

# Elon To Open Conference Season At Appalachian

## Will Meet Mountaineers At Boone On Saturday

### Elon Football

- Elon 13, Citadel 21.
- (Remaining Games)
- Oct. 2 —Appalachian, away.
- Oct. 9 —East Carolina, home.
- Oct. 16—Newberry, away.
- Oct. 23—Catawba, home.
- Oct. 30—W.C.T.C., away.
- Nov. 6 —Guilford, home.
- Nov. 13—Lenoir Rhyne, home.
- Nov. 20—Davidson, away.

## Digging With Doug

### In The Field Of Sports

In the fresh air of the great outdoors one can detect the pungent odor of burning leaves. There seems to be a definite change in the atmosphere as the sharp crack of the horsehide on wood gives way to the thud of the pigskin on shoe-leather. Yes, the king of warm weather sports is stepping resolutely aside for that great monarch of fall.

The first opportunity we will have to see our own Fighting Christians on the home gridiron is October 9th when the Elon eleven will battle last year's North State Conference champs, the Pirates of East Carolina. Please take note that I said the first chance to see the boys in action on the home pasture. On October 2nd (this coming Saturday) night the men with the pads and cleats will invade the town of Boone, North Carolina to take on Coach E. C. Duggin's Appalachian Mountaineers. At this writing the Apps are riding high, having just defeated our neighboring Quakers by the score of 19-6 in the first North State appearance for both clubs. This week's affair shapes up to be a fine contest and everybody who can possibly do so should make the trip to the mountains. It is interesting to note that this game is an afternoon affair, getting under way at 3 o'clock instead of the usual 8 o'clock kick-off time. This will enable the Elon fans to get a reasonable amount of "sack time" on Saturday nite. Therefore, the "lounge lizards" of our campus will have no reason for not being in the stands at Boone come Saturday.

Those of you who do travel to Boone for the game will not only see some fine football, but will also see a chunk of the finest mountain scenery in our fair state of North Carolina, something that is mighty pleasing to the eye.

Corn Dept.  
Joe: "What is large at the bottom, small at the top and has ears?"  
Moe: "I dunno."  
Joe: "A mountain."  
Joe: "Huh?"  
Joe: "Aintcha ever heard of Mountaineers?"

From some quarters voices are heard comparing the Elon football aggregation, with other teams in the Conference by saying that Elon has very few third and fourth-year men on the squad. This is true, but it is worthy of

mention that Elon squad probably has as many or more second year men, who have been proven on the field of battle, than any other ball club in the loop.

The Elon gridmen don't have an easy row to hoe, with such teams as East Carolina, Newberry and Davidson, just to mention a few on the schedule. One big factor tipping the scales in favor of the Elon gridders is the fact that the boys don't have to get acquainted with a new coach and a new system this year as they did last. Things are pointing to a good year for the Maroon and Gold pigskin-packers. Let's hope they have it.

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In the past couple of years it seems there has been little evidence of the plain old school spirit on the campus and at the football games. Time after time the cheer leaders do everything but stand on their heads trying to get yells and cheers from us. Many times their efforts get nothing but feeble groans from the stands. What do you say we try to make ourselves heard at the ball games this year? It would be a welcome change. Let's try to remember too, that it is ok. for football fans to make a little noise, even when the cheerleaders are not begging us to sound off. Cheering can be done spontaneously. One of the reasons for the distinct lack of exuberency may be the example set by the upper classmen. Each year a new crop of freshmen comes in, and it is natural that they follow in the footsteps of those who are already here. It is only necessary for a situation like this to exist for a few years to develop a strong lack of enthusiasm. How about an enthusiastic following for the Fighting Christians this year?

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With the year just beginning I think it is a good time to say that I would like nothing better than to see the sportsmanship trophy in the trophy case in the Student Union. I would like to see a campaign or movement started on the campus with that as its purpose. Along these same lines it might be mentioned that booing officials or opposing players is not the most intelligent pastime in the world. Those who think hollering "boo-o-o" at the top of their voices does not look and sound a little odd should stand in front of a mirror and should "boo" as loud as they can for five minutes.

## Full Intramural Sports Program Gets Started

Activities are already underway on a full program of intramural sports, with six softball teams participating in a fall campaign under the direction of Prof. Scott Boyd, who is once more directing the mass athletic program on the campus.

Also in progress is a fall tennis tournament, which got underway yesterday, and plans are nearing completion for the annual tag-football competition, which is expected to attract at least eight campus teams into a league that starts two weeks in the future.

In connection with the tag-football program this year, Prof. Boyd stated that Elon rules will be changed this time to allow freedom of passing at any point on the field, both beyond as well as behind the line of scrimmage.

This is expected to increase the amount of scoring and do much to eliminate tie games.

