

# Grabbing attention off the court

Junior forward Tyler Seibring shares his perspective as a mid-major player

Christian Galvano

Elon News Network | @ChrisGalvano



Tyler Seibring drives to the hoop against a University of Southern Florida defender Nov. 30, 2017.

ALEC MANDELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Junior and basketball player Tyler Seibring said he was humbled to hear his article, "Just for the Record: The Chronicles of a Mid-Major Basketball Player," reached so many people in the Elon University community and landed on the desk of none other than President Leo Lambert.

Accumulating more than 30 retweets and close to 100 likes on Twitter, the article gave readers a chance to briefly step into Seibring's rather large shoes and learn more about his life as a semi-recognized athlete.

He said the purpose of his article was not to persuade more people to pay attention to Elon athletics but simply "to create something to document the intricacies of the life of a mid-major basketball player."

Elon, Seibring said, is by no means a major basketball school.

"Everyone is a fan of Duke, Kansas and North Carolina," Seibring said. "But most people don't end up there - they end up in mid-major programs that are more fitting to what they are trying to accomplish at that time in their lives."

But it no longer feels as though they're a member of a Division-I team. Seibring said other than some occasional stops for pictures, being a Division-I athlete has little effect on his life.

"I love it when mid-major programs are supported against high major programs," Seibring said in

his article. "I'm sick of feeling like we play a different sport."

Seibring said one of the driving motivations to write the article was to show he is playing the same game as the top-tier teams whose games are broadcast on ESPN.

"Everyone's rooting for the underdog, but there are a lot of misunderstandings about the lives we're living and how hard we are trying to compete," Seibring said.

He said many people don't realize how tough it is to play on the Division I level, at any school — midsize college athletes are "working the same hours and under the same system."

Seibring leads the men's basketball team with 437 points. He ranks 14th overall in the CAA with 15.6 points per game, spend-

ing more time on the hardwood than any other Phoenix player.

He doesn't let his responsibilities to his team detract from his academic duties.

As a student, Seibring is double-majoring in English and economics, and he was named the 2016-17 Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) Men's Basketball Scholar-Athlete of the Year for his hard work.

"There are a lot of challenges for any student athlete, but it has helped craft skills and management techniques that will hopefully continue for the rest of our lives," Seibring said.

Seibring said there is one important skill he has learned to master by being actively involved in both athletics and academics.

"Time management is probably the most important thing," he said. "For a lot of people it is extremely tough, but eventually you have to figure it out."

"I'm probably just another college kid with a blog," Seibring said.

"If people decide it's not worth their time and it's just my parents reading it, I can live with an outlet for thinking. You don't get to decide what something ends up being. You can only try to make something cool. So I'm just going to have some fun with it and start with the end."

But the Elon community knows he is "more than just another college kid with a blog," and its response has encouraged him.

Seibring said he hopes to not let Lambert down.

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### Softball's Mitchum pitches perfectly

Senior pitcher Kiandra Mitchum recorded Elon softball's second ever perfect game during this weekend's home tournament.

Mitchum recorded five strikeouts in her 66-pitch, complete-game performance. Redshirt sophomore Abby Barker is the only other pitcher to achieve the accomplishment, doing so in 2016 as a freshman against Niagara University.

Mitchum's game, ending in a 8-0 shutout, was the final game of a five-game weekend for the Phoenix. With the only loss coming in the first match-up against Bowling Green University Saturday, Elon has won seven of the last eight games it's played.

### Phoenix coaches reach milestones

Both Elon University softball and men's tennis coaches reached career milestones in competition.

Softball coach Kathy Bocock picked up her 400th career win as Elon defeated Bowling Green State University 4-3 on Feb. 16.

Men's tennis coach Michael Leonard picked up his 200th career victory as the Phoenix swept Appalachian State University to start its spring season.

Both teams will be back in action this week as softball travels to Raleigh on Wednesday, Feb. 21 to face North Carolina State University and men's tennis takes on Yale University at home on Sunday, Feb. 25.

