

Co-Captains Lead Fighting Christians For 1953 Football Campaign



Captain John Platt

Going out to meet the officials and the enemy leaders before each of Elon's 1953 football games are a pair of senior grid-iron stars who were named co-captains of the Fighting Christian football team by vote of their teammates on this newest Maroon and Gold squad.

The two Christian grid leaders are Captain John Platt (left), a 215-pound halfback, who hails from Kokomo, Ind.; and Captain Dwight Dillon (right), a 190-pound tackle, who calls Martinsville, Va., his home town. Both are important cogs in this 1953 football squad, which is carrying Elon colors.

Captain Platt came to Elon in the fall of 1951 as a transfer from the University of Kentucky, where he had played halfback for the Kentucky freshmen the previous season. He played in part of two games that first season, rolling for a total of 447 yards running and passing, but he was forced to sit out most of that campaign because of the transfer rule. Handicapped by injuries last fall, he has been a tower of strength in early games this season.

Captain Dillon came to Elon as a freshman, freshly graduated from Martinsville High School, and he earned a letter at tackle his first season. He was a regular tackle with the offensive platoon most of last season, but he saw much duty on defense last fall and was all primed and ready for double duty under the one-platoon



Captain Dwight Dillon

Appalachian Tops Elon 21 To 19 In Grid Game

By MIKE RAUSEO

The running of Shirley Gabriel and Don Hiatt, veteran Appalachian backfield stars, proved too much for Elon's Christians, and the two enemy aces led the Mountaineers down from the hills of Boone to defeat a fighting but unfinished Elon grid squad 21 to 19 in a hair-raising battle in Burlington Memorial Stadium on Saturday night, October 3rd.

Despite the 21 to 19 defeat at the hands of the Mountaineers, the Elon eleven showed a tremendous improvement over its previous week's game, in which it lost to the powerful Wofford Terriers 33 to 0 in the season-opener.

The scoring began early in the Appalachian game. A pass from Spec Male, Elon quarterback, intended for Mal Bennett, was intercepted by Appalachian's Mac Smith on the Elon 44-yard line, and four plays later the Mountaineers crossed the Christian goal line. Shirley Gabriel made the pay-off run, breaking through the Christian defense for a 30-yard gallop. Don Hiatt's kick was good for the first of three conversions to make it Appalachian 7, Elon 0.

HOW IT HAPPENED

ELON	APPLACHIAN
10	16
143	258
18	32
125	226
10	10
4	5
109	43
234	269
2	2
5	3
32.6	24.2
140	92
2	1
40	30

The play through most of the time left in the first half was in Elon territory, with Elon's accent being on halting Appalachian threats and getting the ball away from the Mountaineers on threatening marches. The Christians scored their first touchdown when John Platt, who was outstanding for Elon throughout the game, returned a punt from the Appalachian forty-five to the sixteen. Michaux failed to gain, and then big John picked up 13 yards to the three, from where Spec Male slipped through for the score. Jack Simpson's kick was no good, and the half-time score was 7-6 for Appalachian.

Appalachian received the second-half kickoff and marched from the Elon forty-seven for her second touchdown. Gabriel climaxed the drive by passing to Hiatt from 13 yards out. Hiatt again kicked point to make it Appalachian 14, Elon 6.

The Christians got back into the ball game when Homer Hobbgood intercepted a Gabriel pass on the App thirty-four. With Platt leading the offense, carrying three times out of four, the home team picked up a first down on the seventeen. A forward pass from Bill Snyder to Kerry Richards was ruled complete on Appalachian interference at the three, and John Platt drove for the score on second try. Platt's kick failed, and Elon trailed 14-12.

The third and winning TD for Appalachian was set up by Gabriel's brilliant runback of the Elon kickoff. Ollis got six, and Jack Kiser on a dazzling display of running went 31 yards to the Elon fourteen. Two plays later Don Hiatt scooted around end for the touchdown and a 21-12 score.

The final touchdown for the Christians followed an exchange of punts in the fourth quarter, with Elon gaining possession on the App thirty-eight. Whitney Bradham, freshman halfback, picked up a first down on the twenty-three, and John Platt spotted Bradham in the end zone with a forward pass for the TD. Platt kicked good for the final 21-19 count.

Platt was the big gun in the Elon offense, although Bradham and Michaux had several nice gains. Platt's record showed 59

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Elon Football

- Elon 0, Wofford 33.
- Elon 19, Appalachian 21.
- Elon 25, East Carolina 45.
- (Remaining Games)
- Oct. 24—Catawba, away.
- Oct. 31—W.C.T.C., home.
- Nov. 7—Newberry, home.
- Nov. 14—Lenoir Rhyne, away.
- Nov. 26—Guilford, away.

Intramural Track Meet To Be Held

Track and field sports will take the center of the stage on Tuesday afternoon, October 27th, when the Intramural Athletic Department stages its first annual track meet on the intramural field, with events scheduled for both boys and girls.

