

# Cage Tourney To Open February 22

## Eight Powerful Teams Will Battle For Title

Eight powerful North State Conference basketball squads will converge on Statesville on Thursday, February 22nd, for three days of battling that will end with the choice of the 1951 champion of the fastest small-college basketball league in the South.

The occasion is the annual North State Conference Tournament, which will be held in the beautiful Statesville High School gymnasium for the second straight season. The big meet will draw entries from the eight top teams in the nine-team Conference.

Seven of the eight Tournament berths are already clinched for sure, and indications are that the Western Carolina Catamounts will edge Atlantic Christian's Bulldogs for the other position. Final games of the regular season this weekend may change the picture on that last position.

The present standings and the remainder of the schedule indicate that Lenoir-Rhyne, Catawba, High Point and Appalachian will get the four seeded berths, but seeded positions may be changed before the pairings committee meets at Boone this weekend. The other four teams will then be drawn to these seeded teams for the first round games.

The plans for the tournament schedule call for two games to be played on Thursday afternoon of next week, with two others that night. The two semi-final battles will be played on Friday night, and the final game is slated for Saturday night, February 24th.

The Elon squad is already assured of a post in the tournament, and Coach Doc Mathis and his boys will be driving to duplicate their performance of a year ago. Last year the Christians upset Catawba and High Point in the first two rounds and advanced to the finals, where they lost a tough game to Appalachian.

## High Point Wins Game In Overtime

Thirty-two foul shots in thirty-eight attempts proved the deciding factor as the High Point Panthers gained a thrilling 86 to 80 victory over the Christians at High Point last Thursday night, for the Elon cagers hit thirty-two field baskets while the Pointers were able to net only twenty-seven.

It was the second time this season that the Elon and High Point squads had battled into overtime, for Elon won the first game on the local court by 63 to 66 in an extra period. Elon came back strong in the second half last week after trailing at half-time by five points. Jack Mitchell laid up one to tie the game 71-all just fifteen seconds before the whistle.

Ben Kendall and Hank Hamrick played truly sensational ball for Elon, with their driving tactics on the floor demoralizing the High Pointers at times. Other members of the Christian squad also played one of the best games of the season, with Haithcox and Cooper scoring well in critical moments.

The line-ups:  
Pos.—Elon (80) High Point (85)  
F—Gaither (1) Waiz (27)  
F—Hamrick (14) Lisk (2)  
C—Haithcox (11) Sueta (16)  
G—Kendall (20) Joyce (19)  
G—Mondy (6) Davidson (12)  
Score at half: High Point 35, Elon 30. End of regular game: Elon 71, High Point 71.

Elon subs—Cooper (10), Mitchell (5), Hall (1), Lewis (8), Gaudin (4), Rakes. High Point subs—Reddish (4), Pryor (6).



## Spying On Sports

by JOE SPIVEY

How much can the human body stand? I mean that fracas with the Indians from Catawba. This one even went into two overtimes, and made the High Point and East Carolina games seem comparatively calm. A couple of thumps on the tom-tom for the Indians and a hearty "Hallelujah" for our Fighting Christians.

By the way, they love Don Haithcox up at Catawba. When the Christians played up there, Don got the biggest ovation of the night. Seems Don shot and shot, but just couldn't hit the elusive hoop. When he finally connected, the spectators rose en masse and gave Don a lusty cheer.

Shag Myers, the Jay-Vee coach, promises not to wear that dark suit to another ball game. The varsity players took one look at it on the night of the Catawba defeat, and decided that Shag had come to bury them.

The Elon-Guilford game developed into a ball game after the first half. Both teams looked pretty ragged for awhile, but the Mathis-men came back strong in the second half to rack up fifty points and a third straight North State Conference victory.

Any clubs or organizations looking for a worthwhile contribution to the school? Well, we have quite a few trophies collecting dust over in the library and various other places. I think they would look very nice in a trophy case, which could be placed in the lobby of the gym or in the rotunda of Alamanance.

Well, the Elon five dropped a close contest with the Mountaineer aggregation, but the student body dropped even lower in regard to sportsmanship.

