just [a] one second separation," Jermyn said.

The team's near win last year was seasons in the making. Ever since joining the CAA in 2014, the women have finished in one of the top three sports in the conference.

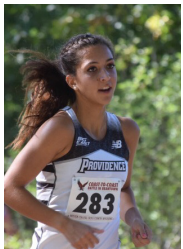
Jermyn hopes the team's new recruits will

only improve the program's chances for snatching a first-place finish. Freshmen Ashley Irby, Leandra Lorenz, Hannah Miller, Margaret Springer and Anna Twomey and upperclassmen Alexandra DeCicco, Scolasticah Kemei are joining twelve returning runners to make up Jermyn's potentially championship team.

Alexandra DeCicco is transferring to race for the Phoenix from Providence College. With only one year of eligibility left in the CAA, DeCicco's performance in the Elon Opener and other early meets will determine whether or not this is season she will wear the maroon and gold.

According to DeCicco, whether or not she races for the Phoenix at official meets won't affect her attitude towards the team.

"I'm a person that's energetic and excited to be at practice every day. I hope that I'm someone that everyone can trust and that you can turn to me," DeCicco said. "I'll offer a smile and make [my teammates] feel better and get them excited to be here because it is something special to be competing at the college level."



Alexandra DeCicco

TWO DECADES OF CHAMPIONSHIP

WOMENS **MENS**
13 | 18
of the last 20 CAA Championships were won by William & Mary

JMU **7 | 2**
of the last 20 CAA Championships were won by James Madison University

*No other team has won the CAA Championship in the last 20 years

NEW YEAR NEW PHOENIX, NEW POTENTIAL

Phoenix look to forget last year's losing season and are ready to work on their game

Caitlin Rundle
Elon News Network | @caitlin_21

The 2019 Elon University Phoenix men's soccer team welcomed 11 freshmen into their squad. This follows the departure of four members in 2018. The graduates included Jack Willbye, Amir Berekane, Marcel Fahrenolz, and most notably, Matthew Jegier.

Jegier was Elon's starting goalkeeper since 2015 as a redshirt freshman. His accolades seemed to keep coming after being named to the Colonial Athletic Association's (CAA) All-Rookie Team. Throughout his career at Elon, he became the program's all-time career shutout leader, led the CAA in goals allowed on average (GAA) in 2017 and was named to the first team All-CAA in 2017, to name a few of them.

"He did seem like he'd been there for a while," said head coach Marc Reeves. "He waited and was patient to get in and then when he got in, he did an unbelievable amount for our group on and off the field."

Lucky for Reeves, he has two veteran keepers as well as one freshman goalkeeper to fill Jegier's shoes.

"Last year, we had three players redshirt and one's in the mix to be our starting goalkeeper," Reeves said.

Moving on from the past

The Phoenix finished last season with a 5-8-2 record, recording a seven-game winless streak before beating College of Charleston 2-0. They're under .500 record stuck with Reeves, who's been the coach for the Phoenix since 2017.

"Having been in successful programs for the 20 years I've been coaching, yeah it hurts a lot more. I've only been under .500, I think twice in 23 years, which is something I'm really thankful for. But it stings more when it goes wrong," Reeves said.

The team did not make it into the playoffs with their losing record, something Reeves intends to improve on this year.

"It's a terrible record and it's not good enough in the CAA," Reeves said. "We're really focused on this year, we're confident that we're going in with the right attitude, you know, right mentality that this is this year, this is this group, this is a new process."

Senior Luke Matthews, a defender, also had a positive outlook about how his last season would go.

"So we've done a lot, defending wise, just making sure we're strong at the back sort of building from the back and working forward. Then the last week or so we've worked on sort of transitioning and attacking patterns, so if we put that all together, I think that'd be a really good, good start for us," Matthews said.

Field of freshmen

This year, Reeves roster is exactly one third freshmen. "We needed a big class because we have ten that go in December," Reeves said. "When those 10 seniors move on, we need 10 guys to step right up and be there. So we'll bounce off the class a little bit, probably be down to six or so next season."

Matthews was also part of a large recruiting class, so he is used to the feeling of adjusting to new faces and new voices.

"They set in really well," Matthews said. "I think we had about 11 or 12 fresh-

men when I came in, so another situation they're coming into and some really strong talent coming in as well."

Reeves said that while he was impressed with the freshmen, he said he doesn't want to jump the gun in rating them.

