

"We have great confidence right now," Howell said. "We are battle-tested and prepared for what lies ahead in the season."

by David O'Neill, March 17, 2010

When Elon University's men's tennis team rolled into the SoCon tournament at 6:30 p.m. today, they were looking for a dominant performance. Updated March 17, 2010

The team has won six out of seven matches in the SoCon tournament. "The guys are very confident. They've had some good matches so far," Anderson said. "They've got a lot of confidence, and they're also making very few errors."

Most recently, the team defeated Southern Carolina 4-0 Saturday in a non-divisional match. The Phoenix was able to control the match from the beginning as the team opened the day with a dominant doubles performance.

"We came out here and knew everybody would bring an A game," senior Laura Graybill said. "We had a really good start in doubles and that really set the tone for the rest of the match."

The doubles teams that put the Phoenix out in front early were senior Anna Miller and freshman Elise Simonetti senior Paige Kerans and sophomore Lillian Summers and freshman Brian Berne and senior Laura Graybill.

In singles action, Miller, Kerans, Summers and Graybill were able to win their matches, while Berne and Simonetti's matches were uncompleted portions of play.

Berne and Simonetti, playing at the third and fourth positions respectively, know that they will be expected to be in control of their matches as well.

Miller, Summers and Graybill were each able to win their matches without experiencing a single game, which gives the team confidence heading into more competitive matches.

"The team thinks it was very important to get a good start with Southern Conference play," Anderson said.

Summers agreed with her coach and had a quick response when asked whether she had any season conference victory projects for the Phoenix with a good opening of points for the season.

"Definitely, because it really is such confidence," she said.

In today's matchup against the Mountaineers, the Phoenix will take its confidence to the Jimmy Howell Tennis Center.

But the Phoenix will also bring a balanced team to the match, according to Anderson.

"I think a strength of our team has been against anybody in the position that they're in," Anderson said. "Everybody here is confident in their 'transition' abilities."