

Let the games begin: a final look into a world of competition

Jon Whitkin

Reporter

This is the second installment in the two-part Olympic Games preview.

The Winter Olympic Games have returned again, and they will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah Feb. 8 - 24.

Men's Hockey

The hockey competition at the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City will feature participation by NHL players for the second time.

The National Hockey League will suspend play for 16 days during the Olympic Games to allow its athletes to participate.

Some of the NHL stars to watch include the Dallas Stars' Mike Modano, the New York Rangers' Brian Leetch, the Detroit Red Wings' Chris Chelios and Dominik Hasek, the Florida Panthers' Pavel Bure and the Colorado Avalanche's Joe Sakic.

Play begins with eight teams in two groups playing a preliminary round, with two ad-

vancing to play in the final round.

The final round consists of eight teams, including the two qualifiers, and all eight teams advance to the playoff round with their seedings determined by their records in the previous round.

The playoff round begins with the quarterfinals, followed by the semifinals and the medal games.

The winners of the semifinal matches meet in the gold medal game, while the losers meet in the bronze medal game. The loser of the gold medal game receives the silver medal.

Women's Hockey

The women's hockey team played superbly at the 2001 World Championships, finishing with an undefeated record. Cammi Granato, Karyn Bye and Sarah Tueting will attempt to lead the American team toward a medal.

Jennifer Botterill, Zhanna Shelchkova and Marja-Helena Palvila are among the world's best female hockey players and represent Canada, Russia and Finland.

The advent of women's hockey as an

Olympic event should help the sport of hockey grow both domestically and internationally.

Speed Skating

Speed skating will consist of 10 medal events in 2002.

Women and men will compete in 500-meter, 1,000-meter, 1,500-meter and 5,000-meter events, with the women adding a 3,000-meter event and the men a 10,000-meter event.

One of America's top speed skaters is Joey Cheek. Hailing from Greensboro, N.C., Cheek finished 2001 ranked No. 18 in the 500-meter standings.

Cheek has a great chance of winning a medal for the men.

Becky Sundstrom, who finished No. 25 in the World Cup, should be one of the best speed skaters for the women's squad.

Moguls

The mogul competition consists of a run down an uneven course with two major jumps along the way. Moguls are large uniform bumps that are up to four feet high.

Along the course, there are two large jumps. One is placed one-third of the way down, while the other is about two-thirds of the way down.

The top mogul skiers should be 23-year-old Ryan Riley, who is currently ranked No. 5 in the world.

The state of Massachusetts holds two of the top 10 female aerial skiers: sixth ranked Emily Cook and eighth ranked Brenda Petzold.

New Hampshire's Hannah Hardaway will lead the women's mogul team, but her efforts may not be enough against the world's No. 1 ranked mogul skier, Norway's Kari Traa.

Aerials

Aerial competition consists of a two-jump elimination followed by a two-jump final.

The total jump score is the sum of the air, form and landing multiplied by the predetermined degree of difficulty for the jump.

The top male freestyle aerial skier is Eric Bergoust. After finishing No. 1 in the world's aerial cup standings, Bergoust hopes to win a medal for America.

Lady Phoenix in second place after road trip

Nick Rust

Reporter

The Phoenix women's basketball squad took their show on the road Jan. 26. The Phoenix (11-10 overall, 7-2 Big South) traveled down I-85 to take on High Point (8-11, 3-4). From start to finish, the game was tightly contested.

The first half featured seven ties. The largest lead the Panthers held was five points on four different occasions, including a halftime score of 44-39.

The second half opened with a Phoenix streak of 25-10 in the first eight minutes, due in part to Elon's star backcourt duo of Jayme Chikos and Holly Andrews. They both added nine points.

Elon took a 66-54 lead. The Panthers, however, countered with a 17-6 run over the next four minutes, cutting Elon's lead to one.

The game would stay close until the end. High Point grabbed a four-point advantage with just two minutes remaining in regulation, but a layup by Elon's Ivy Ghee tied the game.

On the final possession of regulation, High Point's Mary Brewer received the ball at the foul line. Elon's Courtney Nyborg was there waiting, but she fouled Brewer while trying to block the shot.

Brewer made one free throw, giving the Panthers a slim 83-82 lead with 1.2 seconds left.

Andrews set a new career high in points with 28, Chikos added 16 points and eight assists and Nyborg had 10 points and eight rebounds.

Next, the Phoenix traveled to Rock Hill, S.C., to face Winthrop (6-14, 2-6) for a second time. Elon won the game with an impressive 84-73 victory.

The game's significance increased after Chikos became the all-time assist leader in Elon women's basketball history.

She surpassed Lisa Briggs with her 405th assist, which came off a dish to freshman Jessica Williams for a three-pointer.

The assist for Chikos was one of a career-high 12. It put her career total at 411.

Williams provided a huge spark off the bench with 10 points. Elon's other bench players had good games.

Anestha Blakeney added 10 points and Ghee dropped 11.

The first half was tightly contested, as it was many times this season. There were nine lead changes and four ties.

Elon took a 38-37 lead into the locker room at the break. Elon shot a blazing 5-for-7 (71.4 percent) from beyond the arc.

The second half was more of the same closely-played style, with seven second half lead changes. Andrews put in 20 points on 5-for-12 shooting and an impressive 9-for-10 at the free throw line.

Elon's largest lead was 13 after a Chikos three pointer. Stephanie Pannell's seventh double-double and Laura Herman's 15 points and nine rebounds aided Winthrop in the game.

Elon's win was their first at Winthrop Coliseum.

Andrews' stellar performance warranted her naming as Big South Player of the Week for the third time this season and the second straight week. Over the two-week span Andrews averaged 26 points and five rebounds, and has scored 23 or more in her last four ballgames. She has



Tim Rosner / Photographer
Holly Andrews and Elon have dominated conference play.

scored more than 20 points seven times this season.

The Phoenix continued their road trip at Charleston Southern University (10-9, 5-3) on Feb. 2. Elon came up short in the game, losing 57-53.

The game was a setback to Elon's season, as they came into the game tied with Liberty for first place in the conference. The Buccaneers led at halftime 25-16.

They opened the second half with an 11-point advantage, and were up

41-30 with 11 minutes remaining.

Elon stormed back on a 19-3 run that put the Phoenix up 49-46 with less than four minutes left in the game.

Marea Daniels, however, was the difference in the game. She scored 19 points for Charleston-Southern, including eight in the final 2:22. Daniels hit a layup with 2:30 left and followed immediately with a three-pointer, putting the Buccaneers up 52-51 with more than one minute remaining.

After an Elon turnover Daniels hit one-of-two free throws for a two-point lead with 26 seconds remaining, which eventually secured the win.

Elon was out-rebounded 51-47 in the game. Andrews led the Phoenix with 17 points and Ghee had 10.

The Phoenix took another game on the road against Coastal Carolina University Feb. 4, winning 60-50.

Andrews contributed 24 points, and sophomore guard Milica Milosavljevic added 14 points and six rebounds.

Coastal was led by guard Nikki Reddick's 15 points on 4-for-23 shooting.

Elon next faces the University of North Carolina at Asheville tonight at the Nest at 7 p.m.