

# Elon Nine Faces Ohio U. In Opening Game

## The Armchair Athlete

By AL BURLINGAME

All you Elon sports enthusiasts who had to sit back during the war and watch the collegiate athletic contests of other colleges—if you wanted to see collegiate sports at all—can unpack your best cheering voices from the mothballs of inactivity now, and prepare to let loose the old Elon battle cries! Yes, varsity sports are back with a vengeance. In fact, they have been injected so suddenly into the bloodstream of the college athletic program that, compared to the sports picture of only a year ago, the outlook for 1946 has picked up like a spavined truck horse that has been jabbed in the rump by a hornet.

Of course, we had varsity basketball this year, as well as the previous winter; but now the Big Three of collegiate competition—basketball, baseball, and football—all have been reunited with their hearty old devotee, Elon College. And there is nothing missing, abridged, or incomplete about that Big Three, unless it be the faces of Maroon and Gold stars and rooters of yore.

The return of baseball and football on a big-time basis here isn't all, either—varsity tennis and a pepped-up intramural schedule also will give you sports-hungry Christians a chance to satisfy your appetites. Then, if even those side lines aren't enough to fill you, the Burlington Bees baseball club will be playing at our Elon stadium; and you can certainly feast on fare like that! If you're not satisfied then—brother, you've got an over-active athletics gland, and we despair of its ever being cured!

A word about the intramural program, boys:

Here is something that has been formulated for your own benefit. No one compels you to play intramural softball, or volleyball, or whatever the sport may be. You play for your own good. Every man of you needs some sort of healthful, outdoor exercises, some kind of release for nerves grown tense at work in the classrooms and laboratory. Remember the old proverb about "all work and no play"? Well, all work and no play also makes Jack a very paunchy individual. If you're suffering from over-expansion of the waistline, fighting the battle of the bulge, you need exercise. Even if you're as thin as a backyard clothespole, you need exercise. If you're just plain normal in physique, you need exercise. For you men of Elon, the intramural softball program is an opportunity to serve yourself, biologically and mentally. Softball is an easy way to take our exercise—and an easy game to pick up, if you don't have experience. Let's take advantage of this opportunity, guys. Let's play ball!

There has been some discussion, both on campus and in the local daily paper, about the possibility of Joe Golombek's playing football for Elon this fall. Joe was all-Conference, all-State, all-American for the Christians in 1938. He returned to college this year after a lengthy period of army service, and was voted the most valuable player on the 1945-46 Elon basketball team. Joe has informed this column that he does not—repeat, does not—intend to play football. That should settle that!

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## Coach Pierce Returns To Elon; Will Act As Head Baseball Mentor

Returning to Elon on terminal leave from the Navy, after 23 months' service, Lt. J. L. Pierce, U. S. N. R., will act as baseball coach for the Fighting Christians during the 1946 season, it has been announced by Dr. L. E. Smith, president of the college. Director of the Air Corps physical education program at Elon before entering the service himself, Lt. Pierce has returned to accept an assignment necessitated by the influx of new students to the campus.

More than a hundred new G. I. registrants already have entered school for the spring quarter. In the re-alignment of the athletic program, Coach Lacy B. Adcox will direct intramurals and classes in physical education, and will assist in the coaching of varsity baseball training of baseball. Coach Adcox had until the new coach could assume his full duties. Spring football practice under "Hap" Perry, former Reidsville high school mentor and varsity tennis is also expected to get under way shortly as part of the revamped program.

Coach Pierce is a resident of High Point. A graduate of High Point College, where he was a three-sport athlete of the class of '32, he received his M. A. in physical education at the University of North Carolina in 1940 and came to Elon in 1942. He conducted physical training for Air Corps trainees in 1943 and 1944, and entered the Navy in 1945.

A participant in many thrilling war experiences, as commanding officer of an L. C. T. Mortar ship, Lt. Pierce saw duty in the Solomon Islands, at Okinawa, and at Japan. Not only did his ship help cover the landings at Okinawa and undergo continuous duty during the campaign there, but it was credited with having shot down one kamikaze plane during the action.

As coach of the first post-war Elon team, Lt. Pierce faces the task of moulding his ball club from a mixture of former Elon players, whose college careers were interrupted by service in the armed forces, and younger boys—most of them just out of high school—who are long on aspiration and short on experience. After a preliminary observation of the squad, Coach Pierce was conservative in his estimate of Elon's conference chances this spring. He remarked that the squad appeared strong in the outfield and was particularly impressed by Latta, an outfielder from Burlington.

