

Senior Spotlight

Captain & midfielder Chris O'Connor

Sydney Hai
Sports Writer
xhai08@ehc.edu

In this week's Senior Spotlight, men's soccer captain and Student Government President Chris O'Connor shares his story about his experiences playing soccer and making changes at Emory & Henry.

SH: It's still early in the season, and the team's record now stands at 4-3-1. You've had some pretty solid wins, but the last two games the team did not do too well, so what do you think about the last game and your senior season so far?

CO: The game on Saturday was not very good. It's tough as a senior to take a loss like that, or any loss. But I mean, I hope those kind of losses will be beneficial in the long run, as long as we learn from those kind of things, and learn not to make those mistakes again.

It's always hard. But we're not giving up. It is hard to play on the road. You have to ride on the bus, get off and warm up, it's not like at home, it's full of challenges and also there is a lack of fans. But I'm optimistic.

We had a little change coming into the season. We have a new coach, which I think it's a very good thing. [Head Coach] Travis has done a really good job so far. As for myself, it doesn't really matter how many goals I score, it's just however I can help the team.

This is my senior season, and I want us to make the ODAC Tournament and to be successful in the tournament. We want to win the ODAC conference. That's our goal. When we break out the huddle everyday, we say "champions," to keep that in mind.

SH: Do you think you fit the stereotype of the captain of a sports team? How good of a representative of the College do you think you are as the student body president and the captain on the field?

CO: I'm not as much of a vocal leader, which is something I definitely try to work on. I think I'm good at being a good example and always trying to do what I say. Trying to be a good example in



Senior midfielder and captain Chris O'Connor heads goalward in a game against West Virginia Tech. O'Connor also serves as SGA President.

action is my type of leadership. And that's partly how I get involved in student government.

One of the good things about being president is that you step outside the comfort zone, in some moments; you have manage people well, maybe tell them things you don't feel comfortable telling, or disappointing people.

It's busy but I love it. It's a new experience everyday and it's an honor to be the president of the student body. I'm glad I ran, whether I had won or not, because you get to meet a lot of people and really get to know a lot of issues around campus.

Hopefully there will be a lot of good changes. One of the biggest things last spring Ashley Griffith and I ran on was the retention rate. A lot of freshmen decide to transfer out.

There are many different reasons for people leaving, but a lot of times, we found it's because there weren't a lot of activities and people weren't having fun. So we hope to have more activities on campus that will involve the whole student body.

SH: So what do you like to do in your spare time?

CO: I'm just a normal kid. I don't want see myself as anything special. I'm just trying to do my best, be a good citizen, a good student and get a good education. In my

spare time, I like Frisbee golf and football. In the winter, I like snowboarding; we usually go to North Carolina or West Virginia to snowboard, pretty normal stuff.

SH: What's your favorite part of playing soccer and being captain? What do you think of your co-captains and teammates?

CO: I started playing soccer when I was six. Growing up, my dad was not a soccer fan. He wanted me to play basketball and football, but I enjoyed soccer so he let me continue to play.

I began getting more interested in soccer. My favorite team is Manchester United. My favorite players are more old school though, like Paul Scholes and Ryan Giggs.

I've been captain for two years. I enjoy playing and the responsibility of a captain. But once you get into the system and the routine, you get used to it. You're not able to waste time.

It's definitely hard to stay so busy. You really need to learn time management and the balance between practice and class.

We have two main captains, myself and Luke Lanier, and we have the game captain, which is usually Henry Byers because he's a really good leader.

I have really good teammates as well. We started off freshman

year together. We lived in the Hillman basement, one big apartment. We were all soccer players, and we all got to know each other really well and had grown into that deep bonding.

SH: Do you enjoy watching football or soccer more?

CO: It's a good question. Growing up in this country, football is, whether you play or not, a big thing. So I grew up a big college football fan. I'm a Tennessee fan. I would say, when I was younger, definitely American football, but now I really appreciate soccer.

SH: Do you have a favorite goal and favorite game?

CO: My favorite goal was when we played Columbia Union College up in Washington, DC. The game was tied, there was a minute left in the game, and then we had a corner kick and I scored a header, which was the winning goal. That's my best goal ever.

The best game I've been through could be the one in my freshman year, we played Bridgewater at homecoming, and we beat them by one goal.

Every issue of The Whitetopper for the remainder of the Fall 2008 semester will include a profile of an E&H senior athlete.

Regional Update

Chris Hatcher
Sports Editor
chatcher06@ehc.edu



Tennessee: The Volunteers are off to their worst start since 1994 with a 1-3 record, and an 0-2 conference record. The Vols lost to Auburn this past weekend 14-12. In the game, the Vols were only able to account for 191 yards of total offense, including 8 of 23 passing. The most popular news of the week came when after the game Coach Phil Fulmer announced that there would be an open quarterback competition to decide the starter for this week's game against Northern Illinois. The game is set for Oct. 4 at 7 p.m.



Virginia Tech: The Hokies recorded one of their most impressive wins of the young season against a Bo Pelini coached Nebraska squad. Though the Hokies weren't as stout on defense, the offense totalled a season-high 377 yards of offense, including 258 by quarterback Tyrod Taylor. The Hokies, now 4-1 (2-0), will face the Hilltoppers of Western Kentucky this weekend, Oct. 4 at 1:30 p.m.



North Carolina: The Tarheels recorded a come from behind win against the Miami Hurricanes this past weekend, 28-24. The 'Canes were driving and had a chance until quarterback Robert Marve threw an interception to Tremaine Goddard to seal the win. In the victory, new starter Cam Sexton played a masterful game, spreading out the 'Canes and throwing the winning touchdown pass with less than a minute left.



Duke vs. Virginia: Duke broke its 25-game ACC losing streak in style, beating UVA 31-3. UVA quarterback Mike Verica



threw 4 interceptions in the rout, filling in for the recently dismissed former starter Peter Lalich.

Volleyball team moves to 12-3 (3-2) with huge win

Chase Chambers
Sports Writer
cchambers08@ehc.edu

The Lady Wasps upset second ranked Virginia Wesleyan, improving their record to 12-3 (3-2) on Saturday, Sept. 27.

The team played Randolph Macon on Sept. 26, and then traveled to Virginia Beach to face Virginia Wesleyan on Sept. 27.

The first game against Randolph Macon was a 3-1 loss for the ladies. The team lost the first game by the score of 25-18, then 25-19. The next game was won 25-23, but the team lost their final game 25-20.

Rachel Fertitta had 14 kills for the night, and Juliana Garren had 12. Garren and Fertitta also led the team in assists with 44 and 38, respectively. Erin Holben had 22 digs, while Twyla Sessor had 18.

The next day, the ladies managed to pull out a win after five matches, beating Virginia Wesleyan 3-2. What began as a 0-2 start, losing by the scores of 25-18 and 25-21, ended a come from behind victory, as the team finished out the game with wins of 25-22, 25-17, and 15-11.

Samantha Shepard had 13 kills, followed by Fertitta with 12. Garren led with 36 assists, while Shepard had 35, and Fertitta had 33. Sessor had 20 digs, followed by Holben with 15.

The team's next match is another ODAC match on the road against Washington and Lee. The game will take place Oct. 1 at 6:30 pm. The ladies will then spend the weekend in LaGrange, GA, where they look to improve their record Saturday, Oct. 4 at 2 and 4 pm.



Free

Soft drink or tea
with any sandwich purchase
at the E&H Deli
Thurs. Oct. 2–Wed. Oct. 8

Coupon valid through October 8, 2008. Limit one per customer and must present coupon at time of purchase.