



## ONE ON ONE

Conor O'Neill and Tom Waterman  
Sports Commentators

### Coaches in the hot seat

Cue the "Jaws" music for NFL coaches. The first axe of the season came down Monday afternoon, as news broke of Wade Phillips' firing. We can hardly be certain that he will be the last coach to be shown the door this season, so who's next?

#### Conor O'Neill:

I'm going to start by looking west, and I'm thinking Mike Singletary's time is limited in San Francisco. Yes, he was thrust into that situation before he was ready to be a coach, as evidenced by his multiple "I'm looking for football players" rants (note to Mike: telling NFL players they aren't football players doesn't inspire them). And yes, Alex Smith clearly is not the second coming of Steve Young. Or even Jeff Garcia. But there is a lot more talent on his team than a 2-6 record would indicate. Vernon Davis, Patrick Willis, Frank Gore, Michael Crabtree, Nate Clements and Taylor Mays form the foundation for a strong team, but if that group loses to the Panthers, Singletary doesn't deserve to remain employed as a head coach.

#### Tom Waterman:

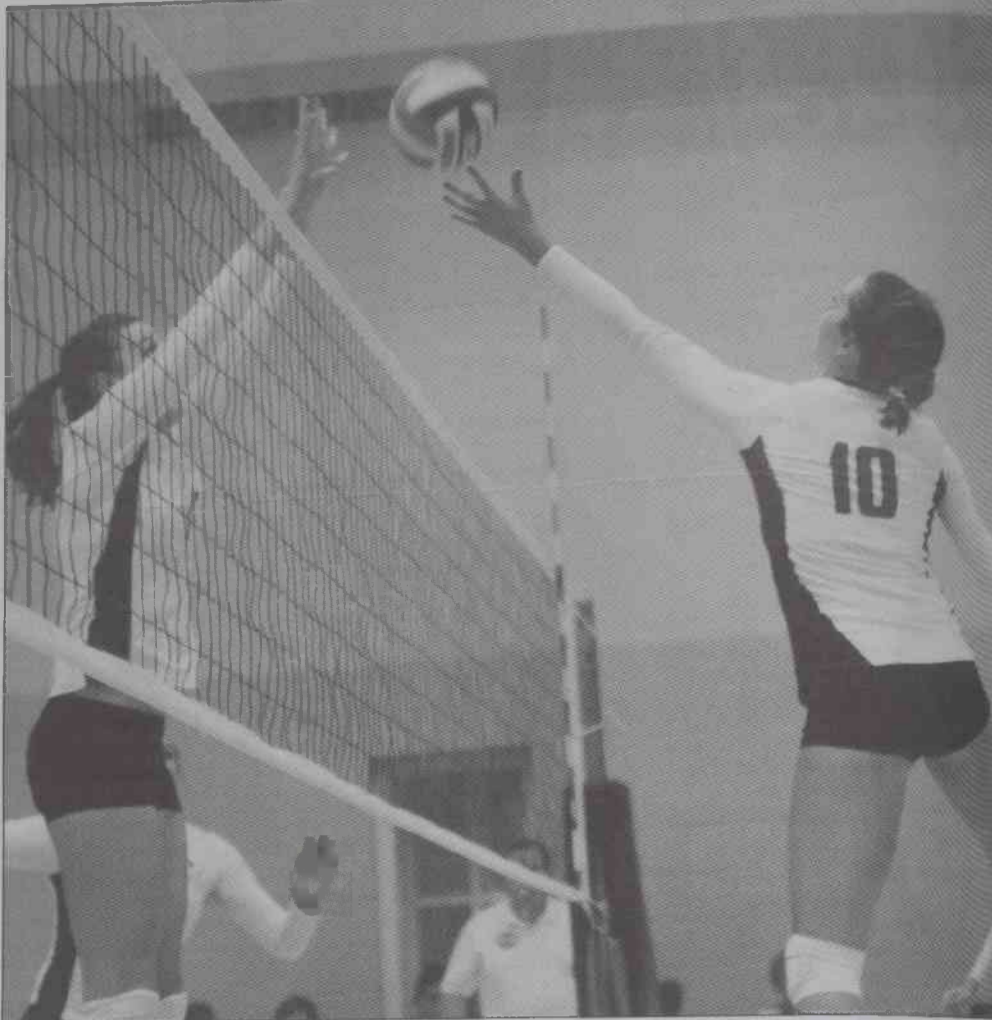
You are absolutely right Conor. In the NFL, it is all about production and winning games, and that is why I think Minnesota coach Brad Childress has his head on the chopping block. Childress has arguably more talent on his team than almost any other team in football, yet his team remains undisciplined and unfocused. His team's poor start at 3-5 is a reflection of how Childress has lost his team, a team he lost control of the moment Steve Hutchinson, Ryan Longwell and Jared Allen traveled to Hattiesburg, Miss., and made Brett Favre bigger than the team, and only magnified when he so terribly mismanaged the Randy Moss reunion tour in Minneapolis.

