

# TOP SPORTS GAMES

With the fall athletic year ramping up, the Phoenix will have important tests, big name games and redemption moments en route to CAA and national tournament

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## FOOTBALL

**A**FTER FALLING IN THE Playoffs to Furman University will get their shot at redemption Sept. 8. In the first game at Rhodes Stadium, the Phoenix will face the Paladins. This will be an important game following a tough road matchup against the Bulls of the University of Southern California. Depending on how the Phoenix perform in this game, they could either be facing a must-win situation or be put in a favorable position going into their next game following weekend against the Trojans of the College of William and Mary on Sept. 15.

ABBY GIBBS | PHOTO EDITOR  
Defensive players swarm to the ball carrier during practice to prepare for the upcoming season. Football opens the season, visiting USF on Sept. 8, 2018.

## VOLLEYBALL

**V**OLLEYBALL HAS SEVERAL IMPORTANT matches for several different reasons this upcoming year. To start, the team will take on North Carolina A&T on Aug. 28 in the Schar Center. That match will be the first competitive event ever held in the brand-new, 5,100-seat arena. The team may face its biggest non-conference test when they welcome the Jayhawks of the University of Kansas and the Panthers of High Point University on consecutive nights. The two schools finished last year with RPIs of 20 and 44, respectively, while Elon sat in the No. 167 spot.

However, the season's most important meeting may come in the penultimate match of the year on Nov. 6 when Elon travels to Harrisonburg, Virginia, to take on the Dukes of James Madison University, the two-time defending CAA champions. JMU dropped Elon from the conference tournament last year after Elon gave the Dukes all they could handle, taking them five sets deep in the first-round matchup.

SAMANTHA STEINMAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
In a split-squad scrimmage, two defenders try to block a kill attempt on the main floor of the Schar Center in preparation for their home opener.

