

THE PENDULUM

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Get the sticks ready:



Despite having 21 freshmen on a roster of 25 players, Elon players and coaches embrace the team's youth and newness entering their first season of competition. CAROLINE OLNEY | Photo Editor

Elon women's lacrosse braces for inaugural season of play

Zachary Horner
Senior Reporter

There's newness in the air surrounding the Elon University women's lacrosse team, and it's not just because the team has begun its first season of intercollegiate competition.

The Phoenix roster of 25 players features 21 freshmen, but that's not something that bothers the team or its coaches.

"It doesn't matter," said Josh Hexter, Elon women's lacrosse head coach. "You hear coaches say, 'Well, you know what, we're young this year.' That's just a built-

in excuse to fail. That's what it is. We are who we are."

The Elon women's lacrosse team has opened its inaugural season of play as members of the Atlantic Sun Conference and as a Division I sport. A quick glance at the team's roster shows youth. The freshmen are complemented by two seniors and two sophomores who have never played Division I athletics — they were on the club team at Elon — and two coaches, one taking on his first D-I head coaching job and another in her first coaching position ever.

"The newness is exciting," Hexter said.

"I think it's going to be great. We're not worried about the fact that we have 21 freshmen on a 25-person roster. We're just getting after it."

Getting to opening draw

In February 2012, Elon athletic director Dave Blank told *The Pendulum* that the university was looking to add swimming, sand volleyball or lacrosse as a women's sport in an effort to get closer to the university's gender equality goal.

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Thousands swarm downtown Raleigh in protest for equality

Michael Bodley
News Editor

After months spent writing their congressmen, banging on doors throughout the capital and launching a massive social media campaign, an estimated 80,000 to 100,000 marchers converged on Raleigh for the "Mass Moral March" Feb. 8.

More than 50 Elon University students and faculty members joined State NAACP President William J. Barber Jr., to protest a series of legislative measures passed since Gov. Pat McCrory and the Republican state legislature was elected last year.

Toddie Peters, coordinator of the Poverty and Social Justice program, required students in two of her classes to attend the march with provided transportation or write a paper on the movement's history or themes. Out of a combined 40 students in both sections, only seven chose the paper, an attendance rate Peters said she was slightly surprised by and quite proud of.

"For most of them, they were learning on the ground," Peters said. "I'm not sure how many of them had any background on what was going on. For the majority of them this was really sort of learning about what the issues were, seeing social justice in action and applying these issues, these themes to what we're talking about in class."

Though the North Carolina NAACP sponsored the march, the protestors who thronged the downtown streets came largely from grassroots sources — student-led coalitions and democracy initiatives. The N.C. Student Power Union (NCSPU), founded by a group of students through the University of North Carolina school system to combat budget cuts and tuition hikes in public education, sent dozens of activists to the march.

"The General Assembly has done things to attack groups that make up my generation in

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