#### Conor:

Well said Tom. Childress has no control over what has become a comical situation in Minnesota. And speaking of teams that have a lot more talent than their records show, how about Norv Turner's San Diego Chargers? At 4-5, the Bolts trail the Chiefs (5-3) and Raiders (5-4) in the AFC West. People can laugh all they want about how the team led the NFL statistically in offense and defense as late as Week 6, but that joke has run cold. If Turner doesn't get this team to turn its season around with Vincent Jackson coming back, he shouldn't be given a seemingly eighth chance in San Diego.

#### Tom:

We talk about it all the time in the NFL. Consistency is the key to a good team, and the Chargers have yet to find that consistency this year. Another coach that is, in my opinion, already firmly on the hot seat is Cincinnati's Marvin Lewis. This team had incredibly high preseason expectations, and they have been a major disappointment. The road doesn't get any easier from here, as the Bengals play four of their next five games against playoff contenders, such as the Colts, Jets, Saints and Steelers. It looks like Marvin Lewis might be joining Wade Phillips on the NFL scrap heap come seasons end.



Junior right side hitter Traci Stewart (right) had 13 kills in the Nov. 6 match against Wofford College. FILE PHOTO

## Volleyball aims to capture division crown Friday

Conor O'Neill  
Assistant Sports Editor

The Phoenix volleyball team is peaking at the right time, according to head coach Mary Tendler.

"I think we're playing really well right now," she said. "This is my eighth season coaching and I think, at this time of the year, our team is playing better than any other team I've had before."

The most recent example of how well the Phoenix is playing can be seen with the team's success last weekend, when it swept UNC Greensboro Nov. 5 and traveled to Wofford College the next day for a 3-1 triumph.