"The new guys have come in good shape and seemed to be adapting well, but college soccer is a little different. It's a step up in speed and physicality and the tempo of the game is so fast because of all the different roles," Reeves said. "I never really express my thoughts on freshmen too early, because they can come in the first couple of days and look great, and then the legs can go a little bit wobbly and some guys take a few more days to settle in and really rise up a little bit."

Staying focused

Along with being Division I athletes, the players on the men's soccer team also have to learn to balance their athletic requirements with their scholarly ones. Reeves said that while this group is very focused, a challenge that the team will face is learning

how to balance everything going on in their lives.

"The challenge always in college soccer is remaining as healthy as you can and remaining as focused as you can. When classes start and the campus gets busy, I think we've got a very serious group of very focus groups, but that's always a challenge," Reeves said. "The continual recovery region of getting guys healthy and having them perform, because college soccer puts a lot of minutes on your legs in a short space of time. It's a lot of games to get going there."

For Matthews, his greatest concern for the team is consistency.

"I think we started start off really well last year and then sort of tailed off towards the end," Matthews said. "If we can just stay healthy and sort of keep working throughout the whole year, I think that'd be good for us."

Best qualities

Though there are challenges that the Phoenix will face both on and off the field, the mix of new players and veteran ones is something Matthews said will benefit the team in the long run.

"We've got a good mixture of older players and younger players that are sort of just adding freshness," Matthews said.

For Reeves, he praised the discipline his team was already showing.

ZACH OHMANN | PHOTO EDITOR

The Elon men's soccer team huddles before their games against Campbell University on Aug. 24 2019.

ing. "Yeah, I'm hoping as always we're disciplined, I'm hoping, you know, that the defense is set up, we do not give away too many goals," Reeves said. "Our strength, the hope is, is our resilience and our depth to be a unified group that no matter who's playing, we're really one firm fist going after it."

Goal in mind

The Phoenix's next two matchups will be a part of the John Rennie/Nike Classic in Durham, North Carolina where they will face off against the California State University-Bakersfield Roadrunners and the Furman University Paladins. Last year the Phoenix split their two games, losing to the University of Vermont Catamounts and winning against the Florida International University Panthers.

They will have two more games after that before their first CAA matchup against school rival James Madison University. Last year, the Phoenix pulled off an upset over the CAA tournament victors, 1-0, with a goal from alumnus Jack Willbye. The game winning goal was the only goal Willbye scored in 2018, and only the second he had scored in his career.

Looking even further down the line, Matthews and Reeves both agreed that the team was going to take it day by day.

"I think just got build up slowly," Matthews said. "Hopefully we can keep developing and get strong towards the end of the season and [the tournament] be where we end up."

Reeves added that he wanted to pull out the maximum potential for this group.

"There's been some groups that maybe weren't that great and over-achieved, there's been some groups I thought were good, and maybe they got knocked out in the Elite Eight, and they really should have been a Final Four team," Reeves said. "So, the idea is to get as high up as possible in the CAA. That's our number one goal."



ZACH OHMANN | PHOTO EDITOR

MEN'S SOCCER 2018

5-8-2

was the men's soccer 2018 overall record

36

was the number of saves made by Elon goalies in 2018. The least in the CAA

BREAKING THE STREAK

Women's soccer gears up to end conference losing streak this season

Caitlin Rundle
Elon News Network | @caitlinr_21

The Elon University women's soccer team joined the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) in 2014. Going into their fifth season in the league, the Phoenix have yet to break into the top half of the standings. The teams' highest ranking at the end of a season came in 2017 when they finished seventh out of 10.

Their ranking for the other four seasons: dead last.

"Well, there's no doubt that the conference is a step up in weight, it's a step up from class, good teams, nationally ranked teams," said Neil Payne, head coach, about the transition the team faced going into the CAA.

The Phoenix graduated four seniors last year, one being Tori Baliatico. In her last season, Baliatico played and started in 17 out of 20 games and ranked third on the squad for goals scored. Her freshman year, she was named to the CAA All-Rookie Team and the following year was given a preseason All-CAA Team honorable mention.

"We relied heavily on one or two players last year," Payne said.

However, the nine freshmen Payne added to his roster this year are credited by junior keeper Valentina Estrada as "having their heads on straight."

"I think the new freshmen class is actually really exciting, because they all have something different that we need on this field," Estrada said.

"The squad is chipping in this year, which is obviously beneficial," Payne said.

