

Christians End Home Season With Victory Over Guilford

Conatser Tops Scoring With New Frosh Mark

Little Richie Conatser, the dead-shot freshman guard from Somerset, Ky., set up an all-time Elon College scoring mark for freshmen when he tossed up 404 points to lead the Fighting Christian cagers in scoring for the 1959-60 basketball season.

Playing in each of Elon's 26 games during the year, the little Kentuckian made good on 148 of 384 floor shots and added 108 of 135 tries from the charity stripe, averaging close to 39 per cent on his floor tries and over 81 per cent of his free throw attempts.

Conatser's total of 404 points not only represented the first time that an Elon freshman had scored more than 400 points in his first season of play. It was also the first time that a Christian freshman had ever been over the 300-point mark too. Ben Kendall and Dee Atkinson, rated two of Elon's finest of all time, fell far below in their first campaigns. Kendall hit 247, and Atkinson got 225 points in their first seasons.

Ken Smith, who played only in the first 17 games of the year, falling by the scholastic wayside at mid-year, trailed Conatser in the scoring columns. Smith hit 307 points in his 17 games and led the Christians in average points per game for the year. Smith's marksmanship gave him an average of 17.1 points per game. The big forward also topped the squad in rebounding, with 181 in his 17 games for a better than 10 rebounds per game. John Neidig equalled Smith in number of rebounds, also pulling down 181, but he played in 25 games.

The Christians scored 1,830 points in their season while win-

SCORING

(FINAL FOR SEASON)

| Player | G. | F. | G. | F.T. | T.P. |
|---------------|----|-----|-----|------|------|
| Conatser | 26 | 148 | 108 | 404 | |
| Smith | 17 | 111 | 85 | 307 | |
| Bell | 25 | 91 | 49 | 231 | |
| Hall | 26 | 27 | 86 | 140 | |
| Burke | 17 | 40 | 47 | 137 | |
| Neidig | 25 | 50 | 37 | 137 | |
| Teague | 24 | 49 | 21 | 119 | |
| Palkovics | 22 | 52 | 14 | 118 | |
| Hawks | 25 | 32 | 31 | 93 | |
| Andrew | 16 | 25 | 24 | 74 | |
| Wright | 17 | 18 | 11 | 47 | |
| Hodgs | 11 | 4 | 7 | 15 | |
| Other Players | 7 | 1 | 7 | 9 | |
| Elon Totals | 26 | 647 | 536 | 1830 | |
| Opponents | 26 | 698 | 580 | 1976 | |

last year's team, which could average only 56 points per game while winning 7 and losing 16 contests. The defensive mark fell short of last year, for the Maroon and Gold cagers allowed 1976 points for an average of 76 points this year. Last year's team allowed an average of 67.8 points to the 23 opponents.

A shining mark set by this year's Christians was in the rebounding division, for Coach Bill Miller's boys pulled down a total of 1,097 loose balls off the boards for an average of 42.2 rebounds per game. At the same time they allowed their opponents only 898 rebounds, an average of 35.1 per game.

ning 9 and losing 17 games, averaging 70.4 points per contest. This offensive mark was far ahead of

CAGE TRIO SET FOR CONFERENCE TOURNEY



One of the "Three I's" that played a big part in the ill fortunes of the Fighting Christian cagers occupies the central position in the above picture. The "Three I's" that hit the Christians hard were injuries, illness and ineligibility, and the broken wrist that hampered freshman Gary Teague through the latter part of the campaign is the center of attention of three Elon cagers as they waited in the dressing room for their first and only game of the North State Tournament at Lexington last week, a game which saw the Maroon and Gold quint go down before Lenoir Rhyne by a 70 to 48 count. Teague, center in the picture, is shown as he and senior forward Rob Bell (left) and freshman center John Neidig (right) inspect the crippled arm. Teague played through the final eight games with a cast on his arm, which materially cut his effectiveness.

Elon's Baseball Fortunes May Depend Heavily On New Players This Season

With the opening of the 1960 baseball season barely three weeks away, it appears that the Elon College baseball fortunes this spring may depend heavily upon how Coach Jack Sanford's new recruits come through in the rugged North State Conference competition, for there are only eight letter veterans on the squad which has been working out in early drills.