The big meet was originally set for next Tuesday afternoon, but Coach Scott Boyd, who is directing the intramural program this year, postponed the event one week to avoid any possible conflict with the Religious Emphasis Week activities.

The track meet is open to both team and individual entries, and Coach Boyd reports that there has been much interest expressed by both boys and girls. An effort is underway to secure teams from the various boys' and girls' dormitory units and from the fraternities and sororities and day student groups. Athletes who cannot affiliate with a team may compete as individuals.

The program for the meet will include eight events for boys and identical events for girls. The events planned for each division include the 50-yard dash, the 100-yard dash, the 400-shuttle relay, softball throw for distance, high jump, broad jump, 50-yard sack race and the 50-yard three-legged race for pairs of competitors.

When Problems Arise, It's . . .

Johnnie On The Spot At The Gym

It's truly a case of "Johnnie On The Spot" whenever there's anything needed within or around Elon's beautiful Alumni Memorial Gymnasium, and every member of the Fighting Christian sports staff is truly thankful that such is the case.

"Johnnie" in this instance is none other than Johnnie Randleman, whose smiling face has become a fixture on the scene ever since the big Elon sports plant was built and opened for use back in the winter of 1950.

Johnnie, who gives Gibsonville as his home address, came on the scene even before the

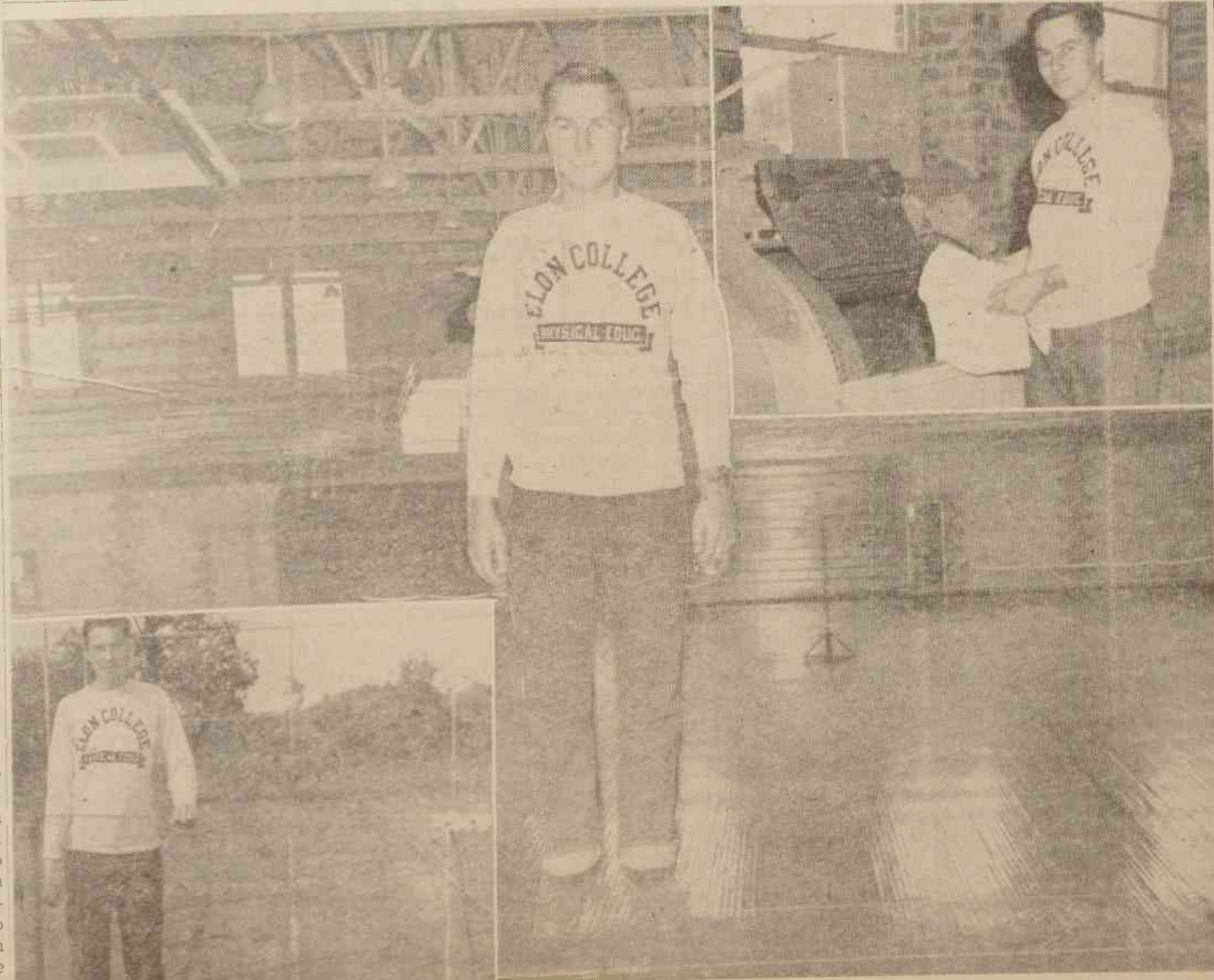
gymnasium itself, for he took a job as a carpenter's helper while the big sports arena was scarcely more than a gleam in the architect's eye, and he worked with the construction forces until it was finished.

