

Recapping the fall sports season

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Executive Editors

Team: Football
Record this season: 9-3 overall, 7-1 Southern Conference
Record last season: 8-4 overall, 6-2 SoCon
Longest winning streak: Six games from Sept. 26 to Nov. 7
Highlight: At the end of the season, the Phoenix received an at-large bid to the Division I NCAA Football Championship Subdivision playoffs. This was the first time the team reached the postseason since joining the FCS in 1999. Elon was defeated in the first round by No. 4 University of Richmond by a score of 16-13.
Overall result: With a win against Samford University in the last game of the season, Elon secured its ninth win of the year. This was the first time the team recorded a nine-win season since 1999. At the end of the regular season, the Phoenix was ranked ninth in the country and received an at-large bid to the FCS playoffs.
Seniors: 14



Team: Men's Cross Country
Highlight: Elon junior Justin Gianni ran a school-record time of 25:39 at the Louisville Classic in Louisville, Ky. His time of 25:39 was good enough for a 90th-place finish out of 334 participants. Gianni then broke the 10K school record at the Southeast Regional with a time of 32:10.93.
Overall result: At the regional meet, the Phoenix finished 20th overall. In the Southern Conference championship, the Phoenix finished fifth overall. The team started its season with a first-place finish at the first-ever Elon Invitational.
Seniors: Three



Team: Women's soccer
Record this season: 12-5-2 overall, 7-3-1 Southern Conference
Record last season: 8-8-3 overall, 4-6-1 SoCon
Longest winning streak: Five games from Sept. 18 to Oct. 2.
Highlight: The five-game win streak is the longest for an Elon women's soccer team since the 1996 season. The Phoenix started the season 6-2-1 overall and 2-0-0 in the conference, which was also the best start by an Elon team since 1996. It was the first time an Elon team has started conference play at 2-0.
Overall result: In the last game of the regular season, the women's soccer team lost to UNC Greensboro. With the loss, the Phoenix dropped to fifth in the conference and narrowly missed the playoffs. If the team had won the game, it would have clinched its first-ever conference title.
Seniors: Six



Team: Volleyball
Record this season: 23-8 overall, 9-7 Southern Conference
Record last season: 19-16 overall, 8-10 SoCon
Longest winning streak: Eleven games from Aug. 28 to Sept. 18
Highlight: The team started off the season 11-0 before dropping its first match of the season to Georgia State University on Sept. 19. Elon only allowed its first 11 opponents to win five total sets and shut out seven teams. The Phoenix recorded just more than 42 kills per match and 36.8 assists per game in its 11-game winning streak.
Overall result: The Phoenix finished third in the North division of the SoCon, just missing the playoffs because of the new format for the conference tournament. Elon concluded its season behind Samford University and Appalachian State University in the North division. The team's record placed sixth overall in the SoCon.
Seniors: Three



Team: Men's soccer
Record this season: 10-8-2 overall, 4-2-0 Southern Conference
Record last season: 10-9-1 overall, 7-0-0 SoCon
Longest winning streak: Three games from Sept. 13 - 19 and from Oct. 3 - 10
Highlight: This season the Phoenix made a key addition to the team in freshman Chris Thomas. In prep school play, Thomas received many awards, including the 2008-09 Gatorade Georgia Boy's Soccer Player of the Year and the 2009 Georgia High School State Player of the Year. He was also named one of ESPN RISE's boy's soccer player of the week in his senior year of high school and was chosen as part of the 2009 ESPN RISE spring high school boys' soccer All-America first team.
Overall result: Elon entered the SoCon playoffs as the No. 3 seed, playing No. 2 College of Charleston. With a 2-0 victory against the Cougars, the team moved on to the conference finals against No. 1 Wofford College. The Phoenix was defeated in the title game 2-1.
Seniors: Seven



Team: Women's Cross Country
Highlight: The women's cross country team was ranked No. 15 in the Southeast Region going into the regional meet. The team was led by senior Caitlin Beeler, who finished seventh in the Southern Conference championship meet with a time of 15:54.55. The team also finished second in the conference.
Overall result: The Phoenix finished second in the SoCon, which was the team's best finish. It also finished one point behind Samford University, which won its first SoCon Championship this year.
Seniors: Two





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