The Christians, who have always been an outstanding power on the diamond, will face a tough 30-game schedule that includes two games each with the eight North State Conference rivals and fourteen other games with such strong opposition as Williams College, Colby, Hampden-Sidney, Washington and Lee, Princeton, Norfolk Division, Fort Lee and Pfeiffer.

Against these opponents, Coach Sanford has only two letter pitchers, Gary Henson and Roger Knapp, and only Henson was a regular starter in previous seasons. Big John VanBenschoten, who did a fine job as a freshman last year, suffered a fractured collar bone last week and is gone for the year; and Dan Mangrum, who has seen relief duty for the Christian mound staff, is lost due to academic difficulties.

Baseball Schedule

- Mar. 21—Williams, home.
- Mar. 22—Williams, home.
- Mar. 24—Hampden-Sid., home.
- Mar. 25—Colby, home.
- Mar. 26—W. and L., home (DH).
- Mar. 29—Catawba, away.
- Mar. 31—Princeton, home.
- Apr. 1—A.C.C., home.
- Apr. 2—High Point, home.
- Apr. 5—Pfeiffer, home.
- Apr. 7—Lenoir Rhyne, away.
- Apr. 8—West Carolina, away.
- Apr. 9—West Carolina, away.
- Apr. 11—Guilford, away.
- Apr. 14—Pfeiffer, away.
- Apr. 18—Norfolk Division, away.
- Apr. 19—Fort Lee, away.
- Apr. 20—Fort Lee, away.
- Apr. 25—Appalachian, home.
- Apr. 27—Lenoir Rhyne, home.
- Apr. 28—Catawba, home.
- Apr. 30—East Carolina, home.
- May 3—High Point, away.
- May 5—Guilford, home.
- May 10—Pembroke, home (DH).
- May 13—A.C.C., away.
- May 14—East Carolina, away.
- May 18—Appalachian, away.

The catching should be capably cared for by Joe DelGais, who divided time behind the plate with Eddie Hughes last season. DelGais completed his football eligibility with the 1958 season, but he is back in college this year to complete degree requirements and will play his fourth season of the diamond sport this spring.

There are three lettermen in the infield, but none of three were regulars a year ago. The veterans are Pete Jones at second base, C. G. Hall at shortstop and Jerry Pike, who has been moved from second base to third in an attempt to fill the gap at the hot corner. Eddie Clark, who has seen regular play at both first and second base, fell victim to academic troubles and will be missing from the field this spring.

The outfield situation also shows Coach Sanford short-handed, with Steve Wall as the only letterman returning from last spring. Wall, who started in centerfield last spring, should clinch one of the starting posts in the gardens, but Leroy Myers, a letter reserve of two years ago, is the only other experienced outfielder. Ted Eanes, another starter last spring, is a third academic victim and will be ineligible for play this season.

This means that at least one and possibly two newcomers may be starters in the outer defenses as the 1960 campaign gets underway. Commenting upon his newcomers, Coach Sanford pointed out that the squad has had only limited practice on the field and that it is too early at this time to rate the freshmen and other new boys accurately. He did list Clarence Driver, a 1959 reserve, as a likely pitching prospect, along with Wilson Teal, a left-hander from Wingate Junior College; and Jerry Drake, John Currin and Jerry Isley, a trio of freshman hurlers. He listed George Wooten and Benny Jones as pitching possibilities after spring football drills are ended.

There are three promising freshman catchers, who may furnish competition or capable support for Joe DelGais behind the plate. They are Griffin McVey, Tom Keyser and Mike Little, although Little is also tied up until spring football workouts are over.

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Cagers Defeat Quakers 76-56 In Season Finale

The Elon basketekers tacked a victorious end on their regular cage season when they romped to a 76 to 56 victory over the Guilford Quakers on the floor of Elon's Alumni Memorial Gymnasium here on Saturday night, February 20th.

The Christian tossers had already clinched their position in the Conference tournament, so their only incentive was to close out the regular season with a victory and to make a clean sweep of their season-tuosome with their ancient rival from Quaker land. The Elon outfit had won the first of their two season battles at Guilford early in the season.

