

Harrilchak adjusting well to baseball life after Elon

Pam Richter
Summer Editor

Cory Harrilchak was grinning from ear-to-ear as a handful of fans approached him for autographs after a game earlier this month at Burlington Athletic Stadium. Harrilchak, a former Elon baseball player, was selected by the Atlanta Braves in the 14th round of the June 2009 MLB draft. He currently plays with the Danville Braves, the Braves' rookie level minor league affiliate.

Harrilchak, primarily an outfielder with the Braves, returned to Elon's backyard for the first time when the Braves played against the Burlington Royals in mid-July. Tonight, he is back in Burlington as the Braves are in the midst of their second series of the season in Burlington.

"I feel comfortable here," Harrilchak said in reference to playing down the road from his alma mater.

A Cary, N.C., native Harrilchak was excited his friends and family could watch him play.

"They've been watching me play for years, so it's no different," he said. "It's pretty cool now that I'm playing pro ball and they are still able to come watch me."

With the Braves this season he is batting .340

with 22 RBIs and 12 walks. He is also part of a team that is in first place in the East division of the Appalachian League by two and a half games.

For Harrilchak, he said the minor leagues aren't too much different than college ball.

"It's a little adjustment getting used to the wooden bat," he said. "I'd also say it's slightly a better step up in pitching. Other than that it's the same game."

Last season with the Phoenix Harrilchak batted .336, hit 18 doubles and was a First Team All-Southern Conference pick by the league coaches. He also scored a program-record 79 runs.

"My coaches (in Danville) are constantly preaching things that I have been taught the past two years," Harrilchak said. "It's not much of a difference as the coaching goes. I'm used to everyone and everything being done certain ways. My coaches prepared me very well for this."

For the Elon alumnus, he has one specific goal in mind during his time in the minor leagues.

"Play great and move up," Harrilchak said as he continued to sign autographs for fans, with a grin on his face.



FILE PHOTO
Cory Harrilchak runs to third base in a game against LaSalle University in the 2009 season. Harrilchak is adjusting well to minor league baseball with the Danville Braves.

Phoenix looks to younger players for success

Pam Richter
Summer Editor

For Kelsey Evans, an incoming freshman with the Elon women's basketball team, the future with the team is uncertain. Evans originally signed with Western Carolina, but switched to Elon after a coaching change at Western Carolina.

Former Western Carolina head coach Kellie Harper left the school to become the head coach at North Carolina State and Evans decided to change her college choice and attend Elon.

"It's just one of those things that fell in our lap," Elon head coach Karen Barefoot said. "We didn't expect it. She's a great kid, a tremendous student and a great basketball player. It's hard to put in words the type of person she is."

Evans is currently enrolled in summer classes at Elon, but Western Carolina hasn't fully released her yet. She may need to sit out the 2009-2010 season because of eligibility rules.

A decision on Evans' future should be made within the next week or so, Barefoot said. The coach also said she has "nothing to do with it" and the decision is being talked about between Western Carolina, Evans and her family.

Evans is a native of Raleigh, N.C. and played at Wakefield High School last season. During four years at Wakefield Evans helped her team to a 108-8 overall record. As a senior she averaged 18.5 points and 10 rebounds per game.

"She's one of those players, if you watch her play, she does all the dirty work," Barefoot said. "She grabs rebounds. She can defend. She does a lot of little things that I think will help us be a better ball club."



PHOTO SUBMITTED
Freshman guard Ali Ford dribbles the ball in the North Carolina East-West All-Star game on July 20. Ford finished with a game-high 20 points and was named the MVP of the game.

Incoming freshman earns MVP at All Star Game

Elon women's basketball incoming freshman Ali Ford was the MVP at the North Carolina East-West All-Star game on July 20. She scored 20 points, which led all scorers, and helped the West Team to a 87-77 victory.

"Ali can score. She's a great scorer, and has tremendous vision," Barefoot said. "She can shoot and she can deliver. She's a point guard that can do it all."

Freshman Eleisha Hairston and Kelsey Evans also represented the Phoenix in the game. Hairston played with Ford on the West team, while Evans played on the East team.

These players are part of Barefoot's nationally-ranked recruiting class.

"It's going to be exciting and have a different look," Barefoot said. "We'll still be young. A fan told me the other day on the phone that we're going to be diaper dandies."

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Eight Elon football players to preseason All-SoCon teams

Eight Elon football players were named to the Preseason All-Southern Conference teams. The team was selected to finish third in the Southern Conference.

Senior offensive lineman David Harrison, wide receiver senior Terrell Hudgins, senior defensive lineman Eric Ludwig, sophomore linebacker Joshua Jones and senior defensive lineman Karlos Sullivan were named to the first team.

Second team honors were earned by junior Scott Riddle, junior running back Brandom Newsome and junior defensive lineman Brandon Ward.

After the 2008 season, six of those players earned honors from the SoCon league's coaches.

The Phoenix opens its season at 7 p.m. Sept. 5 against Davidson

College at Rhodes Stadium. Elon alum caddies for British Open winner

Frank Williams, a 1979 Elon graduate, caddied for Stewart Cink in the British Open earlier this month.

Williams played baseball at Elon from 1977-1979. He has caddied for Cink for 11 years.

In his career Williams also caddied for Don Reese, Davis Love III, Curtis Strange, Scott Simpson and John Cook.

USA wins 2009 World Baseball Challenge

The USA Baseball National Team (Collegiate) won the final game of the 2009 World Baseball Challenge on Sunday in British Columbia, Canada.

Elon baseball head coach Mike Kennedy was the team's pitching coach.

The pitching staff had a 2.16 ERA in 24 games this summer. The staff gave up 51 earned runs on 118 hits.

The team finished the season with a 19-5 overall record.

Engel releases the men and women's Cross Country schedule

Elon men and women's cross country Coach Christine Engel released the schedule for both teams this month.

Elon will host the first-ever Elon Invitational on Sept. 12.

The Phoenix will host the Southern Conference Championships on October 12.

The team begins its season Sept. 4 at the Wake Forest Relays.

The NCAA Regional will be held in Louisville, Ky. and the NCAA Championship will be held Nov. 23.

Athletic department announces changes to staff

Elon Director of Athletics Dave Blank announced Erica Madden Roberson as the director of media relations for athletics. Roberson will become the primary media contact for the Phoenix men and women's soccer, men's basketball and men and women's tennis teams.

This hire begins the transition of the media relations department from the previous sports information department.

Roberson, graduated from Indiana University in 2002 with a Bachelor of Science in Sports Communications.

While an undergraduate student at Indiana Roberson was the media contact for five teams.

She was an assistant Sports Information Director at Davidson College from 2002 until 2005.

After working at Davidson, she was the Assistant Sports Information Director at Furman University from 2006 to 2007 and in 2009.

Blank also announced several promotions within the Elon Athletic Department.

Brian Tracy is promoted associate athletic director for external affairs; Sarah Thomas is now director of community relations and special events; Megan Donald is director of Web site operations; Michael Jacobs is the director of marketing and ticket operations for athletics.

Tracy joined Elon in 2005 where he was an assistant director of development for athletics. In 2007, he was promoted to the director of the Phoenix Club.

Thomas, a 2005 Elon graduate, was the previous assistant director of the Phoenix Club.

Donald was the previous assistant director of marketing for Web site operations for two years. Prior to that she served as an assistant sports information for four years at Elon.

Jacobs was named the director of ticket operations in spring 2008. Prior to joining Elon, he was an assistant ticket manager at Charlotte.