Speaking of the intramural program for the later portions of the year, Prof. Boyd stated that he hopes to have another campus track meet later in the fall and that the program for the winter and spring quarters will include the same sports that were sponsored last year, with a possibility that some additional sports may be added.

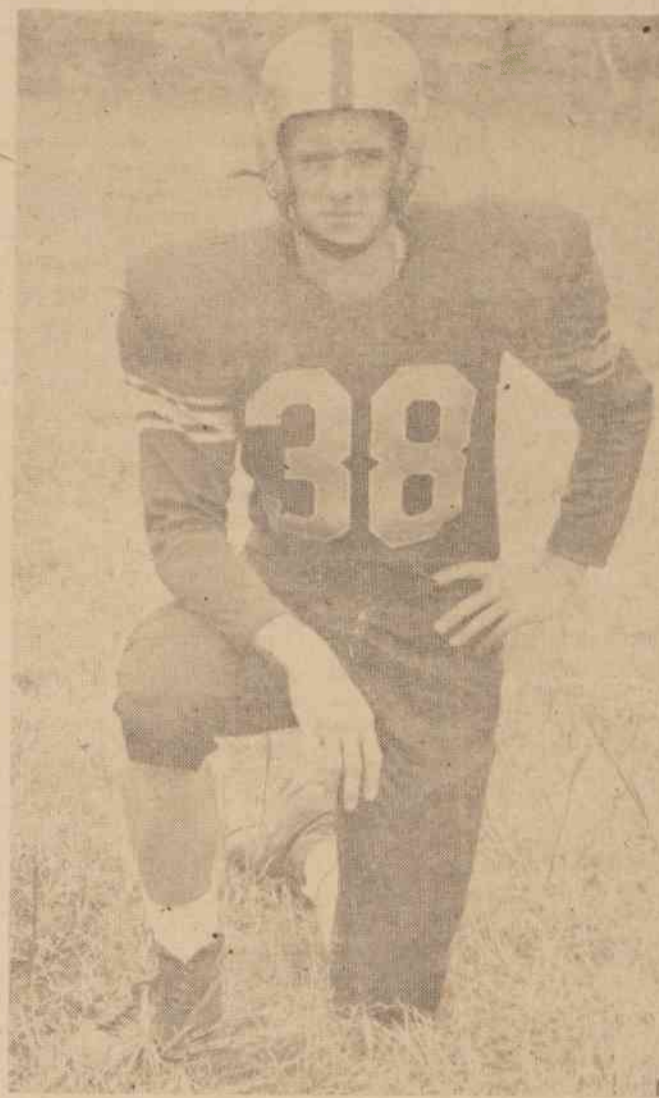
Something new in softball this fall is the entry of a faculty team, although scarcity of players forced the faculty players to unite with Kappa Psi in field a team.

Other softball entries include teams representing North Dorm, South Dorm, Iota Tau Kappa, Sigma Phi-Carlton, and East Alpha Pi.

## Disher Captains Elon's 1954 Grid Squad

Joseph Curtis Disher, who answers much more readily when the initials "J. C." sound out over the practice field or campus, is the captain and field leader of the Elon College football squad for the 1954 season.

The husky 190-pound end, who claims Winston-Salem as his home town, is a senior and is beginning his fourth season of gridiron play in a Maroon and Gold uniform, and he returns this fall to his old post at right end after taking a whirl at tackle last season.



Captain J. C. Disher

The Christian captain played his high school ball at Hanes High in North Carolina's Twin City, and he came to Elon in the fall of 1951.

Captain Disher saw scant service during his freshman campaign and failed to letter that fall, but he became a regular defensive flanker as a sophomore in 1952 while the "two-platoon" system of football was still in vogue in the North State Conference.

Disher opened the season a year ago as an end and saw much service there as Coach Sid Varney assumed the coaching reins in the Elon camp, but injuries and inexperience caused a yawning gap at tackle in mid-season, and Coach Varney shifted Disher to tackle, where he finished the year. Moved back to the flank this season, the Elon captain turned in a fine performance in the opening battle with The Citadel at Charleston, S.C., last weekend. He is expected to be a mainstay against Appalachian at Boone this coming Saturday.

## Christian Grid Squad Drops Opener As Citadel Rallies In Final Minutes

The Citadel Bulldogs, trailing by six points with two and one-half minutes to go, took advantage of two big breaks to score two touchdowns in the final minutes to defeat the Elon Christians 21 to 13 in a rugged battle at Charleston, S. C., last Saturday night.

The battle, which was played in Johnson, Hagood Stadium before a crowd estimated at 10,000 fans, proved to be a thrilling contest for the early-season. It was lent additional color by the marching of 1,400 members of The Citadel cadet corps before the game and by the half-time maneuvers of the "Summerall Guards," crack cadet drill team.