Hopeful freshmen

The Phoenix are welcoming Katrina Hauksdottir, Bethany Harford, Molly Mahoney, Jessica Carrieri, Ally Madigan, Beky Myers, Avery Davis, Rhodes Neese, and Claire Broderdorp.

Of the nine, Payne has already started four of them in matches against High Point University and Canisius College. Hauksdottir started in the goal for both games, along with Myers. Harford has already added a goal to her name against Canisius in the 94th minute to secure the victory for the Phoenix. Jessica Carrieri played for 52 minutes in the game against High Point, and created absolute havoc for their defense. Her impeccable control and speed was difficult for the Panthers to adjust to, and Carrieri collected four shots out of the Phoenix's 15 total shots on goal.

"We're getting in the key areas, we're getting in the right areas. We need a little more composure but it certainly looks a lot better than last year. We were creating a lot last year too, but the players are working harder," Payne said.



Setting the standards

Payne spoke about the standards he's making in order to hold his team accountable.

"The message to the team from day one is we're not going to lower our standards," Payne said. "We played some good soccer last year, but we weren't solid enough in key areas of the field."

These key areas led to key losses. "A lot of the time, a lot of the games last year, we'd be at 0-0 and then we'd just lose it 1-0 because of the mental error," Estrada said.

This is an error Payne is determined not to see the team make again.

"I can see the shift in mentality already. The challenge there is we just, we got to keep improving," Payne said. "We're right where we need to be, still wanting to improve, but I'm certainly happy with the progress we're making. We're not getting carried away."

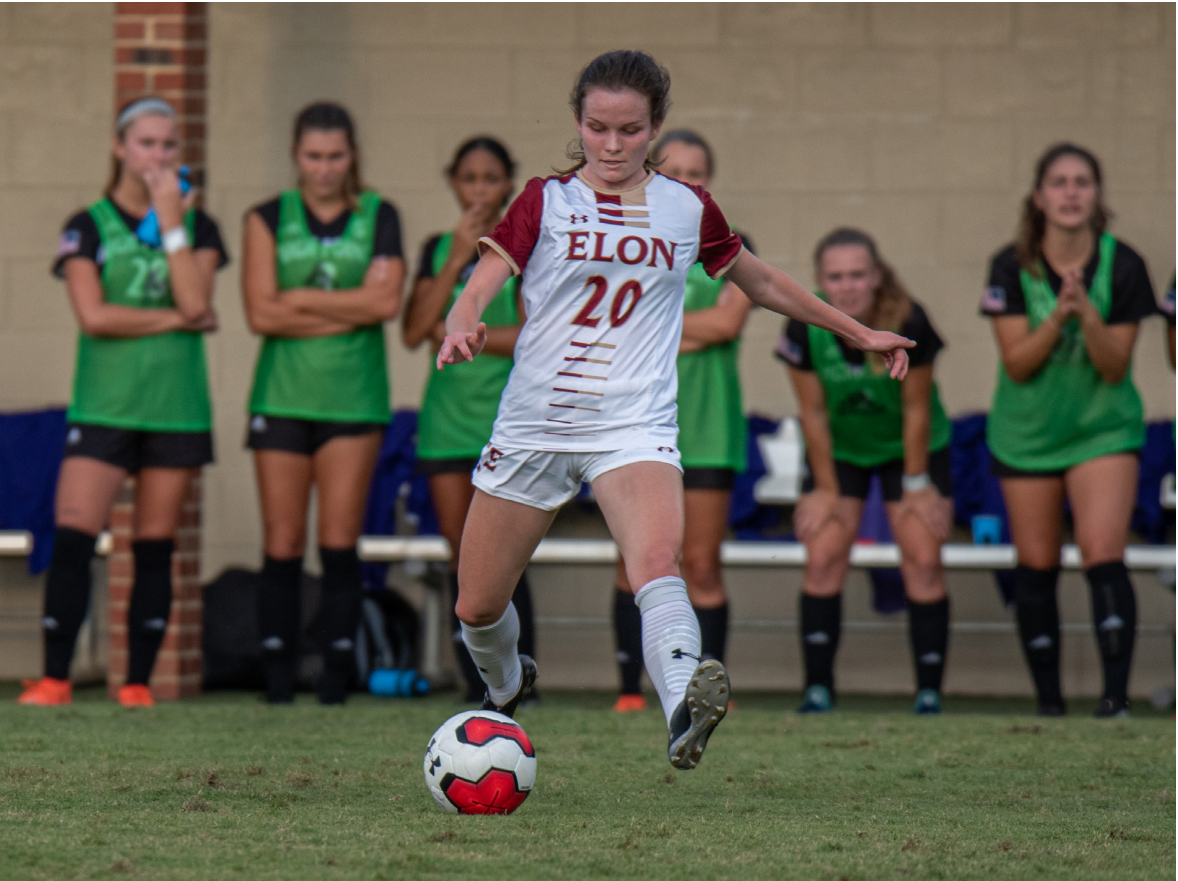
Payne's message has come across already. The team's shown large improvement from last year, and have made the best start since their transition into the CAA. Including their exhibition games, the Phoenix have won their first four games and haven't given up a goal in any of them. The closest they've come to that has come three times, once in 2014 (3-1), 2015 (3-1) and 2017 (3-1). In 2014, they went without conceding a goal until they lost to Appalachian State University 1-3.

