

# Christians Battle Appalachian In First Home Game

## STAUFFENBERG INJURED IN OPENER



Elon football hopes received a sharp set-back when Bob Stauffenberg, a rugged sophomore fullback from Morea, Pa., received a fractured arm in the opening battle with Mississippi Southern on September 17th, an injury which may "bench" him for the rest of the season. Stauffy, who smashes into enemy lines with bulldozer force, came to Elon last fall after starring at Mahonoy Township High School, where he was chosen for participation in Pennsylvania's eighteenth annual "Dream Game." During his freshman season at Elon he was rushing leader for the Christians with a net of 478 yards and an average of 4.3 yards per carry. This record won for him All-Conference honors in his first season.

## Elon Trampled In Mississippi Tilt, 39 To 0

By BILL WALKER

Mississippi Southern's heavy and experienced gridders romped more or less at will to swamp the Elon Christians 39 to 0 before a crowd of 13,500 fans in Hattiesburg, Miss., on Saturday night, September 17th. It was an auspicious debut for the Southerners, but it gave scant comfort to the followers of the Christians.

The Elon squad, with a veteran backfield combination that had been thought one of the best small-college crews in the South and perhaps in the country, found itself virtually unable to move against Southern's tremendous line, a forward combination that averaged better than 230 pounds from tackle to tackle and over 210 pounds from end to end.

### HOW IT HAPPENED

Elon	Miss. Southern
3	First Downs 21
48	Yards Gained Rushing 376
72	Yards Lost Rushing 6
8	Passes Attempted 14
24	Net Yards Rushing 370
1	Passes Completed 7
29	Yards Gained Passing 101
5	Net Yards Scrimmage 471
1	Opp. Passes Intercepted 0
16	Runback Intercepted Passes 0
10	Number of Punts 3
34.7	Ave. Yards Punts 35.3
165	Runback All Kicks 65
0	Fumbles Lost 0
40	Yards Lost Penalties 105

### Score by Periods:

Elon	0	0	0	0
Miss. Southern	12	7	14	6-39

Miss. Touchdowns—Smallwood, Arban, Whitfield, Cardenas 2, Richardson. Points after—Herring, Whitfield, Meeks.

On the first play from scrimmage, J. C. Arban, flashy freshman halfback for the Southerners, took a hand-off on his own thirty-four and sprinted 57 yards to the Elon eight, where Whitney Bradham brought him down from behind. Two plays later Fred Smallwood sprinted untouched for the touchdown. Homer Hobgood, Elon's All-State center, blocked the kick.

Kerry Richards, taking the next kick-off on his own twenty-six, sprinted 21 yards for a nice return, but Bill Snyder had to punt four plays later when the Christians found themselves unable to move the ball.

Late in the first quarter, after neither team had been able to move the ball for substantial gains, the Southerners took over on the Elon twenty when the Fighting Christians failed to get off a fourth down punt. Two plays later Arban carried the pigskin over for the TD and 12-0 lead.

In the second quarter both teams found their offenses stymied until the final four minutes, at which time Mississippi Southern took over on her own forty-three, where Dallas Whitfield broke into the open for 33 yards to the Elon twenty-six. Two plays later Doug Barfield tossed 22 yards to Whitfield for the score. Whitfield added the point for 19 to 0 as the half ended.

Early in the second half the Mississippi gridders took over on their own twenty, after a penalty had moved them back 15 yards, and just eight plays later the Southerners were again in the shadow of the Elon goal and with first-and-ten on the Christian eleven. Ed Cardenas, the game's leading scorer from his fullback spot, scored the TD on an end sweep. Cardenas hit pay-dirt again in that same period on a 12-yard pass play.

Elon's only real threat in the game came when Kerry Richards intercepted a pass on Southern's forty-four and raced to the enemy 28-yard line. Fate intervened there, however, and just five plays and two 15-yard penalties

(Continued on Page Four)

## HOBGOOD LEADS 1955 GRID SQUAD



Captain Homer Hobgood, a rugged senior from Oxford, leads the 1955 Christian grid squad and anchors the Maroon and Gold line from his center position. After playing very little as a freshman, Hobgood lettered as a first-line reserve in his sophomore year, and last season he stepped into a starting position and played better than 55-minute ball all season. His steady play on offense and his alert defense won for him both All-Conference and All-State honors at the close of the 1954 campaign, during which he had two pass interceptions and two recoveries of enemy fumbles to his credit. Captain Hobgood is also an All-Conference catcher in baseball.