Things got off to a bad start when the visitors got ready to go in the dining hall. It seems that a few students resented the idea of the team going in first, and made it known vocally by cat-calls and other noises. I have been on trips with our team, and we have always been sent to the front of the line without the hosts complaining.

To top all this, when Hunt started to shoot a foul shot in the waning moments of the game, there was a considerable amount of booing and shouting that was entirely unwarranted.

When the players were being introduced, the Elon people gave each member of the Appalachian a nice hand. I wanted to stand up and say, "I'm from Elon. See how we treat the visitors?" But after the above incidents, I felt like crawling out of the gym.

I guess most of us realize that the chances are very slim of our receiving the Conference sportsmanship trophy after such exhibitions.

Crew-cuts seem to be the latest in hair-dos for the basketball team. "Husky" Hall seems to be the barber in case anyone else cares to be mangled.

Offensive seems to be the by-word in today's method of playing basketball, but not so in the intramural game between Vet's Court and Sigma Phi's "B" team. Final score—15-12 in favor of the Court. The crowning touch is that the game (????) went into over-time after a 11-11 tie at the end of the regulation period.

Play was fast but not the shooting. Whether we win or lose, let's be good sports.

## Christians Take Two From WCTC

The Christian basketballers hit one of the high peaks of the entire season when they rolled over the Western Carolina Catamounts for two consecutive victories during a three-day invasion of the Carolina mountain country.

The Maroon and Gold tossers hit eighty points or better in each of the two contests, taking the first of the two battles on Monday night, January 29th, by an 80 to 64 margin and rolling at a still faster pace on Tuesday, January 30th, to cop the final game of the trip by an 85 to 70 score.

The second game of the series saw big Don Haithcox hotter than a July day as he paced the Fighting Christians to their 85 to 70 victory. Haithcox pumped in 27 points and controlled both backboards as he showed the Elon outfit to its second win in as many nights.

This 27-point effort by Haithcox in the second game gave him a total of 43 points and the top scoring honors for the two games. This was barely one point more than was accumulated by Ronald Rogers, Catamount ace, who accounted for 21 points in each game for the W.C.T.C. quintet. Dave Mondy rolled in 28 points and Hank Hamrick 25 in the two games to rank next in line among the Elon scorers.

**FIRST GAME**  
Pos.—Elon (80) W.C.T.C. (64)  
F—Gaither (5) Rogers (21)  
C—Haithcox (12) Martin (13)  
G—Mondy (10) Pardue (4)  
G—Kendall (8) Straehla (4)  
Carter (6)  
Score at half: Elon 42, Western Carolina 30.

Elon subs—Cooper, Rakes (2), Hall (12), Gaudin, Lewis (11), Quackenbush (2). Western Carolina subs—Bennett (8), Wheeler (1), White (3), Taylor (4).

**(SECOND GAME)**  
Pos.—Elon (85) W.C.T.C. (70)  
F—Gaither (8) Rogers (21)  
F—Hamrick (11) Martin (16)  
C—Haithcox (27) Pardue (6)  
G—Mondy (18) Straehla (2)  
G—Kendall (9) Taylor (22)  
Score at half: Elon 41, Western Carolina 36.

Elon subs—Cooper (6), Hall (4), Gaudin, Lewis (2), Quackenbush. Western Carolina subs—Bennett (3), White (3), Carter (3).

## South And I. T. K. Top Intramurals

South and I.T.K. continued to lead their respective intramural leagues after one week of the second half. South has hurdled its toughest opposition in licking Kappa Psi and Sigma Phi twice each, but I. T. K. has two tough battles remaining in the other league in a strong North club and the boys from Vets' Apartments. Either could lick the I.T.K. team on a good day.

The South outfit displayed the never-say-die spirit that has given it the lead in defeating Sigma Phi 30 to 29 in overtime. Joe Deaton and Jack Annas sparked Sigma Phi to a nine point lead in the first three quarters, but South teamwork whittled that lead, and Lou Rochelli sank a snowbird to tie the score. Joe Durso put Sigma Phi ahead in the overtime with a free throw, but Charlie Schrader stole the ball and laid it up to win for South.



