



AN ITALIAN FLAVOR

During their visit to San Marino, the Phoenix played Ozzano's club team. Ozzano has beaten every U.S. college team that has played them in the last three years. Giulia Grasso, Ozzano's middle blocker, said Elon was the best team she faced out of all of them.

"The Phoenix players were not happy about the way they played, but they're learning and adjusting," said Elon associate professor Glenn Scott, who traveled with the team throughout Italy. "This is way outside their routine — just as it should be on a journey like this."

On May 30, the Phoenix stopped in Bologna, then made their way to the Tuscany region of Italy. After their third match of the trip against Montesport's club team, the team visited Cinque Terre and Porto Venere.

"Porto Venere was the perfect place to

visit after walking around Florence for an entire day," Head said. "While in Florence, I was surrounded by churches, statues, restaurants, stores and lots of people. In Porto Venere, I was surrounded by salt water, a sea breeze and spectacular views of the Mediterranean Sea. Visiting there was like taking a breath of fresh air."

Against Montesport, the Phoenix fell 3-1 after struggling with ball control in the first set. They found a better tempo in the third set and tested Montesport in the club's first official match.

The team returned to Milan to play its fourth and final match after a few days in Cinque Terre. The matchup came against Regalati di Sorriso, a club team at the level just below the professional ranks in Milan.

On the final day of the trip, the Phoenix visited the ever-popular Leaning Tower of

Pisa.

"I think Pisa was probably my favorite day," Head said. "I never knew exactly what the Leaning Tower looked like because I had only seen it in pictures. To me, it seemed smaller than I expected, but considering what the tower has been through, and it is still standing, is awesome in itself."

The women's volleyball team toured eight cities in 10 days during their trip and completed their experiential learning requirement with the course Travel Writing in Italy. Scott led the class, which provided academic instruction and activity during their exploration of the country.

"Travel Writing in Italy taught us how

to publicize our feelings about the trip," said sophomore outside hitter Megan Gravley. "It's kind of cool to be able to look back at our blog and reminisce."

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