He was on the job as caretaker when the Christian basketball squad battled Catawba's Indians in the first game in the gymnasium on Saturday, January 14, 1950, and he has been right there on the same job ever since.

If Elon's gymnasium could choose a theme song, there's no doubt that the choice would be entitled "Oh, Johnnie: Oh,

Johnnie," and it would be quite convenient to have a record player right beside the door with that one record all set to go at any and all times, for that's the cry of coaches and students about ump-teen times a day.

Johnnie not only keeps the gymnasium spic and span at all times, for he tends the tennis courts, operates the big laundry machine, mows the grass, looks after sports equipment, and, on top of that, he's ready with a smile to answer every question about the whereabouts of the coaches or others who frequent the gymnasium.



A MIGHTY BIG FIGURE in the picture of activities at Elon's beautiful Alumni Memorial Gymnasium is Johnnie Randleman, who has been caretaker of the beautiful sports emporium and physical education plant since it was built and opened for use four years ago. He is shown above, standing man-size against a background view of the huge structure, with inset pictures in the corner showing him stretching the nets on the tennis courts and operating the big laundry machine that keeps Elon's athletes spic and span.

SEEING SPORTS

with

GARY SEARS

For all those loyal supporters of the Fighting Christians there seems to be one word that could be the keynote of this year's squad and that word is "hustlers". Of course, in describing the team, I could talk about the offensive running of Co-Capt. John Platt, the end play of Mal Bennett and Gene Williams, or how much Nick Dees has improved to gain a starting berth at left guard. Then, probably, someone could chip in and ask about such Freshmen as "Scooter" Bradham, Glenn Varney, Patsy Cafasso or Bill Snyder who fills in nicely when "Spec" Male needs a rest.

Maybe I've listed a few of the names too soon, but then again, when the above mentioned boys hustle and give the crowd such a show as they witnessed in the Burlington Memorial Stadium against Appalachian, it's no wonder that the word "hustlers" is appropriate. Not only those mentioned, but from the group on Coach Varney's "hamburger squad" on up to the very best players you'll find they all play their hearts out.

Maybe I've been beating around the bush up until this point, but what I've really been trying to say is that we've got a team that we can be proud of, one that deserves all the support we can give it, so let's everyone try to be present for at least all the home games.

True it takes money to follow the team, but everyone has an activity card, and the stadium isn't so far that we can't all get out and support the Fighting Christians when they are at home. Keep the two remaining home game week-ends in mind—October 21st against Western Carolina and November 7th against the Indians from Newberry.

I really didn't mean to start lecturing on team support again in this issue, but I hope by now that everyone is ready to back the squad as wholeheartedly as the squad is willing to play for you.

Looks like Casey Stengel brought his boys through again

his year. Not only do those Yankees win during the season (remember eighteen in a row), but also in the series. Oh, they lose a few now and then (remember the nine in a row), but when the chips are down and stakes are high that's when the Yanks come through. Wonder if the Red Sox will ever make the grade, or are the Yankees here to stay?—Seems that way doesn't it?

After having a good year as a Sophomore letter-winner, Bubber Barnes was moved into the starting role for Coach Varney's Fighting Christians as the center slot. Bubber was slated for his outstanding year, due to his all-around ability. Late in the Wofford game a wrenched knee laid him on the sidelines, and it seems that he will be lost for the year. He was definitely a big man up front for the Christians and will be sorely missed.

Hats off to our band that was on display at the Appalachian game. A lot of credit goes to Bernard Jones for forming the band, along with the help of Prof. John Westmoreland. Just a little secret information to all, and that is to say that the band had only marched once, prior to the game and that was during a practice session down in the gym. Incidentally, did you also notice the three pretty majorettes whose names are Nannette Matchan, Ann Kearns, and Shirley Cox. They do a mighty nice job too, don't you think?

Shades of last year's team were present on the campus last weekend when Jack Christy was down for a visit from the Marines at Quantico, Va., and Mike Moffo and Roger McMillan were up from Camp Gordon, Ga., and Fort Jackson, S. C. All doing nicely. Also heard from Walter Harding, down at Camp Rucker, Ala. He made history against Catawba last fall, as most of us remember. Also at Fort Jackson are Dee Atkinson and Charlie Atkins, former Elon basketball and football stars respectively.

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