The outcome of this final battle was a decisive 20 points, but the score was not always that decisive in Elon's favor. It is true that the Guilford tossers never led after a brief 5-4 edge in the first two minutes, but Coach Darr Shealy's boys kept the score close until the half-time intermission. At that time the Christians held only a 37-31 edge, and six points can evaporate quickly in these days of high-scoring cage play.

It was John Neidig with 12 and Richie Conatser with 11 points that paced the Christians in that first-half battling, while Don Lineberry and Jim Lancaster topped the invading Quakers, both of them hitting well from outside to keep the Guilford quint in contention.

It was a different story, however, when the rivals returned to the floor after the break, for the Christians literally blasted out front by a big margin early in the second half, with Elon defense playing a big part in the move to the fore.

The Christians held Guilford to only two floor buckets in the first ten minutes of the half, and Richie Conatser was hitting well as he dropped his jumpers with apparent ease. Cecil Wright chipped in four baskets within as many minutes, and Dewey Andrew joined Conatser and Wright as last-half leaders with three quick two-pointers on the rebound and fast break. Coach Miller cleared his bench in the late minutes of the game, with seniors Rob Bell and Bill Palkovics getting a big hand

Elon Cage Games

(Final For Season)

- Elon 85, Pembroke 84.
- Elon 63, Wofford 77.
- Elon 82, Norfolk Division 61.
- Elon 85, Guilford 64.
- Elon 71, Wofford 72.
- Elon 62, Norfolk Division 85.
- Elon 69, High Point 85.
- Elon 74, Camp Lejeune 89.
- Elon 74, West Carolina 70.
- Elon 63, East Carolina 95.
- Elon 97, Pembroke 66.
- Elon 64, East Carolina 83.
- Elon 70, Appalachian 76.
- Elon 80, A.C.C. 67.
- Elon 79, Catawba 77.
- Elon 65, W. Carolina 75.
- Elon 75, Lenoir Rhyne 82.
- Elon 69, Catawba 92.
- Elon 65, High Point 79.
- Elon 45, W. Carolina 63.
- Elon 85, A.C.C. 72.
- Elon 62, Appalachian 64.
- Elon 55, East Carolina 88.
- Elon 67, Lenoir Rhyne 84.
- Elon 76, Guilford 56.

(North State Tourney)

Elon 48, Lenoir Rhyne 70.

from the crowd as they left the game. It was the final home appearance for both boys, who finish their Elon cage careers this season.

Richie Conatser was the top gun in the Elon attack, racking nine field goals and three charity tosses for 221 points, which moved his season total to 395 points, far ahead of any previous Elon freshman mark. John Neidig trailed with 16 points, only other Christian to pass the double-digit mark.

It was Don Lineberry with 22 and Jon Burwell with 13 points as Guilford leaders.

The line-ups:

Pos.—Elon (76) Guilford (56)
 F—Bell 8 Lineberry 22
 F—Palkovics 6 Lancaster 10
 C—Neidig 16 Burwell 13
 G—Conatser 21 Haworth 13
 G—Teague 4 Braxton 2

Half-time: Elon 37, Guilford 31.
 Elon subs: Andrew 7, Wright 9, Hall 5, Hodge, Hawks, Guilford subs: Parker 2, Elks, Sharpe, Whiteley.

As I See It

By JOHN DALCIN

It seems to me that most of the students here have gotten the wrong idea on this drive for better sportsmanship, and gaining a leg on the Messick Trophy. It doesn't mean that you should crawl into a shell and wither, and let your enthusiasm and spirit die with you. I'm sure it means that you should learn to take defeat as well as victory, and to give credit where credit is due.

Elon has not in recent years had the honor of being awarded the Messick Trophy, and it would be nice to gain such distinction in the North State Conference; but let's not let it hinder the spirit and enthusiasm which we once had. The morale of the school is more important than a statue sitting in the trophy case collecting dust.