"Johnny Clayton at shortstop," he said, "Steve Castura catching, and Latta in the outer green will give us a nucleus of pre-war athletes to build around. At present, however, I need more time to look over the squad. Some of the new men are good. We will probably get some top pitching, but lack a left-hander now. In any case," he concluded, "you may be sure that we will have a fairly good team."



COACH J. L. PIERCE

### TWO TEAMS ADDED AS MEN LAUNCH SOFTBALL LOOP

Bolstered by the addition of two new teams and by the reinforced line-ups of the five teams which have been competing in the intramurals since last fall, the men's intramural program got rolling again this week with what promises to be an exciting softball race. Added to the original teams (the Gremlins, Wolves, Jokers, Daybreakers, and Bombardiers) are the Owls and Hawks, made up mostly of veterans who have just returned to school.

The Wolves and Jokers were slated to open the softball season last Wednesday, and the campaign is scheduled to continue through May 6. Playoffs are scheduled for May 8 to 15.

- Complete schedule:
- March 27, 3:00 p. m.: Wolves vs. Jokers; 4:00 p. m.: Hawks vs. Daybreakers.
  - March 28, 6:45 p. m.: Owls vs. Bombardiers.
  - April 1, 6:45 p. m.: Gremlins vs. Owls.
  - April 3, 3:00 p. m.: Bombardiers vs. Hawks; 4:00 p. m.: Wolves vs. Daybreakers.
  - April 8, 3:00 p. m.: Jokers vs. Daybreakers; 4:00 p. m.: Wolves vs. Bombardiers.
  - April 10, 3:00 p. m.: Gremlins vs. Hawks; 4:00 p. m.: Jokers vs. Bombardiers.
  - April 11, 6:45 p. m.: Wolves vs. Gremlins.
  - April 15, 6:45 p. m.: Owls vs. Hawks.
  - April 17, 3:00 p. m.: Daybreakers vs. Bombardiers; 4:00 p. m.: Owls vs. Wolves.
  - April 18, 6:45 p. m.: Gremlins vs. Jokers.
  - April 22, 6:45 p. m.: Hawks vs. Wolves.
  - April 24, 3:00 p. m.: Owls vs. Jokers; 4:00 p. m.: Gremlins vs. Daybreakers.
  - April 29, 3:00 p. m.: Hawks vs. Jokers; 4:00 p. m.: Owls vs. Daybreakers.
  - May 6, 6:45 p. m.: Gremlins vs. Bombardiers.

## Bobcats Play Here Monday; 19-Game Campaign Planned

### Spring Football Practice Set To Start Monday

Spring football practice, in preparation for the Christians' first gridiron season since the war interrupted the varsity athletic program, will begin on Monday, April 1, it has been announced by L. J. "Hap" Perry, new Elon College coach. Practice will continue for about four weeks, with the squad working on the lower end of the Elon baseball park, so as not to interfere with baseball workouts by either the college team or the Burlington Bees, who are also scheduled to start drills on the initial day of April.

Assisting Coach Perry in the spring workouts will be a former all-State and all-Conference football player at Elon—Garland Causey, who has not signed a contract here, however, as he may rejoin the pro eleven in September.

Perry, who will assume his duties as athletic director at the college on July 1, is hesitant about predicting the school conference prospects this year, but extols the Christians to be strengthened by the return of veterans. Among his potential grid stars are slated to be several boys from his 1945 Reidsville High school State championship team, as well as Charles Nichols, all-State Reidsville lineman of 1944, all of whom are expected to enroll next term.

Initial spring drills will be to acquaint the men with Perry's system, a modified single-wing which he employed so successfully at Reidsville High. During his 19 years as football coach there, Perry won the State class B championship five times, tied once, and was beaten once. His record is one of the best of any high school coach in North Carolina.

Fall football practice will get underway on September 1, to prepare for the opening game with Atlantic Christian College on September 27. According to a conference ruling, fall practices are prohibited from starting any earlier.

### JOKERS TOP FOES;

### DAYBREAKERS WIN

Men's intramural softball was launched with a bang on Wednesday afternoon, when two games were played at the college ball park. In the curtain raiser, the Jokers blasted to an easy 11-3 victory over the Wolves, while the nightcap found the Daybreakers eking out a thrilling 10-9 triumph over the Hawks.

With Eddie Mulford showing good control, the Jokers tamed the Wolves in smart fashion. Three runs in the opening frame gave Mulford a lead the losers never could overcome.

