

Senior golfer ends time at Elon

Sam Calvert
Sports Editor

When senior Jayson Judy was in the ninth grade, he had to make a choice. He had to decide which sport to pursue into college — equestrian or golf.

After much deliberation, golf won.

"Growing up, it was always golf and horses," Judy said. "I was just as competitive in equestrian as I am in golf."

Judy said he still rides, but there were more scholarship opportunities for males in golf than in equestrian, so he took that route.

He began playing at the age of four in his hometown of Gibsonville and hasn't stopped since.

"It's a family thing," Judy said. "It's always been said that if you're a male Judy in the family and don't play golf reasonably well, there's something wrong with you."

His uncle played professionally, and his dad would have had he not been in a motorcycle accident.

It was only natural that Judy followed suit. In 2006, he began competing on the Elon University team after being redshirted the year before.

"I don't know any other place where I could get my undergrad degree early, finish my graduate

degree and play golf," Judy said.

Throughout his time at Elon, Judy has played 47 tournaments, totaling 127 rounds. He averaged a score of 74.27 for each round.

In 2010, Judy saw his best finish at the season-ending Southern Conference tournament in the last round April 20. He shot his lowest score of the year — a 67 — on his way to a second-place finish, tied with Furman University's Garland Ferrell.

"He's a hard worker, very consistent, always wanting to do better, wanting to be the best," head men's golf coach Bill Morningstar said.

Morningstar said Judy's leadership shaped who he was as a member of the team. He also said Judy would definitely leave behind a strong legacy with the Phoenix based on such leadership and execution on the course.

But Judy said he wanted his legacy to be something much simpler.

"I want to be someone that the program looks back on fondly," Judy said.

Judy's time at Elon was not just spent on the golf course. He was also a student who was able to finish his undergraduate degree early and get a graduate degree in Elon's M.B.A. program.

He also contributed to service

efforts, heading up Elon golf's Eagles for Haiti drive, raising \$4,100 for Red Cross relief after the earthquake in Haiti in January.

"I think he's been a big asset not only for the golf program, but for the student body also," Morningstar said. "He's one of the finest individuals to play for us."

Judy described his time at Elon as wonderful, having only one regret in his five years at the university.

Judy never had the chance to study abroad. Because of the golf schedule, there was never a good time.

"We're playing in both the fall and spring," Judy said. "January was always the time when we catch back up."

After college, Judy said he wants to pursue a career as a collegiate golf coach. He said he after working as a counselor at summer camps, he really enjoys the opportunity to be a mentor to kids.

He's also getting married July 21 to Megan Thomas, a 2001 Elon graduate.

Morningstar said Judy is a well-rounded person who will succeed after leaving Elon.

"He'll do very well down the road," Morningstar said. "He's truly one of the most outstanding golfers to play for Elon in the 38 years that I've been here."



Senior golfer Jayson Judy played in 127 rounds of golf in his time at Elon. FILE PHOTO

Elon softball celebrates trip to NCAA tournament

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regional is determined through double elimination. After two losses in the bracket, a team is eliminated.

For the Phoenix, sitting in the Fat Frog Bar and Grill last Sunday at the NCAA tournament viewing party, the tournament announcement came days after a dramatic SoCon tournament victory.

On May 14 the Phoenix earned a come-from-behind victory against the No. 4 seed in the tournament, UNC Greensboro.

Heading into the top of the seventh inning of the game, the Phoenix was down 2-1 to the Spartans. The inning began with freshman outfielder Tomeka Watson's leadoff double.

"Meka got us started with that hit, and that all started to follow up on that," junior second baseman Jackie Gonzalez said. "She gave us that spark we needed to get going."

Following that, Gonzalez recorded an infield single, and Watson scored on the next at-bat off of a Spartans throwing error. Then, junior outfielder Emerald Graham singled, sending Gonzalez home to put the Phoenix up 3-2. Elon added three more runs in the inning off of a home run from sophomore catcher Kaitlyn Piazzolla. The Phoenix entered the seventh inning up 6-2.

Junior pitcher Lauren Taylor surrendered one run in the bottom of the inning but eventually halted the Spartans' come back. Taylor secured her 17th win of the season, and the Phoenix secured its first-ever SoCon tournament victory and its first-ever appearance in the NCAA tournament.

"The character of this team is that we're fighters," junior infielder Ashlee Crewe said.

Raduenz echoed this statement, saying this isn't the first time this season the team fought back and won.

"That's been our season all season, all year long," she said. "Our team has never given up. We have fought all the way through against Carolina, Virginia and the games in Chattanooga."

University of Tennessee Chattanooga was the No. 1 seed in the tournament, and earlier in the season on April 17, the Phoenix swept a doubleheader against the Mocs and won the series 2-1. The Elon wins were the first SoCon losses of the season for the Mocs.

Gonzalez said the team is going to use the same fighting mentality as they head to Athens to face the No. 6 team in the nation.

"We're just going to keep doing what we've been doing all season," Gonzalez said. "We're not going to change anything."

The two teams previously met March 6, when the then-ranked No. 4 Bulldogs won 8-2.

"We've seen them and they are a good team," Crewe said.

She also said the Phoenix may have a little more of an advantage this time, having faced the Bulldogs already.

Heading into the regional, Raduenz said the main thing the team needs to focus on is executing its sacrifice bunts. But other than that, she said she doesn't anticipate many changes.

"They say if it ain't broke, don't fix it," Raduenz said. "We're going to do what we've been doing all year long and not change anything."



The Elon softball team and supporters gathered at the Fat Frog Bar and Grill on Sunday for an NCAA tournament viewing party. Photo courtesy of Elon Athletics

Breaking down the Athens Regional

University of Georgia

The Bulldogs enter the post season as the No. 6 overall seed and the host of the Athens, Ga., regional. They have a 43-11 record. The team has played seven of the sixteen No. 1 seeds in the tournament, with wins against six of the teams. It's played both Elon and Florida State during the regular season, with an 8-2 win over Elon and a 3-4 loss against Florida State.

Florida State University

At the end of the ACC tournament, the Seminoles secured a 43-16 record. The team lost to the No. 8 seed Georgia Institute of Technology in its conference tournament. Florida State defeated Georgia once already this season (3-4), but it didn't play either Radford or Elon this season. The last time the Seminoles faced the Phoenix was in 2003, when Florida State won — its second win against Elon in as many games.

Radford University

Radford will begin the tournament with a 36-15 record after winning the Big South Championship. The most notable game for the Highlanders was against the No. 9-seeded University of Missouri, where the team lost 6-7 in 10 innings. Radford hasn't faced Elon since 2008, when it won the two-game series.

Player receives diploma before leaving for NCAA tournament

Most Elon University seniors will receive their diplomas on Saturday as they walk across the stage at commencement. But for Ashlee Crewe, this would not be possible. Instead, she received her diploma at her own separate ceremony.

Crewe, a senior infielder on the softball team, will not be present for graduation because the team is playing in the Athens Regional of the NCAA tournament.

Because of this, she received her diploma Wednesday, May 19 at the Woods Center. Elon President Leo M. Lambert was present at the ceremony.

Crewe is the only member of the softball team graduating. She is majoring in leisure and sport management.