When asked if she felt pressure to break the losing streak in the league, Estrada said that she felt just the opposite.

"I think all the pressure stays with the people that have made it. What is our pressure? We haven't ever made it," Estrada said. "Honestly, we're flying free right now and just trying to get to the next level."

Payne enters his second year as head coach for the women's soccer team. Payne said that there "was always going to be a transition" when he stepped into the head coach role, but that "this group of players has fully bought in" to what he and the rest of the staff are trying to accomplish.

"I'm proud of the way they're working, we showed one thing tonight that we didn't show last year, and that's a lot of character," Payne said, after the game against High Point.



WOMEN'S SOCCER RECORD

3-10-4

was the Elon women's soccer 2018 overall record

2-0

is Elon women's soccer overall record so far in 2019



THE MESSAGE TO THE TEAM FROM DAY ONE IS WE'RE NOT GOING TO LOWER OUR STANDARDS

NEIL PAYNE
HEAD COACH

"We have a really good team chemistry this year. Not that we haven't before, but this year, we're just connecting," Estrada said. "I think that is really why our standard has been able to be raised because we all understand that like there is a goal here. We're all really in it together."

Rest of the season

The next game for the Phoenix will be against the Radford University Highlanders. Last season they lost to Radford 1-3, but the Phoenix actually outplayed the Highlanders 19 shots to 14.

A classic rivalry between Elon and James Madison University will be another anticipated game for the Phoenix. Elon has not beaten the Dukes in their past five meetings (0-3, 0-1, 1-3, 0-1 OT, 0-1 OT), but this year could be the match that turns it around if Payne can keep up this momentum.

The Phoenix will have seven more out of conference matches until they engage in their first CAA match against University of North Carolina at Wilmington. The Seahawks have been one of the Phoenix's more competitive opponents, two of their past five matches going into double overtime and one go-

ing into single overtime (2-2-2 OT, 1-1-2 OT, 1-2 OT, 0-2, 0-2). The Seahawks have played three games, including one exhibition game, and have also gone undefeated in their matches. They've had two total goals scored on them, one against Richmond University and one against Furman University.

Payne has challenged them to not loosen their standards, and to keep bringing out the best of themselves as players and people. They are challenging each other to make it to a tournament run, and to have a winning season. The team is shaping up to be successful. The freshmen are ready to step up and the upperclassmen are ready to lead and support their team as best as they can.

This could be the year that Payne and the Phoenix turn their luck and record around.

ZACH OHMANN | PHOTO EDITOR

Top: Freshman forward Beky Myers, dribbles between two High Point University players on Aug. 25, 2019.

Above: Junior midfielder Kara Kimberl, prepares to kick the ball during Elon women's soccer game against High Point University on Aug. 25, 2019.

SETTING the STANDARD



ALEX REYNOLDS | SPORTS DIRECTOR

Junior setter Kodi Garcia receives instructions during a preseason practice on Friday, Aug. 23. Garcia approaches every practice as if it were a real game.

Junior setter Kodi Garcia is poised to lead a young Phoenix team to a comeback season

Alex Reynolds

Sports Director | @reynolds14_

The setter position is one of the most valuable in volleyball. It requires fast feet and quick reflexes but above all else, the setter needs to lead the offense.

“People compare the center position in volleyball to the quarterback position in football. The setter makes a lot of decisions on the volleyball court [such as] who to set and what formation to go into. And they’re kind of like that coach on the court,” said Mary Tendler, Elon University’s head volleyball coach.