HANK HAMRICK

DAVE MONDY

BEN KENDALL

Not so tall but plenty fast, the trio of Elon cage stars above have furnished the long range bombardment of the basket for the Fighting Christians all season. Left to right, they are Hank Hamrick, a scrapping demon at forward, and Dave Mondy and Ben Kendall, two of the finest guards in the Conference. All have proven themselves dangerous shots from any point on the floor. They use the one-hand push or the two-hand set with equal efficiency, and rival coaches must feel their hearts sink when either of the three set their sights on the target, even for a fleet second.

## Elon Downs Quaker Five

The Elon cagers averaged better than three points per minute in the final ten minutes of the Guilford game here on Saturday night, February 3rd, as they rolled triumphantly to an impressive 75 to 51 victory over the red-clad Quakers. It was Elon's seventh win in North State Conference play.

The first half of the battle proved lifeless throughout, and neither Elon nor Guilford could get any sustained drive underway. The Christians were out in front 25 to 17 at intermission, but neither had shown the fans anything to rave about during that first twenty minutes.

The rival coaches must have injected a heavy dose of vim and vigor at half-time, however, for both teams came back strong. Each was scoring freely in the opening minutes, and they were tied at 41-all exactly at the midway point in the final half.

Dave Mondy and Ben Kendall lit the torch for the Maroon and Gold at that time, and that final ten minutes saw Elon pour 34 points through the netting before

## SCORING

(19 Games To Date)

	FG	FT	TP
Haithcox	117	46	280
Mondy	89	26	204
Kendall	78	41	199
Hamrick	61	45	167
Gaither	50	18	138
Lewis	37	30	104
Hall	24	19	67
Cooper	28	9	65
Gauldin	15	6	36
Rakes	11	7	29
Ussery	5	7	17
Blackstone	4	1	9
Mitchell	2	1	5
Quackenbush	1	0	2

the final gong. The two Elon guards played brilliantly on the floor along with their deadly shooting.

**Pos.—Elon (75) Guilford (51)**  
F—Gaither (4) Covington (6)  
F—Hamrick (9) Woodall  
C—Haithcox (17) Venable (2)  
G—Mondy (18) Johns  
G—Kendall (15) Crews (5)  
Score at half: Elon 25, Guilford 17.

Elon subs—Rakes (3), Hall (1), Cooper (4), Gaudin (2), Lewis (2). Guilford subs—Topping (8), Dillon (10), McLeod (1), Callicutt (9), Ingram (10), Yates.

## ELON CAGERS OF 1938 BOASTED TOP RECORD FOR SINGLE SEASON

Many fine basketball teams have worn the Maroon and Gold colors of Elon into the hardwood conflicts of the past, and picking any one team from the more than three decades of Elon's cage history and calling it "the best" would be sure to call forth prolonged argument.

However, figures do not lie, and it was simply a matter of statistics and research to determine which of all the Elon teams since 1912 boasted the best record of wins and losses for a single season. That honor goes to the very fine Fighting Christian aggregation that played through the 1938 season with 19 victories and only two defeats.

This 1938 club, which also won the North State Conference championship that year, started off a five-year period of exceptional brilliance, and it is impossible to say that it was a stronger club than some of those that followed. The fact remains, however, that the 1938 team topped all the others in percentage of wins and losses.

Christian fans will be interested in the following tabulation of season records for those five teams that carried Elon hopes just prior to World War II.

Season	Won	Lost	Ave.
1938	19	2	.905
1939	19	6	.760
1940	19	3	.864
1941	20	4	.833
1942	17	5	.773

Simple addition reveals that those five teams rolled to 94 victories and only 20 defeats in the final pre-war years. The 1941 club won the greatest number of victories ever recorded by Elon in a single season, but its percentage fell short of the 1938 mark.

