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Dangers on the playing field

Intramural injuries a lingering possibility

Max Garland
Assistant News Editor

Head injuries have sidelined sophomore Garcian D'Cruz from intramural sports for seven months and counting.

"Two concussions in 72 hours is pretty bad, so I haven't been on the football field ever since," he said.

There is limited data available for intramural sports injuries, as most schools, including Elon, keep injury records confidential. But one study finds intramurals carry a similar, if not greater, amount of injury risk.

Research published in a 2014 edition of the *Recreational Sports Journal* investigated the injury rate of eight intramural sports at an unidentified private college in the southeast for two years. The injury rate was 5.56 per 100 participants.

That's a higher rate than what was found in research from the *Journal of Athletic Training*, which pegged the rate of injury for 15 NCAA sports as 13.8 injuries per

1000 athletic exposures (practices or games) from 1988 to 2004.

Concussions — often attributed to high-speed tackle football — are a possibility in any intramural sport.

D'Cruz sustained his two in a three-day period in October while playing in a coed flag football league.

"The snap was botched on the play, and I went to dive for the ball," D'Cruz said of his first concussion. "But another player's cleats hit me in the head. I was on the ground for about five minutes after that."

According to Brandon MacCallum, assistant director of Campus Recreation, Campus Rec staff is at every intramural game to help assist with any injuries, administer first aid or call 911 in the event of a severe injury. Staff members are trained on how to spot concussion symptoms, but they are not trained in testing for concussions.

A staff member

pulled D'Cruz out of the game and asked him if he felt dizzy. He said he was fine, so she allowed him to go back on the field. D'Cruz played in another game three days later.

"The play was a Hail Mary pass, and I was a receiver," he said. "I caught the ball, but I fell backwards and whipped my head on the ground. I

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Searching for hope a world away

After Nepal earthquake, Elon University does what it can

Caroline Fernandez
News Editor

For many, tears flowed. They gathered not only to send support to Nepal — a nation left picking up the pieces of destruction and loss after a magnitude 7.8

earthquake Saturday — but to also lend support to Elon University community members from the affected regions, helpless and far from home.

As the sunlight filtered through the large windows of the Sacred Space in the Numen Lumen Pavilion Monday afternoon, University Chaplain Jan Fuller, along with about 30 other community members, gathered, lit candles and asked, "Why?"

"I want to light a candle today in the search for meaning," Fuller said as she opened the campus gathering in the aftermath of Saturday's Nepalese earthquake. "I myself am in a quandary where I don't understand."

The country's worst recorded earthquake in 80 years hit around noon local time about 50 miles northwest of Kathmandu, Nepal. It is in an area that, according to the U.S. Geological Survey, is one of the most seismically hazardous regions on Earth.

It uprooted tens of thousands of Nepalese, destroyed entire villages and killed thousands, but also left shockwaves thousands of miles away at Elon, especially for freshman Surya Shahi, a citizen of Nepal.

Between muffled tears and deep breaths, Shahi spoke before the gathered room of supporters.

"Why am I here?" he asked. "There is always

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Elon Poll: Close 2016 race, caution on religious freedom

Michael Bodley
Editor-in-Chief

Following the nationwide controversy over Indiana's passage of its Religious Freedom Restoration Act, North Carolinians are erring on the side of gay rights over religious freedom, according to an Elon University Poll released Tuesday. A hypothetical 2016 presidential matchup provided a closer outcome, with Sen. Hillary Clinton carrying a 3-percentage point advantage over former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush among registered voters in North Carolina.

Nearly two-thirds of all respondents said a business shouldn't be allowed to refuse service to people who are gay — regardless of religious belief — but 51 percent of Republicans said business owners should have that right.

In the upcoming election, Clinton's political status may make her an early target for criticism, said Kenneth Fernandez, director of the Elon University Poll and assistant professor of political science, in a statement.

When respondents were asked about favorability among potential

candidates from both parties — some announced, some not — Clinton came in fourth behind Scott Walker, Marco Rubio and Elizabeth Warren. But no clear favorite has yet emerged in the traditional battleground state.

"However, Clinton's lower scores are partly a reflection of how well-known she is, whereas large chunks of the population seem to have difficulty rating most other candidates," Fernandez said in a statement.

Within the state, the race for governor of North Carolina is even closer, with incumbent Gov. Pat McCrory-Rep. leading Attorney General Roy Cooper-Dem. by a slim 45-43 margin.

"Though early results show Roy Cooper polling well against Pat McCrory in 2016, three things are important to remember," said Jason Husser, assistant director of the Elon University Poll and assistant professor of political science, in a statement. "November 2016 is a long time from now. Preliminary results may simply reflect quick reactions to party labels. And McCrory retains strength in his base: less than one-sixth of those voters who approve of McCrory said they would vote for Cooper."

SENDING HELP TO NEPAL

If you want to donate to the relief efforts in Nepal, visit one of these websites:

- American Red Cross
- CARE
- Oxfam
- Stop Hunger Now
- World Vision

*The above organizations are humanitarian aid organizations that Elon partners with throughout the year and ones that are currently providing relief in Nepal, as recommended in an email from Smith Jackson, dean of student life.