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5 New coaching staff for women's soccer

Following a 9-6-4 season, Elon women's soccer made a change in coaching staff. The Phoenix named Neil Payne as the new head coach in February. Payne is coming off a three-year stint at Texas Tech University as the associate head coach. Payne helped the Red Raiders to two top-25 rankings as well as an NCAA tournament bid. Payne also brought on Paul Babba, who spent the past two years at Bryan University where he helped the Lions to their two most successful seasons in program history. The new coaching staff will attempt to help elevate Elon's play and win a conference championship, something the Phoenix have not done since 1999 when they won the Big South tournament.



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6 Nea Ikenna Nwokeji signs with Pittsburgh Steelers

The offensive lineman received the call of a lifetime on April 28 when he learned he would be signed to a deal with the Pittsburgh Steelers. The Elon graduate, who will now drop his MBA coursework to put on shoulder pads once again, received several accolades while playing in the Maroon and Gold, including being a team captain his junior year. The man affectionately known as "Ike" will begin his journey to make the official roster on May 11 when he reports to mini-camp.



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8 Football earns spot in FCS

For the first time since 2009, the Phoenix found themselves in the hunt for a national championship. In head football coach Curt Cignetti's first year at the helm, he helped Elon to an 8-4 record, including an eight-game win streak in the process. Elon hosted their first ever playoff game that year when the Furman University Paladins came to Rhodes Stadium. Elon beat Furman earlier in the year with a walk-off field goal but fell in the first round of the postseason, 28-27.

7 Elon men's basketball announces UNC will visit to open 2018 season

Elon and UNC will meet for the first time since 2011 when the Tar Heels make the 37-mile drive west to open the Schar Center on Nov. 9, 2018. Elon was hoping to land a big fish to ring in the new facility, and they managed to coax one of the teams most synonymous with college hoops in the country. The Tar Heels will step foot on Elon's campus for the first time in 68 years. A large crowd is expected to help break in the 5,100-seat arena.

9 Quade Lukes earns all-CAA first team honors

Freshman golfer Quade Lukes wasted no time getting adjusted in his first year at college. Lukes immediately made his mark as he posted a 72.10 scoring average over 21 matches this season. This is the lowest mark by any Phoenix golfer since the team's Division I era began. Lukes earned two top-five individual finishes in his campaign, complemented by five top-15 performances. While his season was cut short due to an injury, he helped steer Elon to eight top-five team placements.



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JACK HALEY | SPORTS DIRECTOR

10 Club baseball honors Breslin Wiley

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