The Elon College gridders surprised their Southern Conference opponents and the Palmetto State grid fans by their power on offense and tenacity on defense, and it seemed that an upset was in the making when the Maroon and Gold outfit racked up two quick touchdowns in the second half to grab a 13 to 7 lead over the South Carolina Cadets.

Then came the rally by the Bulldogs, who counted two touchdowns and as many extra points in the final two and one-half minutes to win the game. The first of the late-game Bulldog markers came after a Christian fumble on a punt attempt, and the final score came on an intercepted pass in the final minute.

Neither team could muster any real scoring threat in the first half, which featured brilliant defensive play by each of the rival lines, but the Bulldogs broke the scoring ice after three minutes of the third quarter when Elon was called for interference on a 29-yard pass that gave Citadel the ball on the Elon twenty-nine. From that point Duby Rierson passed for twenty and then raced nine on a keep play for the touchdown. Ed Dzanis kicked good on his third attempt after Elon penalties had given him the extra efforts.

The Christians bounced right back from this Citadel score to tally twice within five minutes.

HOW IT HAPPENED		Elon	The Citadel
13	First Downs	10	
181	Yards Gained Rushing	185	
40	Yards Lost Rushing	21	
141	Net Yards Rushing	164	
11	Passes Attempted	12	
6	Passes Completed	4	
88	Yards Gained Passing	77	
229	Total Yards Offense	241	
1	Opp. Passes Intercepted	2	
0	Runback Int. Passes	29	
4	Number of Punts	6	
39	Ave. Distance Punts	35.8	
2	Fumbles Lost	1	
90	Total Yards Penalties	85	

Score by Periods—	
Elon	0 0 6 7—13
Citadel	0 0 7 14—21
Elon Touchdowns — Bridges, Michaux, Extra Point — Richards.	
Citadel Touchdowns — Rierson 2, Hill, Extra Points — Dzanis 2, Tuza.	

Kerry Richards raced the kickoff back to the thirty, and Elon marched for five first downs in a row to cross The Citadel's goal. Bill Snyder passed to Whitney Bradham for 29 yards on the thirteen and then tossed to Eddie Bridges in the end zone for the touchdown. Richards' try for point was wide, leaving Citadel ahead by 7 to 6.

Five minutes later the Elon eleven was on the march again. After Citadel kicked dead on the Elon twenty-seven, the Christians went for four first downs in succession, with Snyder passing to Charlie Michaux in the end zone for the score. This time saw Richards kick good to set Elon ahead by a 13 to 7 margin.

The Elon lads put up a strong defense after that second touchdown, and the Bulldogs were halted after one first down deep at their own 36-yard marker. Rierson kicked from there to the Elon twenty-seven, and the Christians were called down to run out the clock.

Three running plays fell short of a first down, and then came the big break that gave Citadel its chance. A low pass from center on a punt formation was fumbled by the Elon kicker, and his attempt to run the ball for a first down fell short at the Christians' 33-yard marker.

The ball went over there, and the Bulldogs were on the march. Duby Rierson, a Winston-Salem boy, sparked the Cadets on their drive. He passed once for eleven yards and a first down on the 22-yard marker and then ran twice for another first-and-ten on the eleven. The Elon line held for three downs, but, with the count of fourth and five, Ray Allen plunged to the one. Rierson slipped over from there. Dzanis kicked good to give Citadel a 14-13 lead with 2 minutes left on the clock.

The Elon outfit, taking to the air deep in its own territory in an effort to rebound, met disaster again when Charlie Hill, big 6-foot 5-inch end, intercepted a screen pass, and raced twenty-nine yards for the third and final touchdown that ran the score to 21-13 as the game ended.

The delegation of Elon fans who made the long trek to Charleston saw an Elon team that was much sharper than the Maroon and Gold eleven of last year in its opening game. The Christians racked thirteen first downs to ten for The Citadel, and the offensive yardage was virtually even.

Bill Snyder, Elon's sophomore quarterback, sparked the Christian attack with five completed passes in eight tries, with two of the heaves going for touchdowns. Running laurels for Elon went to Whitney Bradham and Kerry Richards, sophomore halfbacks, and to Bob Stauffenberg, a rugged freshman fullback. The entire Elon line played well in its opening game, with Ed Davidson, Chuck Maynard and Glenn Varney standing out in the middle of the line. Captain Disher, Charlie Michaux and Eddie Bridges turned in excellent games at end.

The Fighting Christian gridders trek forth this weekend on an invasion of the North Carolina hill country, where they will tangle with the Appalachian Mountaineers in a contest that will open Elon's bid for honors in the North State Conference this season.

The contest, which is scheduled for 3 o'clock Saturday afternoon at Boone, will be the main feature of Homecoming Day on the Appalachian campus, and it will find the Christians seeking their first win of the new campaign and at the same time to break a two-game win streak for the Mountaineers.

