

SUMMER PROS

Elon alumni shine as they take their first steps beyond Elon

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THOUGH THEIR TIME AT Elon may be over, a new adventure started this summer for some of our athlete alumni. The summer months yielded contracts and history makers, both abroad and domestically. These four Elon standouts have successfully made the jump to gaining professional recognition and will fight to continue on their legacy of athletic excellence at the next level.



SHAY BURNETT SIGNS PRO DEAL

On August 4, 2018, Burnett's new team in Sweden, the Norrköping Dolphins, announced that the five-foot, nine-inch guard joined the squad. In a statement, Burnett said she is very excited to begin this new chapter of her career, and extended a very special thank you to her former head coach. Burnett hung up her Maroon and Gold this past year, leaving Elon with top-10 rankings in assists and assists per season in a career. The Graham, North Carolina native joins the Dolphins who play in a 4,500-seat arena located about 100 miles from Sweden's capital of Stockholm. Norrköping competes in the Basketligan, Sweden's top league. The Dolphins have won the league five times, including this most recent season. Burnett was the first women's basketball grad to sign a pro contract since Ali Ford in 2013.

AJ MANDELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Elon senior guard Shay Burnett goes up for the rebound while being contested by Drexel senior guard Hannah Nihilil during the CAA championship game March 10.

SYDNEY BUSA IS FINLAND BOUND

First-team All-Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) honoree signed a contract to play professional volleyball with Nurmon Jymy, a team based in Seinäjoki, Finland. The Leesburg, Virginia native was team captain her senior season for the maroon and gold. She also led Elon and the CAA in kills (518) and points (568) last season. Nurmon Jymy is one of nine teams in Finland's top division, and Busa is expected to start this September.

AJ MANDELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

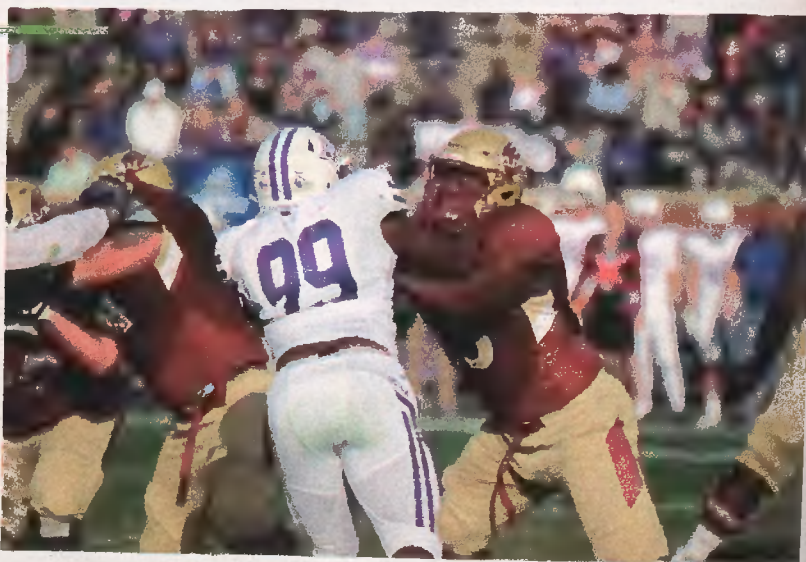
Sydney Busa goes up for a hit against two North Carolina A&T blockers during a Sept. 28, 2017, match in Alumni Gym.

IKE GETS HIS SHOT

Ikenna Nwokeji, affectionately known as "Ike" around campus, got his opportunity to prove he has what it takes to play pro football when he was signed by the Pittsburgh Steelers. On April 29, Ike announced that after going undrafted, he had signed a free agent contract to join the Steel City team and attempt to make the roster. However on May 14, 2018 the 6-foot, 6-inch, 285 pound offensive lineman was cut, and officially dropped from the Steelers roster.

CORY WELLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ikenna Nwokeji blocks a Furman defensive lineman during last year's playoff game.



SHUTT HEADS SOUTH

After finishing her time with the Elon Phoenix, Kara Shutt '18 entered the inaugural American Softball Association (ASBA) draft. Shutt was selected by the moh-BEEL! USA and went on to have a productive year for the squad, who finished with the best record in the league at 17-10. The North Carolina native batted .269 and lead the team in doubles. Shutt's team fell in the first ever title game 3-1 to Outkast. Shutt was the first Elon softball player to ever sign a professional contract.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ELON SOFTBALL

Elon takes on Charlotte in nonconference softball action at Hunt Softball Park on Feb. 9, 2018.