The 1938 Christians gained eleven North State Conference wins in twelve starts to clinch the Conference crown, the only defeat coming at the hands of Lenoir-Rhyne at Hickory. Lenoir-Rhyne was defeated in the other of two games. High Point was the real contender for the title, as shown by the fact that Elon had to go all out to win 35 to 33 and 32 to

31 in the two games with the Panthers.

A special feature of this 1938 season was a highly successful northern trip, during which Elon won five games and lost one. On that northern jaunt, the Christians defeated Washington and Lee in Lexington 29 to 25, defeated V.H.I. there 34 to 20, moved over to Newport News to lick the Naval Apprentice 35 to 29, then downed St. Johns at Annapolis, Md., by a 21 to 18 margin, dropped a tough one to George Washington 46 to 29 and then swung southward to defeat Randolph-Macon at Ashland 32 to 28.

This Elon team of 1938 placed three men on the All-Conference first team. They were Lloyd Whitely, a fine forward, who later lost his life in World War II; Captain Hal Bradley, a great center, who has since made his mark in high school coaching; and Richard "Red" Cromlish, a stout guard, now a banker in Belmont, N. C.

The team was coached by Horace "Horse" Hendrickson, now

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## VARSITY CAGE SCHEDULE

- Elon 48, Carolina 57.
- Elon 62, Wake Forest 73.
- Elon 65, McCrary 80.
- Elon 75, McCrary 69.
- Elon 72, A.C.C. 50.
- Elon 86, Troy State 54.
- Elon 54, Appalachian 73.
- Elon 71, Lenoir-Rhyne 82.
- Elon 64, A.C.C. 63.
- Elon 60, Catawba 73.
- Elon 68, High Point 66.
- Elon 75, E.C.T.C. 74.
- Elon 62, E.C.T.C. 74.
- Elon 79, Catawba 84.
- Elon 80, W.C.T.C. 64.
- Elon 85, W.C.T.C. 70.
- Elon 75, Guilford 51.
- Elon 59, Appalachian 64.
- Elon 80, High Point 86.

(Remaining Games)

Feb. 15—Lenoir-Rhyne, home.  
Feb. 17—Guilford, away.

## Appalachian Is Winner Over Elon

Three little words — hot and cold—offer a perfect description of the Elon basketball squad that lost a tough battle to Appalachian by a 64 to 59 count here last Wednesday night, February 7th, for the Christians were blazing during the first half, only to have their offensive freeze late in the game before a rallying Mountaineer five.

Ben Kendall, Elon's Hoosier bomber, literally knocked the bottom out of the basket in pacing the Fighting Christians to a nice 36 to 29 margin during the first half, but the stocky guard was never able to hit the pace again after intermission, and valiant efforts by Hank Hamrick failed to take up the slack in the Elon attack.

Elon moved to a 10-2 lead in the first five minutes, but Perk Collins paced the Mountaineers in a quick comeback. The second half saw Elon maintain its lead through the early minutes, but Hunt and Hooks started hitting to tie at 51-all and then take the lead.

Hamrick, Kendall and Mondy were the three top scorers for Elon, but big Joe Hunt proved the big scorer of the night as he paced Appalachian with 19 points.

The line-ups:  
Pos.—Elon (59) Appalachian (64)  
F—Hamrick (14) Collins (12)  
F—Gaither (4) Hodgins  
C—Haithcox (10) Hunt (19)  
G—Mondy (12) Hooks (18)  
G—Kendall (13) Lancaster (11)  
Score at half: Elon 36, Appalachian 29.

Elon subs — Rakes, Hall (2), Lewis (4), Cooper. Appalachian subs—Mast, Pyecha (4), Garris.

## STANDINGS

(Through Feb. 7)

### "A" LEAGUE

	Won	Lost	Ave.
South	7	0	1.000
Kappa Psi	4	3	.571
Sigma Phi	4	3	.571
Day Students	3	3	.500
Club House	1	4	.200
East	1	7	.143

### "B" LEAGUE

	Won	Lost	Ave.
I.T.K.	5	0	1.000
Oak Lodge	3	2	.600
North	3	3	.500
Vets Apts.	2	2	.500
Vets Court	1	5	.200
Sigma Phi "B"	0	2	.000