## Christians Drop Rugged Grid Battle To Citadel Bulldogs By 26-18 Count

By BILL WALKER

The Fighting Christians, playing with a remodelled backfield after the loss of two regulars who started the opening game with Mississippi Southern, displayed brilliant form as they dropped a tough battle to The Citadel's Bulldogs in Charleston, S.C., last Saturday night, September 24th.

The Elon gridders, after grabbing an early 6-0 lead, found themselves down at the half by a 19 to 6 margin and had to battle desperately throughout the second half to overcome the two-touchdown margin.

They were unable to overtake the Bulldog lead, but the crowd of 12,000 cheering fans saw the Elonites all but dominate the offensive play through most of the game.

Only for about 15 minutes during the second period were the Bulldogs of Citadel, boasting this year a "new look" in football, able to move effectively against the Christians. All the other quarters were almost completely controlled by Elon's gold-jerseyed eleven.

Elon drove for the first touchdown with less than four minutes elapsed in the first period, with Tom Shepperson recovering a Citadel fumble on the Cadets' 30-yard line. Three plays later Kerry Richards, Elon's All-Conference halfback, carried over from the eleven. Glenn Varney's attempted conversion was blocked.

Early in the second quarter, with the second platoon on the field, Bulldog tackle Lee Klein intercepted a pass on the Christian forty, and the Cadets were off to their first score. With Leshner and

### HOW IT HAPPENED

Elon	Citadel
10	First Downs 14
160	Yards Gained Rushing 242
20	Yards Lost Rushing 33
140	Net Yards Rushing 209
15	Passes Attempted 10
4	Passes Completed 4
37	Yards Gained Passing 51
177	Net Yards Scrimmage 260
0	Opp. Passes Intercepted 4
0	Runback Intercepted Passes 60
4	Number of Punts 6
25.3	Ave. Yards Punts 30.2
165	Runback All Kicks 87
2	Fumbles Lost 3
100	Yards Penalties 143

### Score by Periods:

Elon	6	0	6	6-18
The Citadel	0	19	7	0-26

Elon Touchdowns—Richards 2, R. Bradham. Citadel Touchdowns—Dzanis 2, Schwarze, Andrejko. Points after—Dzanis 2 (placement).

Woodworth doing most of the work, the Bulldogs moved to the Elon one, where Schwarze went over for the score. Tuzo's kick for point was blocked.

Twelve plays later a pass interference penalty against Elon on the one-yard line set up the second score. On the next play Ed Dzanis plunged for the TD and added the extra point, giving Citadel a 13-6 lead.

Seconds later end Bob Saunders intercepted a Christian pass on the fifty and raced to the Elon one. The next play Dzanis was

## Attendance Records May Fall As Old Rivals Meet

### Elon Football

- Elon 0, Miss. Southern 39.
- Elon 18, The Citadel 26.
- (Remaining Games)
- Oct. 1—Appalachian, home.
- Oct. 8—East Carolina, away.
- Oct. 15—Newberry, home.
- Oct. 22—Catawba, away.
- Oct. 29—West. Carolina, home.
- Nov. 5—Naval App., home.
- Nov. 12—Lenoir Rhyne, away.
- Nov. 19—Guilford, away.

## J-V Gridders Tie Quakers In Tilt Here

The Elon Jay-Vee team battled the Guilford youngsters to a scoreless tie on Monday afternoon before a crowd of 300 fans on the Elon practice field. The game was the first of five tilts scheduled for the junior varsity this season.

Joey Del Gais was the featured offensive player for the Elon squad, while Tony Carcaterra and Jim Hawkins turned in some nice bits of defensive play. The Jay-Vees' biggest threat carried to the Guilford one, while Guilford's biggest threat ended on the ten.

Remaining games on the Jay-Vee schedule are with Chowan away on October 6; State Freshmen away on October 14; Gardner-Webb away on October 21; and Hargrave away on November 5. The Jay-Vees are coached by Odell Welborn.

All attendance records for Elon College's home football battles are expected to go by the board on Saturday night when the Fighting Christians make their 1955 debut before the home folks in a crucial battle with the power-laden Appalachian Mountaineers.

The game, which is set for Burlington Memorial Stadium at 8 o'clock Saturday night, has been the object of an intensive promotional campaign by the Burlington Elks Club, with the greatest advance sale of tickets in the annals of Elon grid play.

The Elks' sponsorship has created top interest in the game, but the battle itself is attracting widespread interest throughout the state, for sports scribes on state newspapers have billed the contest as likely to decide the 1955 championship in the North State Conference.

The Apps surprised even their own supporters last fall when they romped to an undefeated season in North State Conference ranks, but the Christians added a surprise of their own by grabbing runner-up honors in the race. Neither team had been doped to finish so high in the standings.

