

Elon Swim Club to host inaugural championship meet this weekend

Giselle Pole
The Pendulum

The Fighting Fish, Elon's club swim team, will host the inaugural Elon Invitational Southeast Coast Club Championship this weekend at Beck Pool in Koury Center.

The championship will be two days, with 17 events on Saturday, Nov. 21 and 17 events on Sunday, Nov. 22, with preliminaries and finals on both days. The event is free and open to any interested swimmers or spectators.

Preliminaries start at 10 a.m. on both Saturday and Sunday and finals begin at 6 p.m. on Saturday and 4 p.m. on Sunday.

"This is the first time for any club sport at Elon to host this big of an event, as far as I know," Kyle Torke, adviser and coach of the Fighting Fish, said.

Club sports are those sports not sanctioned by the NCAA. They are run and coordinated by students.

Torke expects about 250 co-ed swimmers to attend from schools

such as Duke University, UNC-Chapel Hill, Catawba College, Eastern Carolina University, Warren Wilson College, Radford University, Appalachian State University and Pfeiffer College.

The Elon swim club is hosting a sleep-over and pizza party for the visiting teams in Jordan Gym Saturday night.

Planning a championship swim meet is hard work, as Torke and team co-captains Melissa

Anderson, Amber Huening, Carrie Lancos and Sarah King soon discovered.

Working with a \$475 budget, they petitioned for funds, charged registration fees and designed T-shirts to be sold at the meet. The event cost about \$1,500.

Torke had several reasons why a club sport would want to host a swim meet of this size.

"The hardest part was convincing the team that, as a club



Jenny Jarnecke/The Pendulum

Above: Freshman Jaime Sclater races to the finish in the 100-yd butterfly. Sclater broke a number of team records this year. Right: This year's women's team made a strong showing in competition.



Jenny Jarnecke/The Pendulum

sport, we could do this," Torke said.

"We decided to do this to show all the other colleges on the eastern seaboard the kind of programs that Elon is developing," he said.

"It would be great for our name to get out there. This could boost our membership and give us the chance to possibly be considered for a varsity swim team," co-captain Huening said.

As far as the actual competition, Torke maintains a positive attitude about the Fighting Fish's chances.

"We have a very solid team, but we're going against Division II teams that have been in the game for 15 years. I expect us to finish in

the middle of the pack," he said.

"I'd love for the team to give their all and do their best," Huening said.

Elon's swim club was started four years ago by David Rountree and other students.

By the time Torke arrived at Elon to teach, the club was already officially recognized by the school. Torke expressed his desire to work with the team and soon became its adviser and coach.

There are 42 dues-paying members on the team, and about 25 will swim in this weekend's championship. Torke hopes that by hosting this event, other teams will recognize Elon as a strength among club swim teams.

Female football player's lawsuit against Duke ruled out of bounds

College Press Exchange

A federal judge has kicked out of court a suit filed against Duke University by a student wanting to become the first woman in the nation to play Division I football.

Heather Sue Mercer, a walk-on place kicker who graduated in May, sued the university and head football coach Fred Goldsmith in 1997, alleging that she was kept off the team because of her gender.

She claimed her dismissal was in violation of Title IX, which prohibits sex discrimination at institutions receiving public funds.

Mercer sought compensatory and punitive damages, but collected neither after U.S. District Court

Judge Carlton Tilley, Jr., dismissed her case, ruling that the uni-

versity and Goldsmith had "no obligation to allow Mercer, or any female, onto its football team."

Title IX, the judge said, requires athletics programs to allow members of both genders on a single-sex team only when there is a comparable counterpart for mem-

bers of the minority sex. Tilley added that Title IX does not apply to football because it is a contact sport of a kind that is explicitly excluded from the federal law.

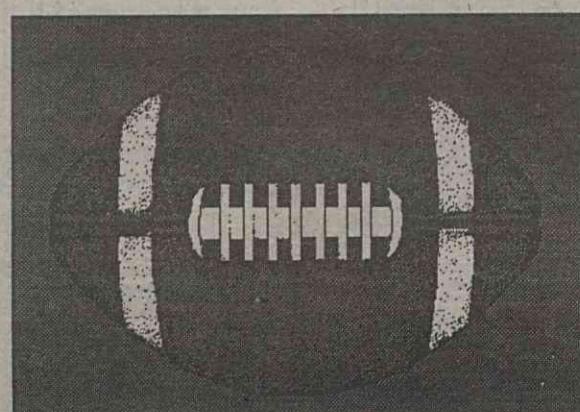
"We are gratified but not surprised by the United States District Court's decision," said John F. Burness, Duke's senior vice president for public affairs.

Mercer — a third-team, all-state selection in football in her senior year in high school — said Goldsmith told her she would have

a spot on the team after she kicked a game-winning field goal during a preseason scrimmage in 1995.

Goldsmith told reporters the same, but later said he had spoken too hastily. A local newspaper reported that Mercer has indicated she would appeal the ruling.

Still undetermined is a state claim of breach of contract that Mercer may continue fighting in a North Carolina court. In that case, Mercer argues that Goldsmith gave her a contractual guarantee when he told her she would get a spot on the team.



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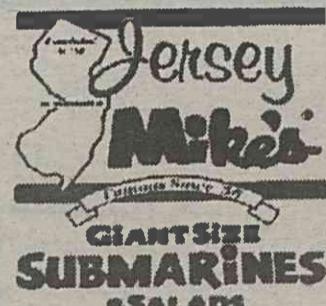
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Have a safe
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Enjoy a weekend of singing!

Elon College Gospel Choir
Friday, Nov. 20
7 p.m. in Whitley Auditorium

Elon College Choir
Saturday, Nov. 21
8 p.m. in McCrary Theatre