

This is week one of "The Pendulum" sports predictions. Each week the panel will test out their sports expertise against each other. The winner will be named at the end of the semester.



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0-0



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Columnist
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Sports Editor
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Reporter
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Reporter
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WSOE Sports
0-0

NCAA Basketball

Syracuse vs. Villanova	Villanova	Villanova	Villanova	Villanova	Villanova	Villanova
Connecticut vs. Louisville	Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut	Connecticut
West Virginia vs. UCLA	West Virginia	UCLA	West Virginia	West Virginia	West Virginia	West Virginia
Florida vs. Tennessee	Florida	Tennessee	Florida	Florida	Florida	Florida
Duke vs. Georgetown	Duke	Duke	Duke	Duke	Duke	Duke
Virginia Tech vs. Maryland	Maryland	Maryland	Virginia Tech	Virginia Tech	Maryland	Maryland
Wake Forest vs. NC State	NC State	NC State	NC State	NC State	NC State	NC State

NFL

Carolina vs. Seattle	Seattle	Carolina	Seattle	Carolina	Seattle	Carolina
Pittsburgh vs. Denver	Pittsburgh	Denver	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Denver

Elon

Men's Basketball vs. Furman	Elon	Elon	Elon	Elon	Elon	Elon
Women's Basketball vs. Furman	Elon	Elon	Elon	Elon	Elon	Elon

Lady Phoenix look to climb, men's team at the top rung

Mike Deye and James Schlucter
Reporters

Women's

The Phoenix got off to a slow start in Southern Conference play by losing three of their first four games against divisional foes. However, with back-to-back wins against Wofford and the College of Charleston, the Phoenix are proving themselves in a conference with much parity.

Last year, the Phoenix struggled as they stumbled to a second to last place finish in the Southern Conference. The Phoenix are off to a 3-3 start in the conference. Already matching last year's win total in the conference, they are hoping to recover from last season's woes.

Red-shirt sophomore forward Kitara McMoore has been a major part of the team's success throughout the first five conference games, leading the team with 17.6 points and 11 rebounds per game. Perhaps more impressively, McMoore is second on the team in assists in conference play, trailing only point-guard Tierra Bumbrey.

"(McMoore) is our go to player," coach Brenda Paul said.

McMoore understands that the team feeds off of her success in the post. Her ability to score, rebound and pass makes her a unique all-around threat from the paint.

This season is a change from last year. The next three conference games will cer-

tainly test the Phoenix as they look to improve on their 3-3 conference record.

"(This year) we're in the games and we have chances to win," Paul said.

The Phoenix will host Furman and UNC-Greensboro, then travel to Chattanooga for one of their toughest match ups of the year. Furman is among the top teams in the SoCon, ranked second in the standings. Chattanooga has won every regular season SoCon championship this decade. UNC-G is traditionally a hard fought rivalry game; however, that game should be the least challenging game of the upcoming conference schedule.

Men's

After starting the season out 2-9 in their first 11 games, it looked like the Elon men's basketball team might be headed for a year similar to their 8-23 campaign in 2004-2005. During their nine losses, Elon was outscored by an average of 16.8 points per game.

Since then, Coach Ernie Nestor has turned things around for his basketball team, who currently sits atop the Southern Conference in sole possession of first place with a 4-0 record.

It all started when Elon got an impressive out of conference win at Clemson, 74-69, on Dec. 30. In that game, Elon had five players notch double digits in scoring and held Clemson to just 35 percent shooting from the field.

"We aren't the type of team that can come



Laura Hals/ Photographer

Brian Waters and the Phoenix dispatched the UNC-G Spartans in "The Nest" during their most recent win, knocking off the Spartans 62-56 in front of a sellout crowd.

out and impose our will on people," Nestor said. "We have certain things we do and we have to do those things to be good."

Elon needed their big win against an ACC team to provide momentum as they headed into their first chunk of the Southern Conference schedule. With the help of two juniors, Montell Watson and Chris Chalko, Elon won their first four conference games by an average of eight points or more. Watson, who only averaged 4.6 points and less than two assists per game last year, has poured in 53 points and dished out 16 assists in conference play. Chalko leads the team in scoring and has netted 62 points and pulled down 21

rebounds in his four conference games.

The Phoenix will play ten straight conference games to finish out the season before the Southern Conference Tournament in March.

The players are happy to get off to such a strong start in conference play. In their next four games, they play one undefeated team and three teams all with a record of 3-1.

"It's such a good thing to start 4-0," Watson said. "There are so many good teams in our conference and every night is a big game."

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