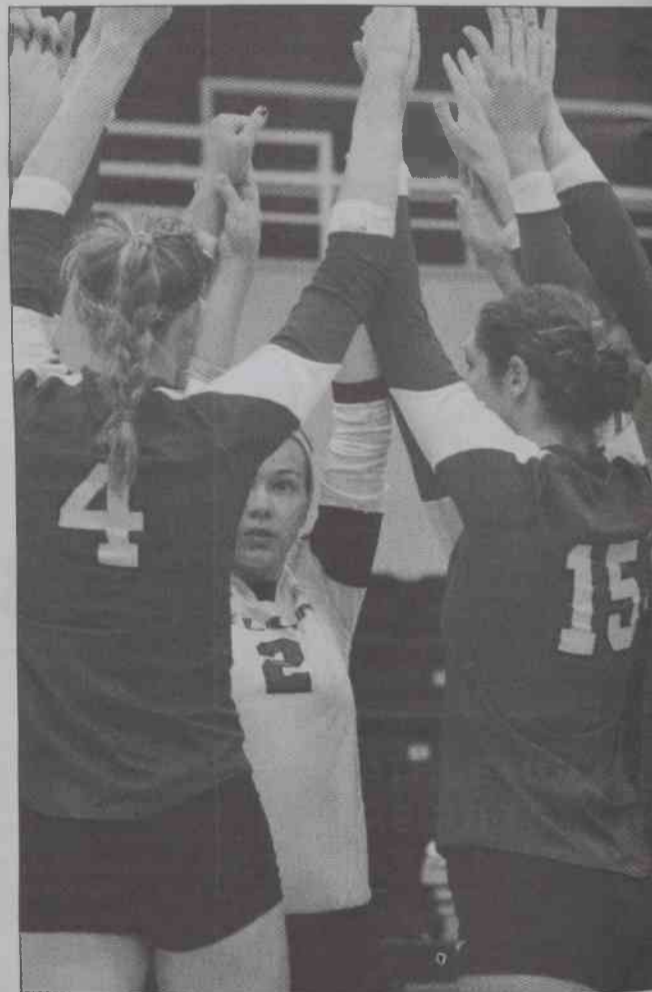
In the match against the Terriers, the Phoenix dropped the first set by a 25-18 score. The team then seized control, winning the next three sets by scores of 25-15, 25-20 and 25-16.

"We beat UNCG the night before, and that was a huge win, but it didn't mean anything if we didn't beat Wofford and keep it up," sophomore outside hitter/middle blocker Allison Johnson said. "So we just knew we had to get our heads on straight and just really play hard and put it all out there."

The team showed that Nov. 6 and emerged from a late-season five-game road trip with a 4-1 record, with three wins coming against Southern Conference foes.

Because the Phoenix is playing well late in the season, the team is in position to capture a North Division crown on Friday night against Appalachian State University.

Both teams will enter the match with 9-5 records in the SoCon. Though the Mountaineers got the better of the Phoenix earlier this



(from left to right) Senior middle blocker Sarah Schermerhorn and defensive specialists sophomore Ali Deatsch and senior Lizzie West helped the volleyball team to a 2-0 weekend against UNCG and Wofford. FILE PHOTO

season, the team is ready to work to avoid another loss to Appalachian State.

"Appalachian is going to be a huge game, we lost to them already once and we're not going to let that happen again," senior outside hitter Lauren Copenhagen said. "We're going to do whatever it takes this week in practice to do what we need to do for Friday."

The Phoenix will be playing just its third game of the season in newly renovated Alumni Gym, and the team is excited to be able to close its regular

season at home, according to Johnson.

"We're playing Appalachian State for the championship of the North Division, so everything is riding on (that game), and we want to win for our seniors because they have done so much for us and the program," Johnson said.

In the team's first game against Appalachian State, the team fell by a 3-1 defeat. Elon fell behind by losing the first two sets, and despite winning the third set, was unable to complete the comeback effort.

### ATHLETIC RESULTS

NOV. 4 - NOV. 8

#### Football

Nov. 6  
Elon 27  
The Citadel  
16

#### Men's Soccer

Nov. 6  
Elon 0  
Appalachian  
State 1

#### Women's Soccer

Nov. 5  
Elon 0  
UNCG 2

#### Volleyball

Nov. 5  
Elon 3  
UNCG 0

Nov. 6  
Elon 3  
Wofford 1

### ELON ATHLETICS THIS WEEK

NOV. 10 - NOV. 16

#### Friday 11/12

Women's basketball vs. Fordham — 4 p.m.  
Volleyball vs. Appalachian State — 8 p.m.  
Men's basketball @ South Carolina — 9 p.m.

#### Saturday 11/13

Cross Country (NCAA Regionals) — All Day  
Football vs. Furman — 1:30 p.m.  
Volleyball vs. Western Carolina — 5:30 p.m.

#### Sunday 11/14

Women's basketball vs. Troy — 1 p.m.

#### Monday 11/15

Men's basketball vs. College of New Jersey — 7 p.m.