Elon volleyball’s setter Kodi Garcia, a junior, has played the position since she was eight years old. Like most young volleyball players, she started by trying to become an outside hitter. The outside hitter is the point scorer, the big hitter, the player that gets all the recognition. However, it was around this time that Garcia made a realization that would change her volleyball career.

“At first I was like trying to be an outside hitter. But then I was like I’m not getting the ball as much as I want to get the ball, and setters get the ball at least every play,” Garcia said. “I want to be that person that makes the biggest impact on the team.”

Twelve years later, Garcia is now the predominant setter on a Phoenix team poised to make a championship run. In only two years, Garcia has accumulated 2,089 assists, including a school record 1,279 in 2017 alone. Garcia has also credited 18 double doubles, 10 or more digs and assists, and multiple conference honors including Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) All-Rookie



FILE PHOTO BY ELON NEWS NETWORK

Kodi Garcia, no. 10, prepares to spike the ball at Elon University’s first home game of the year

team in 2017.

Despite the honors and the presumed role as the lead setter for the Phoenix this year, Garcia still understands the expectation for a player in her position.

“Being a setter for me is a big responsibility,” Garcia said. “You have to be up, you have to be a leader and you have to lead by example.”

In her time at Elon, Garcia has set up some of the best hitters in Phoenix history including Sydney Busa ‘18 and Kam Terry ‘19, two players who rank fifth and sixth

respectively on the all-time kill list with over 1,300 career kills each.

Garcia recalled that even as a freshman, the veteran hitters would instruct her with constant feedback on where the ball needed to be at all times. She said it was the stan-

dard Busa and Terry held that allowed her to become the player she is today.

“I would just throw a ball up and they would be cranking it in the court. They were such good players and I think it really changed my game looking up to them and seeing how they worked all four years and it just made me a

better player,” Garcia said.

Though the junior has already made history, she still works as tirelessly as she did freshman year.

Garcia said that in spring 2019, she felt like she hit a turning point. She looked at the way that she was training and kicked it into high gear. Garcia began to train more on her own time to improve her hand skills and footwork. This dedication off the court reflects her mentality during practice where Garcia brings intensity and focus to an already enthusiastic Phoenix team.

“I take every point seriously like it’s game point. I don’t want to be the person to lose on game point. So that’s why when I practice, I act as if it’s game point. I put up the best ball. I’m the loudest person on the court. And that’s what your mentality has to be if you want to be a good player and be good for your team,” Garcia said.

The offseason training Garcia has done has not gone unnoticed by Tendler and the coaching staff. They said the setter continues to get better and better. Tendler noticed the biggest improvement in Garcia’s game is her ability to lead and communicate with her hitters and passers. This skill is extremely valuable this year for a less experienced Phoenix team that has added five new players to its roster.

“If a hitter makes an error, they want the ball back and [Garcia] wants to set them again. She knows what to say to her passers



ALEX REYNOLDS | SPORTS DIRECTOR

Garcia rises above the net to set up one of her veteran hitters, senior middle blocker Nori Thomas, at practice in Schar Center on Friday, Aug. 23.

VOLLEYBALL BY THE NUMBERS

1279

is the most assists in a single season set by Kodi Garcia in 2017

63

assists during the game against the William & Mary Tribe on Oct. 25, 2017

2089

career assists by Kodi Garcia in only two years of playing with the Phoenix

to get them to pass a good ball to her,” Tendler said. “I just think she’s better because she knows her teammates better and she understands what to say and what not to say to them.”

Garcia uses the high standard that she sets for herself to instill a strong work ethic for her younger teammates. Garcia is constantly pushing her court mates and her fellow setter in practice to strive for perfection and treat every point as if it’s the winning point.

“I will get on my defenders and my hitters so much, like someone’s got to call this ball, someone’s got to put this ball down, like we are winning this point right here,” Garcia said.

The team starts their season with an away tournament in Moon Township, Pennsylvania where they will take on McNeese State University, Robert Morris University and Manhattan College.

Garcia is approaching the upcoming season with the same fire she has in every practice and the young team is buying in. Despite the team being projected finish eighth in the CAA. However, both Garcia and the team are ready to defy expectations.

“My mindset is it’s one game at a time, one win at a time. But I want to win a championship. I think all the girls on our team have that same mindset too and we’re all about that. Like our group chat name is ‘future CAA champs’ we have that mentality and we’re putting in the work,” Garcia said.