

## Elon's Chris Thomas Named Player of Week

Written by Phil Perry

Tuesday, 11 September 2012 11:43

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Elon senior forward Chris Thomas has been named the Southern Conference's men's soccer player of the week for all matches Sept. 3-9. The selection

is made by the league office. Thomas scored four goals in just two contests last week, helping the Phoenix to wins in both of its matches at the Hyatt Place Select Invitational hosted by Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn. In Friday's 3-2 win over Lipscomb, Thomas scored a pair of goals, including the eventual game-winner on a penalty kick in the 82nd minute. He also had a fifth-minute score to stake Elon to the early lead. The Snellville, Ga., native added two more goals Sunday in a 4-2 win over Belmont. He again got the Phoenix off to a fast start, scoring in the 14th and 28th minutes to put Elon up 2-0 in the early going. The award is the fourth of Thomas' career. The SoCon's active career leader in points (79) and goals (36), Thomas took the honor twice last season and once as a freshman in 2009. Elon (3-1) returns to action Saturday with a 7 p.m. contest at No. 19 Coastal Carolina in Conway, S.C. Also nominated: Lee Williams (Appalachian State), Alec Rotunda (Davidson), Martin Ontiveros (Furman), Joe Hughes (Georgia Southern), Hakan Ilhan (UNCG) and Alex Hutchins (Wofford).

### 2012 SoCon Men's Soccer Players of the Week

Aug. 28 Maximilian Schulz, UNCG

Sept. 4 Coleton Henning, Furman

Sept. 11 Chris Thomas, Elon

### Samford's Kaley Blanton Named Player of Week

Samford senior forward Kaley Blanton has been named the Southern Conference's women's

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soccer player of the week for all matches Sept. 3-9. The award is selected by the league office. Blanton scored three of Samford's four goals on the week, leading the Bulldogs to a 2-0 record and the title of the Courtyard by Marriott Louisville Airport Cardinal Classic hosted by the University of Louisville. She also earned a spot on the all-tournament team. In Friday's 1-0 win over Toledo, the Mandeville, La., native came off the bench to score the golden goal 108th minute to give Samford the dramatic, double-overtime win. Blanton earned the start against Kentucky two days later and followed up her late-game heroics with two goals the 3-1 victory over the Wildcats, giving her the game-winners in back-to-back contests. Her first strike came just 1:14 into the match against UK, and she made it a 2-0 spread with another score in the 17th minute. Her three goals came on just six shots on the week. With the wins, Samford ran its current winning streak to three consecutive games to even its record at 3-3. The award is the second of Blanton's career, as she also took the honor on Sept. 7, 2010. After playing five of its first six matches on the road, Samford returns home to host Kennesaw State on Friday at 7 p.m. Central time. Also nominated: Mariana Garcia (The Citadel), Simi Dhaliwal (Elon), Rachel Locke (Davidson), Stephanie DeVita (Furman), Courtney Collins (Georgia Southern), Ashley Stokes (UNCG), Lauren Thomas (Chattanooga), Katie Weigel (Western Carolina) and Annika Jansson (Wofford).

### 2012 SoCon Women's Soccer Players of the Week

Aug. 21     Jamie Simmons, UNCG  
Aug. 28     Chesney White, UNCG  
Sept. 4     Katie Merson, Georgia Southern  
Sept. 11     Kaley Blanton, Samford