The Appalachian outfit, after only a so-so season a year ago, have surprised sports analysts of the state this fall by winning lopsided victories in both of their opening games. They defeated Guilford 19 to 6 in the first game of the year at Winston-Salem and then swamped Western Carolina's Catamounts at Asheville last weekend by a 27 to 7 margin.

The Saturday contest with Appalachian at Boone marks the fourteenth meeting of the North State rivals in a series which has produced some thrilling exhibitions since the rivalry began back in the autumn of 1937.

The Mountaineers rolled in impressive style in that first Elon-Appalachian game in 1937, with the lads from the mountains taking a 31 to 0 victory, but Elon evened the count in the 1938 contest when the Fighting Christians grabbed off a thrilling 7 to 6 victory.

The 1939 contest ended in a 3 to 6 tie, but Elon moved ahead in the rivalry with two consecutive victories in 1940 and 1941. The Christian win in 1940 was by a 7 to 0 margin, but Elon's North State Champions of 1941 made it look easy in swamping the Appalachian squad 26 to 6 in the final meeting of the old rivals prior to World War II.

The rivalry was broken after that 1941 meeting, for both colleges were without football during the years of World War II, but

## Freshman Eleven Loses Grid Battle To Chowan

The Elon Freshman football team dropped a 13-6 decision to Chowan Junior College on Thursday, September 16 on the winners' field. Chowan, led by the able quarterbacking of Jim Clark, controlled the ball for the major part of the game to prove the axiom that "possession is nine points" of the ball game.

The junior college eleven made an early threat in the first period as they drove to the Elon 22-yard stripe, but that initial march was halted abruptly when Don Akers, Elon guard, grabbed off a Clark aerial on the Fighting Christians fourteen and raced to the twenty before being pulled down. The Elon attack failed to jell, and the Baby Christians were forced to punt.

The first score came in the opening moments of the second quarter when Billy De La Cruz, Chowan's squat Filipino halfback, scampered around left end from three yards out to put Chowan in the lead. The extra point attempt was wide, and Chowan led 6-0.

Supposedly the feature of the Chowan attack, the passing combination of Clark to Gravelly failed to click as the Maroon and Gold laddies threw up a stubborn pass defense, but midway the second period Clark threw from the 20-yard line into the waiting arms of Gravelly in the end zone. Gravelly converted to make the score Chowan 13, Elon 0.

the annual struggles were resumed in 1946, when the Appalachian squad romped to a 40 to 0 triumph.

That one-sided victory was the beginning of a four-year domination by the Mountaineers, who grabbed off victories for four successive seasons. The other Appalachian wins came by scores of 21 to 13 in 1947, 33 to 13 in 1948 and 14 to 0 in 1949.

The 1950 game was a 14-14 tie, with Appalachian coming from behind to score two touchdowns in the final three minutes of play, but Elon swept back to the fore in 1951 and 1952. The Christians won 20 to 6 in 1951 and then grabbed a bitterly-fought 13 to 7 triumph in 1952.

Appalachian was the winner last year in one of the most thrilling battles of the entire series, with Don Hiatt booting three successful placements after touchdowns to give the Mountaineers a 21 to 19 victory in a scoring duel, which featured offensive play from the first whistle to the last.

The count in games won and lost after that 1953 contest shows the Appalachian gridmen leading in the series with six victories, compared with five wins for the Christians. Only two games of the thirteen played so far have ended in ties. The Christians will be seeking this weekend to regain the win column and to once more deadlock the victory-count in one of the most colorful and most bitterly fought rivalries in North State Conference football.

The first half of play was highlighted by the great running of Elon's Jack Simpson, who gained valuable yardage for the young Christians. After Davey Gould, Elon halfback, raced the second-half kickoff back to the 34-yard line, the Elon offense began to come alive in a drive deep into Chowan territory. Bob Stauffenberg gained seven yards on a slam up the middle, and Dick Bradham threw to Davey Gould in the end zone, completing a beautifully executed play for an Eln score. Jack Simpson failed to add the extra point and the final score was recorded Chowan 13, Elon 6.

In the final stanza Elon failed to gain against a dogged Chowan defense, and as the gun sounded the end of the game, the Christian frosh had been pushed back to their own 5-yard line.

The game was well played, except for moments when the Christians displayed a case of first-game fright. An outstanding game was played defensively by Tracy Griffin and Frank Stempinsky, freshman flankers. Offensively it was the fine running of Bob Stauffenberg, Jack Simpson and Davey Gould that showed up best. Gould intercepted two enemy aerials and tallied the lone score for the Freshman squad.

The team demonstrated fine teamwork and exceptional spirit in the losing effort, and the play of several first-year men showed prospect of them playing a great deal of ball for the varsity.