Unless the weather says "April fool!" and turns up showery, the first Elon College baseball team to take the diamond since 1942 will face the strong Ohio University Bobcats in the Elon stadium on Monday, April 1st, in the opening game of the 1945 season. Director of Physical Education Lacy B. Adcox has announced a tentative schedule of 19 games for the Christians, 13 already designated as definite and six still under negotiation, with the Ohio U. contest heading the list.

The impending clash between Elon and the team from the Buckeye State is one of seven spring training games with North Carolina and Virginia college nines, scheduled by Athletic Director Don C. Peden of Ohio University to precede the Northern school's regular campaign.

With seven lettermen available, including two World War II veterans from the 1943 team, Coach Peden will head south on March 29 with a squad of about 17 men. On March 30, the Ohio nine will meet Virginia Polytechnic Institute at Blacksburg, Va.; then, following the game at Elon, they will tackle North Carolina University at Chapel Hill on April 2, Duke University at Durham on April 3, North Carolina State at Raleigh on April 4, Wake Forest at Wake Forest on April 5, and Richmond University at Richmond on April 6.

The five lettermen from last year's Ohio team, which won nine games and lost only to Ohio State and Michigan State, are: Gene Ruszkowski, catcher; Bill Barbis, outfielder; and Bill Turk third base (all from Cleveland); Ralph Sayre, New Haven, W. Va., second base; and Charles Horn, Crooksville, Ohio, shortstop. Charles Burdette, Akron, pitcher, and Charles Trager, Cleveland, outfielder, made letters in 1943 and returned to Ohio University this semester after serving in the armed forces. Burdette is expected to be the mainstay of the squad's pitching department, while Ruszkowski, Trager, and Horn are looked upon as the team's potential leaders at the plate.

Facing the invading Buckeye batsmen will be a pitcher not yet named by Coach J. L. Pierce, although the selection very probably will come from among a sextet of hurlers now under the coach's surveillance, namely: Pep Watkins of Ramseur, N. C.; Jack Andrews of McLeansville, who pitched with the Melville Torpedo Boat Base team while in the Navy; Jimmy McSwain of Robbins; Bill Anderson, former Army twirler from McLeansville; Perry Ayscue of Henderson; and Dave Smith of Burlington.

Elon's coach, who has just taken over his duties, is still experimenting with combinations and seeking to discover the top hitters on the Christian squad.

The games listed as definite on the Elon schedule, besides that with Ohio U., include two with the Greensboro O. R. D. nine, and two North State conference clashes each with Catawba, Lehigh-Rhyne, Atlantic Christian College, High Point, and Guilford. Two additional games with Atlantic Christian, as well as two each with Hanes Hosier of Winston-Salem and Appalachian State Teachers College, are being sought.

## Girls' Sports

By BETTY BENTON

I hope everyone is as happy about softball season starting as I am. It may get dusty going down to the field, but it's worth it after you get there.

Here is the intramural softball schedule for women:

- March 27: Ladies' Hall vs. Second Floor West.
- April 3: Third Floor West vs. East.
- April 4: 3rd Floor West vs. 2nd Floor West.
- April 8: Ladies' Hall vs. East.
- April 10: 2nd Floor West vs. East.
- April 14: 3rd Floor West vs. Ladies' Hall.
- April 25: Ladies' Hall vs. 2nd Floor West.
- April 29: 3rd Floor West vs. East.
- May 2: 3rd Floor West vs. 2nd Floor West.

- May 8: Ladies' Hall vs. East.
- May 9: 2nd Floor West vs. East.
- May 13: 3rd Floor West vs. Ladies' Hall.
- May 14-18: Play offs.

If any of the teams are planning to change team managers, or any of the team managers are unable to serve, please get together and elect a new representative and report the name to Coach Adcox.

The Women's Tennis Ladder will be started as soon as possible. This time let's see that it is completed!

The position of senior manager for the girls is open. Anyone qualified and wishing to submit an application please do so at once.

Well, see you down at the ball field!

Bobby Harris and Wayne King contributed homers for the Jokers, and Al Burlingame, the losing pitcher, got a four-bagger for the Wolves.

The second game looked like a runaway for the Hawks at the outset, the score being 8-0 in their favor when the Daybreakers came to bat in the second inning. A deluge of hits, plus a half-dozen Hawk errors, tied up the game at that point. In the top of the fourth, the Hawks went ahead again, 9-8; but the Daybreakers knotted the count once more in the fifth and won with another tally in the sixth. Perry Ayscue pitched for the winners, while Barrett and Smith shared the mound duties for the Hawks.



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