

After downing Chanticleers, high flying Elon turns focus to Towson Tigers for home opener

Brad McLaughlin

Reporter

The Elon Phoenix football team looks to add to their great start when they face Towson at Rhodes Stadium on Saturday in their home opener.

The Towson Tigers went 6-5 last year and finished the season ranked 60th. They are coached by Gordy Combs, who returns to Towson for his 15th year as head coach.

They are led by sophomore quarterback Sean Schaefer. Schaefer exploded onto the scene last year with a record breaking freshman year in which he threw for 2,772 yards and 20 touchdowns. The Phoenix will have their hands full trying to contain him. Running backs Kerry Miles, Rasheed McClaude and wide receiver Andrae Brown are all threats for the Tigers on offense.

Defensively, the Tigers struggled last year giving up the most points of any team in the Atlantic 10 conference. They hope that with many of their starters returning, they will improve as a unit. They are led by senior tackles Carlos Allen, George Mitchell and sophomore linebacker Jordan Manning.

Last weekend the Phoenix had a gutsy 23-20 win at 25th ranked Coastal Carolina. New head coach Pete Lembo was happy to earn a win in his first game as head coach, but was more thrilled for the Elon community.

"It was a much appreciated win for our kids and the people in this community that have been through some tough times," Lembo said. "There was a lot of excitement heading into the year and it was good to be able to back that all up and get a win on the road."

New quarterback Wes Pope threw for more than 200 yards and scored twice, once through the air and once on the ground. Wide receiver Michael Mayers was outstanding performance, catching eight balls for 117 yards and a touchdown.

"Wes had a good start to the season, he came up with some big plays at critical moments and led our offense through some adversity in the middle of the game and finished strong," Lembo said.

All-American Linebacker Chad Nkang led the defense with 13 tackles, and received Southern Conference Player of the Week honors for the third time in his Elon career. Linebacker Corey Weaver and true freshman defensive back Karlos Sullivan both grabbed interceptions.

Elon received top 25 votes this week, for the first time in four years.



Contact Brad McLaughlin at pendulum@elon.edu or 278-7247.

Courtesy of The Sun News
Running back T.J. Clegg evades a tackler in last weekend's game against Coastal Carolina. Clegg hopes to improve upon his 48 yards.