



ElonSports



Win or lose, Singleton's story worth telling

It wasn't an out-of-body experience, but Elon professor Bill Ross certainly had to flash back to his New Hampshire days the first time he saw Patrick Singleton in 1996.

The wiry Elon senior, who was walking the halls of Koury Center carrying a luge sled, usually attracted some strange looks.

"I thought 'now that's something you don't see everyday,'" said Ross, who knew some lugers in college.

Taken in a different context, Ross could have been referring to Singleton himself.

Born in Bermuda, educated in Scotland and North Carolina, Singleton is unlike most Elon students or alumni.

While it is uncertain what sparked the 23-year-old to start competing in the sport while attending Elon, the school has nothing but benefited from Singleton's presence in Nagano.

For starters, it has given Elon

a reason to watch a Winter Olympics that, for once, doesn't have a pair of made-for-media-hype-heaven-feuding-figure skaters.

Yes, Nancy and Toyna have put their differences aside. Kind of.

That combined with the

Jeff Wirick

Special to The Pendulum

fact that most of basketball-happy North Carolina is enjoying the exploits of Jamison and Wojo have few eyes left for the chilly Japanese city.

"I think the kids who know him are really following it," communications professor Tom Nelson said of Singleton's great adventure.

Singleton carries the torch alone for Bermuda.

He is also the sole representative for Elon. The first ever.

Elon has a running tradition of turning out baseball players, more specifically Padre pitchers.

Elon alumni Greg Harris and Greg Booker both pitched for San Diego in the Major Leagues. Booker is now the Padres' pitching coach.

Major League Baseball umpires Joe West and Drew Coble also graduated from this school.

But no lugers.

Singleton's story is one that mediatypes, like himself, often drool over.

Talent vs. experience. David vs. Goliath. Singleton vs. Georg Hackl (who won his third straight Olympic gold medal Monday). These are a few angles that will be used.

It's also a story similar to the Jamaican bobsled team from the 1988 Winter Olympics: an athlete from a warm-weather climate competing in the Winter Olympics.

Singleton, however, is quick to dispel the "Cool Runnings"



How did Patrick do?

ATHLETE	COUNTRY	TIME
1. Georg Hackl	Germany	3:18.436
2. Armin Zoeggeler	Italy	3:18.939
3. Jens Mueller	Germany	3:19.093
4. Markus Prock	Austria	3:19.656
5. Markus Kleinheinz	Austria	3:19.724
22. Patrick Singleton	Bermuda	3:27.095

source: Official Nagano Homepage

A look at the place and times of the Olympic men's luge competition (combined four slides)

theory. "I'm not a joke," he said.

Regardless of the angle, the story will not end with Singleton winning a gold at Nagano. He finished the competition 27th with a time of 3:27.095 on his four slides, more than eight seconds off Georg Hackl's first-place finish.

But Singleton said that's not why he's there.

"I've always dreamed about going to the Olympics," he said. "(But) I don't really like the idea that going to the Olympics is all about winning a gold. That's not the way it was originally intended."

In many ways, for a society that judges too many people on gold, silver and bronze, we need Singleton.

"I'm proud of him no matter what he does," said Sarah Shields, an Elon senior who has known Singleton for three years. "It's something he's wanted to do for a long time."

In short, it's not if you win, or luge, it's how you play the game.

Singleton's story is worth telling because of what he did to get to Nagano, not because of where he finished once he was there.

Jeff Wirick can be reached at wirij4d0@numen.elon.edu.



Elon baseball takes three from Asheville

Kevin Bedard celebrates Scott Brendle's homerun in DH on Saturday against UNC-Asheville.

The Elon baseball team took three-in-a-row from UNC-Ashville last weekend, as they opened their season at Newsome Field.

In a double-header on Saturday the Christians defeated UNCA 8-3, 7-2. On Sunday they beat the Bulldogs 7-5.

Andrew Brickey/ *The Pendulum*

Elon Men's Basketball Signees for 1998-'99

- David Hall Centerville High School, VA, 6'4" (G/F)
- Andrew Toole Christian Brothers Academy, NJ, 6'0" (G)
- Brendon Rowell Providence Day, N.C., 6'3" (G)



This Week in Elon Athletics...

Come support Your Fightin' Christians!

Baseball @ Home

Tennis @ Home

Feb. 14 @ 1pm vs. Norfolk State
Feb. 15 @ 1pm vs. Barton
Feb. 17 @ 2:30pm vs. ECU
Feb. 18 @ 2:30pm vs. Campbell

Men's Feb. 17 @ 2:30pm vs. Campbell
Women's Feb. 12 @ 2:30pm vs. Pfeiffer
Feb. 17 @ 2:30pm vs. Campbell