

lace 'em up

CLUB ICE HOCKEY

"I'll miss my teammates,
and the game,
most of all."
- Matthew Williamson



CAPTIONS: 1) Demitri Marken recovers from a hit during a game against High Point University. (All photos courtesy of Facebook, unless otherwise noted). 2) The club hockey team poses with the American flag after a game. 3) Matthew Williamson, a team captain, focuses on the ice during a game. 4) Williamson and his parents stand outside the rink (Photo provided by Williamson). 5) Hayden Lowry prepares to go for the puck after a big hit.



"I'D LIKE TO THANK MY PARENTS FOR SUPPORTING ME THROUGHOUT MY HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE CAREER AS BOTH A STUDENT AND AN ATHLETE."

MATTHEW WILLIAMSON '17

TEAM CAPTAIN AND PRESIDENT

Elon University has something for everyone – a sports team for every sport passion, including hockey. The Elon Club Hockey team practices and competes with other teams in the region. Senior Matthew Williamson joined the team as a way to continue his passions outside of the classroom when he moved to the state.

"I initially joined Elon's Club Hockey team to continue playing the sport I love," said Williamson. "I wanted to continue my hockey career as long as I could while getting a degree that would serve me well after I graduate."

All Elon teams give it their all, but Club Hockey goes to the extreme with late-night practices and long travel for competitions.

"Together, we may seem like a bunch of guys having fun, but deep down we work extremely hard," said Williamson. "I'll miss the late night practices. Since we share a rink with UNC and Duke in Hillsborough, our practice times are extremely late, upwards of 11 p.m. to 12 a.m. But I believe that if you truly love the game, there's no bad time to lace 'em up!"

Williamson was able to continue his passion while holding a

leadership role on the squad, but this never negative impacted his studies.

"My role as both president and team captain has helped me grow as a person, on and off the ice," said Williamson. "I carry myself and hold myself to the highest standard, whether it is in the classroom or at the faceoff dot."

Williamson has had a lot of great memories with the team. But his favorite came this last season when the team beat N.C. State, something it had never done before.

"We were down 2-1 with four minutes left in the third period. Somehow, we managed to tip a rebound in the back of N.C. State's net to win the game. We've never beaten N.C. State before. As soon as we scored, the rink went absolutely silent and the buzzer rang, leaving the Phoenix victorious."

Williamson will never forget his time at Elon, nor will he forget his time on the rink with his teammates.