The Mountaineers were the only team to post a victory over Coach Sid Varney's outfit last fall, and the Christians would like mightily to forget the calibre of their play in the game which they lost to Appalachian at Boone by a 20 to 6 margin.

### ELON-APPALACHIAN SCORES

- 1937—Elon 0, Appalachian 31.
  - 1938—Elon 7, Appalachian 6.
  - 1939—Elon 6, Appalachian 6.
  - 1940—Elon 7, Appalachian 0.
  - 1941—Elon 26, Appalachian 6.
  - 1946—Elon 0, Appalachian 40.
  - 1947—Elon 13, Appalachian 21.
  - 1948—Elon 13, Appalachian 33.
  - 1949—Elon 0, Appalachian 14.
  - 1950—Elon 14, Appalachian 14.
  - 1951—Elon 20, Appalachian 6.
  - 1952—Elon 13, Appalachian 7.
  - 1953—Elon 19, Appalachian 21.
  - 1954—Elon 6, Appalachian 20.
- Elon won 5, lost 7, tied 2.

While the Christians would like to avenge that lone Conference defeat of last year, there is just as strong motivation in the bitter rivalry that has always prevailed in the Elon-App rivalry. The series began in 1937, and since that time the two teams have met fourteen times, with Appalachian holding a 7-5 edge in victories and with two games ending in ties. It is interesting to note that the Mountaineers are the only team in the North State loop to hold a series edge in victories over Elon.

Coach Red Duggins will bring a veteran outfit into Burlington Stadium on Saturday night, a squad which packs plenty of weight and experience and a squad which Elon scouts have labelled as the fastest they have ever seen in over-all speed of both line and backfield.

The Mountaineers were victims of one of the most startling upsets of the year in Tarheela last Saturday, when they fell before an inspired crew of Western Carolina Catamounts by a 7-6 score, and that fact will only serve to make the Duggins-coached machine more dangerous. Over-confidence may have been the cause for that upset, for Appalachian had flashed top form in swamping Naval Apprentice 47 to 6 in her opener. Coach Duggins will see that there is no over-confidence this week.

Both Elon and Appalachian will probably start nine lettermen at the opening kick-off. The Mountaineers only youngsters include a freshman at end and a sophomore at center. The Christians will field their non-letter starters at quarterback and fullback. In neither case will the non-letter performers weaken their teams, for the youngsters have proven their mettle in early games.

## Walking The Chalk-Lines

By BILL WALKER



There are no words to express the feeling one has after his team loses, especially when he is convinced that his team is two touchdowns better than the victorious opponent. I felt just that way after that Citadel game last Saturday night.

Guided by the expert quarterbacking of Richard Bradham and behind some unbelievably brilliant line play, the Christians moved with beautiful precision against the Citadel Bulldogs, who relied heavily on a freshman quarterback named Bob Schwarze, who played LAST YEAR at West Point and then donned a Bulldog uniform this year without waiting for a year of "red-shirting."

When Shakespeare wrote that thing about "the slings of ill fortune," he must have been thinking about the things that happened to Elon in that first half. I hesitate to name them, but suffice to say that they should not happen to a dog—not even to a Bulldog.

Elon lost the first game of the season to a fine Mississippi Southern team, but it didn't hurt half as much as that "official defeat" which they suffered in Charleston last Saturday night.

Contrary to the belief of some people, this "defeat" on the Elon record books did not destroy team spirit. Quite the contrary. It built the spirit to a new high, and the Christians learned more in that one game than they ever could in practice.

Richard Bradham, quarterbacking his first complete game, played somewhat on the light-fantastic order, calling what seemed an almost perfect contest. Except for four intercepted passes, his play

was above reproach, and it is little wonder that he was named the game's outstanding player.

However, we must not sell the rest of the backfield and the line short, for they all played a fine offensive and defensive game and displayed more "heart and guts" than most people can realize. It took them just one defeat and one creditless victory to find themselves, but you can look out for them now.

Hat's off to the Elon cheerleaders, who went at their own expense to The Citadel to give Elon some badly needed support. Last year the cheerleaders could not go to many of the games away from home, because they could find no arrangements for the night nor way to finance the trips. It seems a pity that some way could be provided for accommodations and meals for the cheerleaders, especially if they are interested enough to pay their own transportation for these long trips.

Intramural football is about to get underway on the campus, with eight teams participating. This offers a chance for all you students who do not play varsity football to display your talents. Coach Scott Boyd, who heads the intramural program, says that he expects the largest turn-out and the keenest competition in years. Last year's champions from ITK will be out to repeat, but North, East, South-Kappa Psi, Carlton-Sigma Phi, and the Alpha Pi-Club House-Mooney combines show plenty of potential to give ITK a race for the honors.