



# ElonSports



## Tennis sends message to Big South competition

*Both teams close out successful seasons with final match vs. High Point today*

Elon tennis has sent a message to the rest of the Big South.

It's clear, audible, easy to spot and spelled out in plain English.

Actually, it's probably spelled out in English, Dutch, German, Thai and Spanish.

In English, it would probably say something like "Hey,

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we've only been here a short time, watch us come and kick your behind."

Take that message, put it on a billboard with bright, neon-yellow background for all to notice, spell it in all the languages and place it up

closest match all season from a Big South foe other than Winthrop was a 7-2 win against Radford.

"We've worked really hard together as a team," sophomore transfer Sarah Benhaim said. "It's not because of one person. Even the people who didn't play, they cheered and that's really important I think."

Benhaim and her doubles counterpart, Imre Kwast, have both been a part of big-time competition at N.C. State and the University of South Carolina where they transferred from.

That experience and big-school mentality have shown

After the victory, the team threw their rackets in the air, celebrating the emotional victory.

"Our doubles teams work really good together," Benhaim said. "I've never had such a good doubles partner (Kwast, 13-2 doubles record) that fit so good together. Everybody else is like that."

They sure are. Combined the women's tennis team is 75-8 in singles play and 36-9 in doubles play. Benhaim and Kwast have enjoyed and benefitted from their transfer to Elon. And the team has benefitted from them as well.

"We were (at big schools), we saw really big programs," Benhaim said. "You can really beat everybody if you really work together as a team."

The men meanwhile, also handed ECU a loss on the same day.

They want to avenge an earlier loss to High Point in the season though, at the conference tournament.

"We feel we can beat them," No. 1 singles player Remy Nagel said. "Now we are playing better."

"In the end of the season, we are playing much better than in the beginning. We've adjusted better. I like to play better in the end. We all have a good feeling to end the season."

The men are 10-7 on the season, with big wins against U N C - Wilmington, UNC-Asheville, Liberty, Radford and ECU.

The men have also benefitted from strong doubles play to complement singles play. The doubles team of Nagel and Chai Navawongse is 12-4, as is the team of Andreas Moll and Adriano Blacutt.

"We pair up pretty well," Blacutt said. "We complement each other on the court."

Moll and Blacutt got a big doubles in against ECU to add to that 6-1 win.

"We felt the pressure the whole time," Blacutt said, "but we've learned how to deal with that."

The men's team has dominated in its wins. Only two of the 10 teams Elon has defeated have scored more than one point.

"I feel we can beat every team," Nagel said. "Just beat them no matter where they are from."

The Fightin' Christians are doing this. They are beating on their

opponents worse than a WWF grudge match, worse than a MTV celebrity deathmatch, worse than a Reggie White tackle. Elon could whip up some eggs with the beating they've done to its opponents.

And there is no stoppage in site. The women lose valuable talent in Sarah Collins (No. 5 singles, 14-2) and Ashley Lane. The men graduate no one, but will lose Andreas Moll, as he transfers back to Germany.

Either way, Elon will be giving a farewell party today through Sunday at the Big South championships: A farewell to friends and teammates, Division I... and the soon-to-be competition.

"I think we've already sent a message."

*Julianne Treme*

in front of every Big South school. 1999-2000 will be the year, heck the decade, century and millenium of the Fightin' Christian as Elon whoops up on Big South opponents in its first year of fully eligible Division I status.

"I think we've already sent a message," sophomore Julianne Treme said.

"We're looking to go in and beat High Point 9-0 and send a message for next year that everybody should watch out."

The women (16-3) defeated every Big South opponent this year except for High Point, who the Fightin' Christians only lost to by one, 5-4.

With the Big South Conference Tournament held at Elon from today through Sunday, it is a prime opportunity for Elon to showcase its talents for all the Big South.

Elon beat High Point handily in the first matchup between the two, 8-1. Actually, Elon beat all its Big South opponents handily. The

through and rubbed off on their teammates.

On April 12, the women took down East Carolina, 5-4.

Julianne Treme and Jenny Thigpen notched the match with a 9-7 win in No. 2 doubles. This was

after the pair fell behind 7-4.

"I just knew we had to do it," Treme said. "I started getting nervous at 7-7. Both teams were crowding the court at that point and cheering at every point emotionally."

"It was like the Final Four for us. Some seniors and juniors have lost to them for two and three years. They (ECU) are just so obnoxious. I've never seen a team pull together like that. It was the greatest win we've ever had."



Baseball beats No. 21 East Carolina 4-3 in 12 innings. Story page 27. Emily MacDonnell/The Pendulum



**This Week in  
Elon Athletics...**

*Come and Support Your  
Fightin' Christians!*

**Elon Softball**

4/24 vs. Winthrop @ 1:00  
4/25 vs. N.C. A&T (season finale) @ 2:30

**Elon Baseball**

4/27 vs. Appalachian State (home finale) @ 3:00

**Men's and  
Women's Tennis**

Today - Sunday, 4/24  
Big South Conf. Tourney  
All Day