



The Elon University dance team performs at the Daytona Beach Bandshell in the finals of the National Dance Alliance Collegiate Cheer and Dance Championship April 7. PHOTO COURTESY OF HANNA WENTZ

## EIGHT MONTHS *for* TWO MINUTES

Elon's dance team takes the stage at NDA Nationals and sets the bar for next year

### DANCE | from cover

coming back this year, we had the idea that we needed to make it to [finals]."

While it may not be a sport in the spotlight much, and at times not even recognized by some as a sport, the training that goes into the team getting into shape shows otherwise.

"We have three- to four-hour practices about three to four times a week, and then especially when it got close to nationals, we had to dance every day," said freshman Brielle Ricciardi. "And then we condition; we run around campus; we do stadium stairs; we work out our arms and our abs and legs, so it's a full-body workout."

While nationals is not the only thing on the minds of the dancers all year, Ricciardi summed up

the weekend simply.

"This is our equivalent to the Super Bowl."

The team began their time at the NDA competition this weekend on Thursday with their jazz routine. Though they didn't qualify for nationals in that discipline, they were still pleased with their performance.

"Even though we didn't qualify for finals, we did well regardless," Ricciardi said.

From there, on Friday the team set out on their quest for hip-hop greatness. Though not every dancer has a strong hip-hop background, the team was confident in its abilities.

"One of our team's strengths is hip hop," said freshman Hana Sedivy. "It's different than what a lot of us have done in the past, but we came to Elon's dance team, and that's what we practice, and that's what we're strong at."

"As freshmen, we don't have as much experience on the team, but we've worked hard all year, and we know that this is just the second year that we've gone to nationals. To get to finals was a really big deal, and we were really excited," Sedivy said.

While some have seen the team's routines at basketball and football games, the routines for nationals do not compare.

"This dance we did had a lot more tricks that we've been putting an emphasis on this year because tricks are what make a

dance really hard but also really impressive," Ricciardi said.

But while the routine they do for nationals may be more involved, it doesn't mean they get any more time to pull it all off. They are allotted the same two minutes at nationals that they get

to perform at halftime of the basketball games — two minutes to make eight months of hard work pay off.

For head coach Hanna Wentz, it was a major accomplishment in a career that began on Elon's campus as a dancer herself. The class of 2014 graduate has taken the program from not competing at all in the NDA nationals to becoming a top performer in the country.

"This year was about picking ourselves back up and going in fighting for a space at finals, which is exactly what we did," Wentz said. "I say to the girls all the time: it's about moving forward with progress and building the program up each year, and that's what we've been doing."

With a triumph this year, the team has set the bar even higher for next year.

"Next year, I will hope that we make it to top five," Wentz said. "I think each year, we need to set a new expectation. We made it in the top six this year, so I think top five is a good expectation for next year."

### SPORTS BRIEFS

#### Baseball swept by Northeastern

The Elon University baseball team fell to Northeastern University three times last weekend, ending its four-game winning streak. Last year, when facing the Huskies, Elon fell in the opener at Latham Park before bouncing back to take the final two games of the series. In game one last Saturday, the Huskies scored six unanswered runs in the fourth and seventh innings to beat Elon 7-1. In the second game of the double header, the Phoenix fell short, losing 5-6.

The Huskies finished the sweep on Sunday afternoon in Brookline, Massachusetts, beating the Phoenix 9-3.

#### Elon's Aurelia Hamm earns CAA Golfer of the Week

Junior golfer Aurelia Hamm earned CAA Golfer of the Week last week. In her 2016-17 season, she finished the season with a 76.46 stroke average over 26 rounds. The maroon and gold competed in the Mimosa Hills Intercollegiate, where Hamm finished the two-round tournament at four-under par (73-67-140), three shots ahead of the runner-up.

On April 13, Hamm and the Phoenix will close out their season as they tee off in the 2018 CAA Championships at the St. James Plantation in Southport, North Carolina.

#### Phoenix Softball splits doubleheader with UNCW

The Elon softball team faced University of North Carolina at Wilmington on the road last Sunday and shut the Spartans out 4-0 in game one. The Phoenix were unable to complete the sweep on the day, falling 4-5 in game two.

Elon (20-18, 4-5 CAA) moved to fourth in the league standings with its second CAA series victory.

The team will play at Durham on Wednesday to take on the Duke university Blue Devils for the first time this season.

#### Football participates in Third Annual Bone Marrow Drive

Elon University's football team left the field and joined the CAA Football drive to recruit potential bone marrow donors in partnership with the Be The Match Foundation. This year alone, more than 80 football teams from colleges and universities across the nation are participating in the program to recruit new registry members.

Villanova football coach Andy Talley has been dedicated to raising awareness to life-threatening cancers like lymphoma and leukemia and recruits thousands of people to become contributors and volunteers. To find out more information about the cure and recruitment, visit BeTheMatch.org or call 1 (800) MARROW-2 (1-(800)-627-7692).

## THE PHOENIX FOCUS

### BASEBALL

RESULTS	17-15
4/7	NORTHEASTERN/BOSTON 1-7
4/7	NORTHEASTERN/BOSTON 5-6
4/8	NORTHEASTERN/BOSTON 3-9

#### SCHEDULE

4/11	EAST CAROLINA/ELON	6 P.M.
4/13	HOFSTRA/ELON	6 P.M.
4/14	HOFSTRA/ELON	4 P.M.
4/15	HOFSTRA/ELON	1 P.M.
4/17	CAMPBELL/ELON	6 P.M.

### WOMEN'S TENNIS

RESULTS	12-11
4/5	EASTERN CAROLINA/ GREENVILLE 3-4
4/7	RICHMOND/ELON 2-4
4/8	CHARLESTON SOUTHERN/ ELON 4-3

#### SCHEDULE

4/14	JAMES MADISON/ HARRISONBURG, VA	10 A.M.
------	------------------------------------	---------

### SOFTBALL

RESULTS	20-18
4/4	LONGWOOD/FARMVILLE, VA 7-10
4/4	LONGWOOD/FARMVILLE, VA 3-2
4/7	UNCW/WILMINGTON 4-0
4/7	UNCW/WILMINGTON 4-5

#### SCHEDULE

4/11	DUKE/DURHAM	5:30 P.M.
4/14	TOWSON/TOWSON, MD	12 & 2 P.M.
4/15	TOWSON/TOWSON, MD	1 P.M.

### MEN'S TENNIS

RESULTS	13-7
4/6	JAMES MADISON/ HARRISONBURG, VA 4-3
4/10	UNC ASHEVILLE/ELON

#### SCHEDULE

4/11	UNC GREENSBORO/ELON	6 P.M.
------	---------------------	--------

### TRACK AND FIELD

#### SCHEDULE

4/14	PHOENIX INVITATIONAL/ELON	10 A.M.
------	---------------------------	---------

### WOMEN'S LACROSSE

RESULTS	2-8
4/6	HOFSTRA/HEMPSTEAD, NY 12-8

#### SCHEDULE

4/13	TOWSON/ELON	6 P.M.
4/15	JAMES MADISON/ELON	1 P.M.