### Hames sets another personal mark

Senior thrower Bryanna Hames set her second record this year at the UCS Invite to cap off the indoor regular season. In the weight throw, she recorded a mark of 54' 6.75" and finished fifth, qualifying for the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Indoor Championships.

Elsewhere at the meet, the Elon 4X400-meter relay team captured a season-best time of 3:55.00, finishing second. Junior sprinter Katie Arbogast, a member of the relay team, recorded a personal-best time of 57.63 in the individual 400-meter race.

Members of the team who qualified in their respective events will compete at the ECAC Indoor Championships March 1 in Boston.

### Lacrosse blown out again on the road

The Elon University women's lacrosse team suffered its second-straight loss to start the season, falling to No. 14 University of Virginia 17-4.

Outshot 29-19, only three Phoenix scored in the double-digit defeat. Senior attacker Nicole Sinacori connected on two shots, capturing half of the team's goals. Senior attacker Stephanie Asher, Elon's top scorer, was held without a goal and only one shot in the game.

Lacrosse will be on the road for the third straight game, as Elon travels to South Bend, Indiana on Feb. 25, to face No. 17 University of Notre Dame.

## THE PHOENIX FOCUS

### WOMEN'S GOLF

#### SCHEDULE

FEB. 25-27 KIAWAH ISLAND SPRING CLASSIC/ KIAWAH, SC

### BASEBALL

#### RESULTS

FEB. 16 PENN STATE/ELON 1-2  
FEB. 17 PENN STATE/ELON 6-8  
FEB. 18 PENN STATE/ELON 2-3

#### SCHEDULE

FEB. 20 RADFORD/ELON 4 P.M.  
FEB. 21 KANSAS STATE/ELON 4 P.M.  
FEB. 23 MARSHALL/ELON 4 P.M.  
FEB. 24 MARSHALL/ELON 2 P.M.  
FEB. 25 MARSHALL/ELON 1 P.M.

### WOMEN'S TENNIS

#### RESULTS

FEB. 18 VCU/ELON 4-3  
FEB. 18 CATAWBA/ELON 7-0

#### SCHEDULE

FEB. 23 WINTHROP/ROCK HILL, SC 1 P.M.  
FEB. 24 DAVIDSON/DAVIDSON, NC 12 P.M.

### MEN'S BASKETBALL

#### RESULTS

FEB. 15 UNCW/ WILMINGTON 63-87  
FEB. 17 DELAWARE/ NEWARK, DE 57-72

#### SCHEDULE

FEB. 22 COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON/ CHARLESTON, SC 7 P.M.  
FEB. 24 NORTHEASTERN/ ELON 7 P.M.  
FEB. 26 JAMES MADISON/ ELON 7 P.M.

### LACROSSE

#### RESULTS

FEB. 17 VIRGINIA/ CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA 4-17

#### SCHEDULE

FEB. 25 NOTRE DAME/ NOTRE DAME, IN 1 P.M.

### MEN'S TENNIS

#### RESULTS

FEB. 17 APPALACHIAN STATE/ELON 4-4  
FEB. 17 APPALACHIAN STATE/ELON 7-0

#### SCHEDULE

FEB. 20 CAMPBELL/ BUJES CREEK, NC 2 P.M.  
FEB. 25 YALE/ELON 12 P.M.

### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

#### RESULTS

FEB. 16 HOFSTRA/ HEMPSTEAD, NY 19-7  
FEB. 18 NORTHEASTERN/ BOSTON 72-65  
FEB. 18 NORTHEASTERN/ BOSTON 65-46

#### SCHEDULE

FEB. 25 HOFSTRA/ ELON 2 P.M.

### SOFTBALL

#### RESULTS

FEB. 16 BOWLING GREEN/ELON 4-3  
FEB. 16 RHODE ISLAND/ELON 6-2  
FEB. 17 BOWLING GREEN/ELON 3-6  
FEB. 17 NORTH TEXAS/ELON 6-1  
FEB. 17 MOUNT ST. MARY'S/ELON 8-0

#### SCHEDULE

FEB. 21 NC STATE/RALEIGH 4 P.M.  
FEB. 23 HOWARD/ELON 1 & 3 P.M.