



Nick Theos

Furman Moseley above on the left, a 1956 Elon graduate for whom the student center is named, is also familiar with giving to Elon. He and his wife, Susan, both of Seattle, donated \$1 million, honoring alumna Nick Theos, pictured on the left. As Phoenix fans enter the stadium, they enter under the Theos Arch. Moseley says Theos, a former football player and classmate of Moseley's, made a lasting mark in Moseley's life. Theos especially inspired Moseley with his 27-year devotion as principal of Bishop England High School on Daniel Island, S.C. Theos was honored with a papal medal that was first given by Pope Pius XI in the 18th century, a medal bestowed in recognition of service to the church and to society. "I like leading kids in the right direction, giving them the right road," Theos says. "You don't get there without having good academic background."



The McKinnons

The announcement to name the field within the stadium came Sept. 1999. At a luncheon before an Elon football game, Lambert announced it would be named McKinnon Field, in honor of Bob McKinnon and his wife, Ray. McKinnon, a 1962 alumnus, and Ray committed to \$1 million in contributions to Elon's campaign for the stadium. McKinnon, an executive in the furniture industry, is also a member of the board of trustees. He was the campaign chairman for the Elon Vision, the \$40 million campaign that included new library, science center and stadium facilities. The McKinnons reside in Hickory, N.C.

Team hopes home game will lift team morale

Lee Serafini

Reporter

Dogged by a tough early road schedule in Division I-AA football, Elon stammers into its home opener winless and searching for answers.

After its 46-7 loss at Furman and the 42-21 loss to James Madison University, the Phoenix has been outscored 88-28 in its first two games.

"I don't know what's going on," tight end Matt Peterson said. "All I know is that we need to figure things out and get this turned around."

The biggest sore spot has been in the defensive unit. Once a formidable force, the Phoenix defense has surrendered 969 yards in two weeks. Furman collected 206 rushing yards.

"We've just got to make more plays," senior nose guard C.J. Habersham said. "We're not doing what we need to do. It's frustrating and it's got to stop."

Elon's offense hasn't shown much consistency. It committed six turnovers last Saturday, four interceptions and two fumbles, bringing its season total to seven.

The Phoenix has changed quarterbacks, going from Scott

Stevens to C.W. Singletary. It hasn't made much of a difference on the scoreboard.

Elon totaled yards of offense against Furman. Only 18 yards were gained through the air.

"There just needs to be some consistency," Peterson said. "Hopefully we'll get everything straightened out and back on track."

This is the first time since 1996, coach Al Seagraves' first season, which Elon had started the season 0-2.

Today, Eastern Kentucky rolls into the newly minted Rhodes Stadium, fresh off a 30-7 victory against Liberty.

The Colonels have the most wins (208) of any Division I-AA program in the country since the division began in 1978. That's more than Georgia Southern (190) and Furman (185).

The Phoenix wants to make certain they defend their turf in the home opener.

"I think the new stadium and the sense of pride this football team has will be enough to pull this thing together," Habersham said. "We don't want a team to come to our new home and show us up. There's too much pride on the line."

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Around the stadium, one can't avoid the extra touches. Though the stadium rests 16 feet below ground level, the bell tower, for example, built with the help of an anonymous donor, hovers noticeably high above. It stands 57 feet tall; the light towers, 110 feet tall; Woods Center press box, 59 feet tall; the scoreboard/message center, 25 feet high, 32 feet wide with 4,468 lights.

Rhodes Stadium, with its impressive consortium of intricacies designed to game-playing perfection, culminates the Elon Vision, an institutional advancement campaign that started under former President Fred Young and concluded with President Leo Lambert. It is the third construction feat of the Vision, following McMichael Science Center and Belk Library. It will replace the Burlington Memorial Stadium at Williams High School four miles away, where Elon has played every year since 1949, when the stadium was built.

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high school girlfriend. Over the next 50 years, Peggy Rhodes and the couple's children, Debbie, David, Larry and Jennifer, followed Rhodes around the country.

The couple's first move took them to Purdue University, where Dusty earned a degree in physical education in 1956 while Peggy worked at the local telephone company. After a variety of positions in education, engineering and computer endeavors, Rhodes joined Cisco Systems, a start-up technology company, in 1988. As one of the original 17 employees, he had an opportunity to help turn a small company into a big one. Within a decade, Cisco became a leading force in the technology revolution, with more than 25,000 employees.

In 1990, the Rhodes moved to the Elon community, a convenient

location for Rhode's work in opening Cisco's new sales office in Research Triangle Park. Larry had graduated from Elon in 1986, and Jennifer's husband, Mike Ford, graduated in 1984. With family and friends close by, it seemed a great place to call home. Today, all four of their children and their families, including five grandchildren, live nearby.

As active and devoted members of the Elon community, the Rhodes can be found cheering at sporting events and in the audience at theatre and music performances. They have traveled to Hawaii with the basketball team, to Miami with the baseball team and have visited Elon's facilities in London.

"It's nice being in our position," Peggy Rhodes says. "We can enjoy all the Elon events."

"We couldn't have found a bet-

ter place to retire," Rhodes says. "I can't even imagine being down in Florida, retired and having nothing to do. That's not the way we do things. We enjoy people and feel very blessed and fortunate that we found Elon."

Rhodes gets satisfaction knowing Rhodes Stadium will bring enjoyment to others. "A lot of people are going to walk through those gates, rekindle old friendships and enjoy the moments. And when they see this beautiful facility, they'll say, 'What an awesome place! This is Elon's Field of Dreams.'"

The couple has also established scholarship funds and has assisted three Elon students attend graduate school. "We gave to assist young people in their efforts to obtain an education," Peggy Rhodes says. "That is what giving is all about."