

Softball coming away with wins thanks to fundamentals

Lauren Sims

Reporter

It is a fact with any sport. The key to scoring that big "W" at the end of the game is fundamentals. Whether it is the passing of a basketball, the swing of a tennis racket or the hitting of a softball, if these are all done correctly, a victory becomes that much easier to obtain.

This is definitely true with the Elon softball team and the key to their win earlier in the season against UNC-Greensboro. "We hit the ball," said head coach Patti Raduenz. That is what needed to be done this past weekend when the team faced the Spartans of UNC Greensboro for the second time this year.

"I'm just looking for them to come out and play as they do every game," Raduenz said. As she put it, they need to come out with the "winning spirit," and that they did.

With a doubleheader on Saturday and a third game on Sunday, the Phoenix had an intense weekend ahead of them.

To add to their record of 17-16, 3-0 in conference play, Elon defeated the Spartans on Saturday winning the first game 9-2 and the second 3-1. What coach could ask for more of their team than to receive two victories in one day? Well, for Raduenz it is not quite time to celebrate.

"There's no time to celebrate until we get that "W," Raduenz said. "And even then we go to rest up and relax and come back ready to play again on Sunday."

Junior pitcher, Whitney Meeks, played a huge role in sealing the first victory for the Phoenix by only giving up two runs out of eight hits and striking out two batters.

Freshman Sadie Ball had a huge day with two homeruns.

Her second homerun put the Phoenix on the board during the second game, as she hit Megan Borgaard and Dani Concepcion home, starting off the game 3-0.

A switch in pitchers did not seem to affect Elon's victory streak. Meredith Gay pitched the second game as she struck out six batters and only gave up one hit.

"Once you step on the field and between those lines, it's all about business," Raduenz said. With a successful day on Saturday, it was obvious Elon was not there to fool around.

When 1 p.m. Sunday came about, Elon was back and ready for game three. Except this time things did not go their way.

The Spartans defeated the Phoenix 7-3, giving Elon their first conference loss of the season.

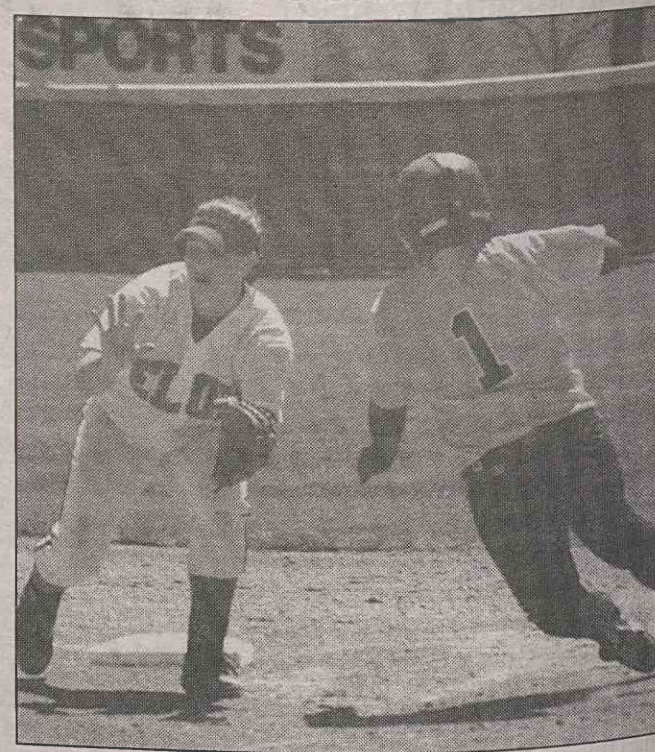
Elon took the early lead 2-0, which the Spartans soon tied 2-2. From then on, it was downhill for the Phoenix. They stayed close with UNC Greensboro until the Spartans broke away at the top of the sixth inning, giving with a 7-3 lead, which was the score that concluded the game.

"I expect to win every game," Raduenz said. "The only team that beats us is the other team." Raduenz expects her team to come out ready to play every game that way. If they lose, it's not because they beat themselves.

With a current record after this weekend of 19-17, 5-1 in conference play, the softball team relies heavily on the strength of the team as a whole.

"This team is built around everybody," Raduenz said. "It has taken everybody to win every game."

Contact Lauren Sims at pendulum@elon.edu or 278-7247.

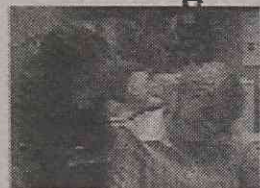


Brittanie Schroyer/ Photographer

Meredith Miley (above) awaits a throw as UNCG's Lyndsey Wilson slides safely into second base. Elon took two out of three from the Spartans in a weekend series. The Phoenix improved to 19-17 (5-1) on the season with five remaining conference series before the tournament.

CAREER CONNECTION: Your link to the Elon Career Center

Career Corner: Marketing Internship in Publishing Arena is Great Experience



Lindsey Pinkstaff and her supervisor, Courtney Gunnells

"My Spring Semester internship experience at Southern Progress, Inc., Birmingham, AL, is both insightful and rewarding. I really enjoy seeing how the marketing department in the publishing industry works from an insider's perspective. Southern Progress publishes popular magazines such as Southern Living, Coastal Living, Southern Accents, and many more."

"It amazes me how much thought and time goes into each of the promotions for the different books that our division, Oxmoor House, produces. I encourage all students to apply for full-time internship programs, such as the one at Southern Progress. An internship is a great way to learn more about a particular industry or company before making a permanent commitment. I am also receiving 4 college credits! - Lindsey Pinkstaff '05, Business Administration Major

Elon Teacher Fair 2005 Tuesday, April 12

McKinnon Hall, Mosley Center

Students who have signed up in advance for interviews should be sure to attend! (Only open to those who signed up during the registration period.)

Red Hat Information Session Possible Internships for All Majors - Monday, April 18

"Take the Road to Red Hat" 5:30pm (PROMPTLY) - 7:00 pm
Red Hat, Centennial Campus, 1801 Varsity Drive, Raleigh, NC
For more information, go to <http://www.redhat.com> or the Career Center website homepage under Events.

Interested in a Career in Public Relations? Attend the Career Exploration Series PR Alumni Panel

Tuesday, April 19, 6 pm, McTwen 011
Come meet PR professionals who will discuss their career paths, provide insight and examine future trends in the field. Panelists include: Jocelyn Berner '02, VF Corporation; Deanna Holt, Greensboro Area Convention and Visitor's Bureau; Cindy Akus, French West Vaughn; Anna Semas '03, Webb Patterson Communications

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Please see the Career Center website at www.elon.edu/careers and select events for additional information or contact the Career Center at 336-278-6538.

Resume Walk-in Hours - Wednesdays, 1 - 4 pm
Career Center, Duke 101. First come, first served!

www.elon.edu/careers - 101 Duke - 278-6538

Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.