

Veterans take charge as CAA tournament approaches

SPORTS BRIEFS

The Phoenix only has three home games remaining in the Alumni Gym

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The Elon University men's basketball team looked strong as they pulled off a wire-to-wire victory against the University of Delaware on Saturday, Feb. 3.

SWISH

This season, the team holds a 14-11 record. The team has only been defeated by an average of 7.25 points

The game, the first of a three-game homestand, was watched by a fan-filled Alumni Gym eager to see if the team would make it to the upcoming Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) tournament.

"This league is as crazy a league as I've ever been in," head coach Matt Matheny said. "It's wild - every game, every night."

"In this league, anything can happen on any night and it's important that you're ready to play every night," junior forward Tyler Seibring said. "We're trying to accomplish a big thing here and we need to work to do that, to play consistently and play our game."

After the win against Delaware, the Phoenix sits in sixth place in the league. If the standings stay as they are, Elon will not play until the final quarter-final game of the CAA tournament, facing off against Northeastern University on Sunday, March 3 at 8:30 p.m. The Phoenix fell to the Huskies on Jan. 5, the only time the teams have



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faced off this season.

Elon relies on its veteran leaders - the same starting five with which it began games last year. With the returners, it is easy to put trust in what they are able to do both on and off the court and are receiving high praise from the man in charge.

"Our captains are Brian Dawkins, Dmitri Thompson, Tyler Seibring and Dainan Swoope," Matheny said. "I think they form a very strong core group of leadership."

"We both take our positions seriously as captains on this team," Seibring said. "That doesn't always mean scoring a lot of points. We do our best to lead this team and do whatever is necessary. I know I trust [Swoope], and I think he trusts me, to come out every game ready to play."

At this point in the season, the team holds a 14-11 (6-6) record, losing four of its last six games. In those four losses, Elon has only been defeated by an average of 7.25 points.

"The way this league is set up, there's really no time to think about it," said Seibring on whether or not he was disappointed in Elon's record. "At this point, whatever happens - this is a great win, we're going to celebrate it - but we've got a big task next week. There's really no time for that - we're just ready to play the next one."

Seibring, the Normal, Illinois native, ranks sixth in the league with an average of 18.8 points per CAA matchup. The junior forward leads the league in make percentage from behind the arc, shooting 52.1 percent from deep in conference games. When

asked what he feels during CAA games, Seibring was quick to credit his teammates.

"I think our offense in general is flowing really well right now," he said. "It's creating a lot of good looks for a lot of people. We had a lot of different guys able to knock down shots. If anything, it shows how many weapons we have and opens up a lot of shots for me and all the other guys on any given night."

For the Phoenix, the next test will be Hofstra University on Thursday, Feb. 8. The Pride currently sits at fourth in the CAA standings, boasting a 7-5 conference record. A win for Elon would even the two team's records at 7-6 and jam up the middle of the standings as March approaches. That game will be one of only three remaining home games for the Phoenix in what is

Women's basketball defeats top team

The Elon University women's basketball team ended James Madison University's 11-game winning streak on Sunday afternoon, defeating the Dukes 50-43 in Alumni Gym. The Phoenix has now won five of its last six conference games and is tied for third in the Colonial Athletic Association with Northeastern University.

Senior center Malaya Johnson was picked as the CAA Player of the Week for the second time this season after scoring in double figures in six of the last seven games, including both games this past weekend.

The Phoenix will host a pair of home games on Friday, Feb. 9 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 11 at 2 p.m. against Drexel University and the College of Charleston, respectively.

Football holds signing day reception

After reaching the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) playoffs and falling in the first round, the Elon University football team will host a signing reception on Wednesday, Feb. 7 at 5:30 p.m. in the Walker Room inside the Alumni Field House.

The reception will honor the 10 new members of the team, as well as the players that sign during the second and final signing day on Wednesday.

Look for coverage of the event on ElonNewsNetwork.com and Twitter @SportsENN on Wednesday.

Hames throws her way to school record

After throwing her way into the NCAA Outdoor Championships in discuss last season, senior thrower Bryanna Hames set a program best in the shot put at the Camel City Invitational in Winston-Salem this weekend.

Hames recorded a toss of 49' 7.75" (15.13m), placed third overall in the event and qualified for the Eastern College Athletic Association (ECAC) Indoor Championships in March. The throw bettered the previous record of 48' 6" (14.78m).

The Elon University women's track and field team will be back in action on Thursday, Feb. 8 at the JDJL Team Challenge in Winston-Salem before traveling to Lynchburg, Virginia on the Feb. 8-9 for the Liberty Invitational.

Phoenix teams open spring seasons

Three Phoenix teams will open their spring seasons this weekend.

The Elon University women's lacrosse team, ranked No. 21 in the Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association (IWLCA) national poll, will make the trip to Durham to face No. 20 Duke University. That game is scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 11 at 1 p.m.

The Elon University softball team will start its 2018 campaign with a pair of doubleheaders this weekend. The first will be on Saturday, Feb. 10 against the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, followed by a pair of games against North Carolina Central University on Sunday, Feb. 11. Finally, the Elon University men's golf team will return to action, starting their spring season at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro's tournament at the Martin Downs Golf Club in Palm City, Florida Feb. 11-13.

THE PHOENIX FOCUS

MEN'S BASKETBALL

RESULTS	14-11
FEB. 1	WILLIAM & MARY/ WILLIAMSBURG, VA 92-99
FEB. 3	DELAWARE/ELON 89-76

SCHEDULE	
FEB. 8	HOFSTRA/ELON 7 P.M.
FEB. 10	JAMES MADISON/ELON 7 P.M.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

RESULTS	15-7
FEB. 2	COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON/ CHARLESTON, SC 77-55
FEB. 4	JAMES MADISON/ELON 50-43

SCHEDULE	
FEB. 9	DREXEL/ELON 7 P.M.
FEB. 11	COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON/ ELON 2 P.M.

MEN'S TENNIS

RESULTS	3-3
FEB. 3	TROY/JACKSONVILLE, FL 4-3
FEB. 4	NORTH FLORIDA/ JACKSONVILLE, FL CANCELLED

SCHEDULE	
FEB. 9	NC STATE/RALEIGH 5 P.M.

MEN'S GOLF

SCHEDULE	
FEB. 11-13	MARTIN DOWNS COLLEGIATE/ PALM CITY, FL

WOMEN'S TENNIS

SCHEDULE	3-2
FEB. 9	LIBERTY/LYNCHBURG, VA 2 P.M.
FEB. 10	TROY/LYNCHBURG, VA 10 A.M.

LACROSSE

SCHEDULE	0-0
FEB. 11	DUKE/DURHAM 1 P.M.

TRACK AND FIELD

SCHEDULE	
FEB. 8	JDJL TEAM CHALLENGE/ WINSTON-SALEM
FEB. 9-10	LIBERTY INVITATIONAL/ LYNCHBURG, VA

SOFTBALL

SCHEDULE	0-0
FEB. 10	UNC CHARLOTTE (DH)/ ELON 1 & 3 P.M.
FEB. 11	NC CENTRAL/ELON 1 & 3 P.M.