

Phoenix players step up, fill hole left by Andrews' injury

Guard Williams named So. Conference player of the week

Nick Palatiello
Reporter

Women's basketball will travel to Davidson College Saturday for a rematch of the Jan. 17 game at Alumni Gym in which the Wildcats narrowly escaped with a 64-62 victory. In last month's contest, Elon guard and two-time conference player of the month Holly Andrews left the game with an injured knee. In order to be successful at Davidson, Elon will have to limit its number of turnovers, having given up 27 in the first meeting.

With only five games remaining in the regular season, the Phoenix sit in fifth place in the Southern Conference, just on the heels of fourth-place Davidson.

It now seems that the road that once looked hard has had its mile-

stones.

Monday night Courtney Nyborg swatted away two program records. With six blocks on the night, Nyborg, broke her own mark of 56 blocks in a season to reach a total of 62. She also has the school's all-time career record with 188 blocks. The junior added 10 points as well to help the Phoenix to a 58-53 victory over Georgia Southern in Alumni Gym.

Jessica Williams, who contributed 14 points of her own in the win Monday, has had to step up at the guard position to fill the starting role left vacant by the injured Andrews. Williams also netted 14 points and four rebounds Monday and junior point-guard Lisa Miller went 3-6 from the field and knocked down eight of nine from the free throw line, netting 15 points. Williams was named

Southern Conference player of the week Feb. 10 after outings of 19, 24 and 14 points against UNC-Greensboro, College of Charleston, and Georgia Southern, respectively.

"I did not feel that I needed to fill Holly's shoes," Williams said. "It has been a team effort to replace the leading scorer."

"We challenged the entire team to make one more point and make one more stop," coach Brenda Paul said. "You cannot replace a player like Holly, you can only try to limit the impacts."

The Phoenix has gone 5-3 without its stand-out player. Elon blew out the College of Charleston 97-72 in Alumni Gym Feb. 7.

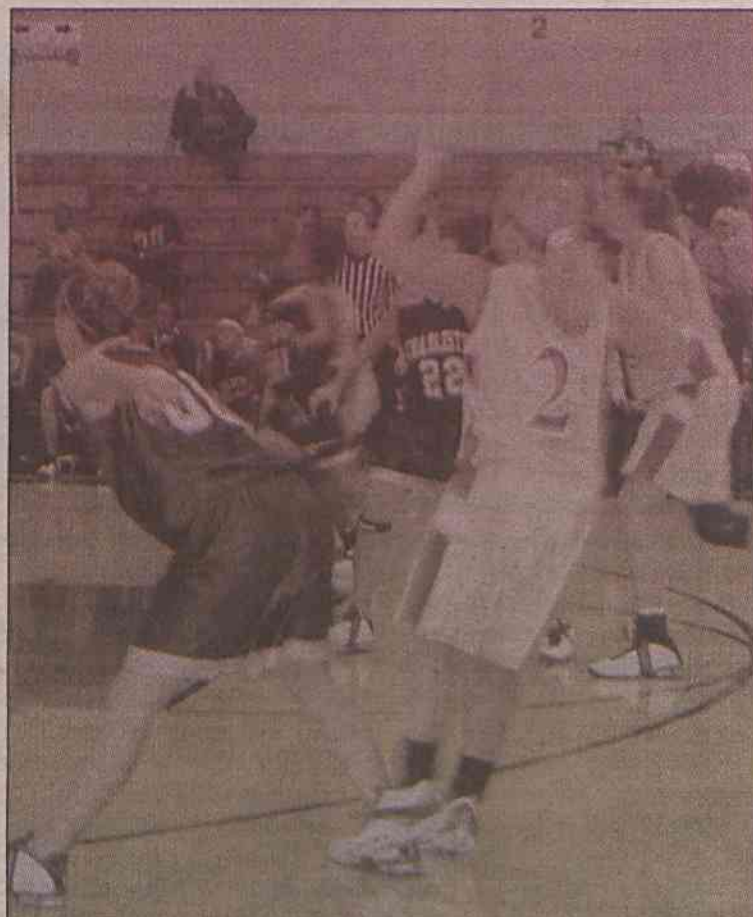
It seemed like the Phoenix could not miss from three point land, shooting 70.6 percent, a school record. Williams put up a career high 24 points in the contest going 7-9 from three point range. Miller chalked up her first career double double with four of five shots being three pointers. In the first meeting between the two schools, Charleston defeated Elon 86-68.

The Phoenix is now 28-4 at home since the 2001 season. Coach Paul believes that the major goal in the season is to win at home and steal a couple of games on the road. That is the key to success.

Coach Brenda Paul said the team is playing with a lot of heart and the confidence since losing Andrews. That confidence level has to be at its peak leading up to the conference tournament March 3 in Charleston, S.C.

"With each win, we are picking up momentum which is vital going into the tournament," Nyborg said.

The Phoenix will face two of the top three teams in the conference at home beginning with the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Feb. 21. Having the home court advantage will be critical if the team wants a solid seed in the tournament.



Tim Rosner / Photographer

Elon's Jessica Williams (2) fades away on a jump shot in the team's game against Southern Conference foe College of Charleston. Williams scored a career-high 24 points in the 97-72 Elon victory.



Tim Rosner / Photographer

Courtney Nyborg (center) goes up for a rebound against College of Charleston. Nyborg scored 15 points and grabbed 7 rebounds in the game.

Women's basketball Southern Conference standings

	SOCON		Overall		
	W-L	W-L	Pct	PF	PA
Chattanooga.....	15-0	20-2	.909	74.0	59.3
Furman.....	11-4	14-8	.636	67.5	58.4
East Tennessee State	11-5	11-11	.500	65.3	67.2
Davidson.....	10-6	13-10	.565	64.0	62.0
Elon.....	9-6	13-9	.591	64.2	66.4
UNC Greensboro.....	8-7	8-14	.364	61.0	65.4
Western Carolina....	6-8	7-14	.333	61.8	65.8
Georgia Southern....	6-10	10-12	.455	57.0	61.2
Appalachian State...	4-10	5-16	.238	65.4	72.3
Coll. of Charleston.	3-13	5-18	.217	60.0	70.8
Wofford.....	0-14	0-21	.000	57.8	77.6

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