The basketball team ended its home season with a one-sided victory over Guilford, a team which is supposed to be one of our biggest rivals. During the game there seemed to be something missing. I don't know whether everyone was tired that night or they had on their conscience that someone was there to watch how they were acting. Everyone seemed to be afraid to make a wrong move.

I know the fault couldn't lie in the fact that it was such a one-sided affair, because the stillness persisted throughout the contest. Victories of this type were too few this season for our fans not to have some kind of enthusiastic reaction. We've had our taste of defeat and know that victory is a bit sweeter.

The spirit and enthusiasm that we displayed in the earlier part of the year was 100 per cent better than that displayed during the Guilford contest, and our sportsmanship was subject to question only once this season. A few tempers flared after this certain contest, but nothing came of it, and things were as normal as ever the following day. None of our students went to this particular school and threw paint all over its campus, as happened to Elon during the football season.

Of course, our hopes for the Messick Trophy have been dimmed by this one incident, but let's get back on the right road again and show the North State Conference officials that Elon should be considered for the sportsmanship trophy.

The baseball season will soon be in full swing here so let's get back that spirit and enthusiasm which we once had, and show the team that we are behind it—win or lose.

CUFF NOTES: Three members of the 1958 Elon grid squad, Tony Carcaterra, Carl "Bubbles" Grove, and Joey DelGais, will finish their schooling this semester and go into teaching next year. DelGais is also a member of the Elon baseball team. Maurice "Tunner" Brosky has been accepted at Penn State Graduate School. Coach Sid Varney was known as the "Toy Bulldog" when he played at the University of North Carolina.

Lenoir Rhyne Defeats Elon By 84 To 67

The Elon Christians got away to a hot start and moved to a quick ten-point lead over the Lenoir Rhyne Bears at Hickory on Thursday night, February 18th, but they could not hold the pace as the Bruins rallied to come from behind and gain an 84 to 67 victory in a North State cage battle here last night.

Little Richie Conatser and Herbie Hawks paced the early drive by the Elon tossers, which sent the Christians to an 18 to 8 lead in the first seven minutes of the game, but lanky Ken Norman began hitting for the Bears at that point to narrow the lead, and Captain Bill Reese drove for a lay-up that sent the Lenoir Rhyne quint in front at 20-19 with nine minutes left for the half.

It was Reese on a hot streak who continued hitting to pull the home-standing Bears away to 42-32 edge when the rivals went out for the half-time rest. He continued to hit the net in the second half, joining with Norman in a late assault that pulled out the 17-point final victory margin.

Each team had two boys in double figures. Reese with 29 and Norman with 24 points proved the big guns for the Bears, but Richie Conatser matched bucket for bucket with them in the scoring columns as he racked 27 points for the Christians. Rob Bell had 12 points in a fine floor-shooting effort that netted six field goals.

The line-ups:

Pos.—Elon (67) Lenoir Rhyne (84)
 F—Bell 12 Norman 24
 F—Hawks 9 Bowman 7
 C—Neidig 5 Ladd 7
 G—Conatser 27 Goodnight 7
 G—Teague 2 Reese 29

Half-time: Lenoir Rhyne 42, Elon 32.

Elon subs — Andrew 2, Palkovics 2, Wright 2, Hall 6, Hodge. Lenoir Rhyne subs — Harrington 2, Wells 8, Wiles, Dixon, Burton.

Cagers Lose To Bears In Tournament Contest

The Christian basketekers fell victim to a sharp-shooting crew of Lenoir Rhyne Bears in the first round of the annual North State Tournament at Lexington on Wednesday night, February 24th, going down 70 to 48 in a battle which saw the Bears stifle the Elon attack through much of the battle with an air-tight zone defense.

The game, which closed out the Elon cage season with a 9-17 mark in the win-loss column, proved to be a close battle through the early minutes, and after eighteen minutes of play the Christians were trailing by only 23-20. A questionable out-of-bounds decision at that point gave the Bears two cheap and quick baskets, which jumped the Lenoir Rhyne outfit to a seven point lead and set the stage for the Bears' 28-22 half-time lead.

The Christians played a good defensive game against the Bruins, holding Bill Reese and Ken Norman, Lenoir Rhyne scoring aces, to the lowest totals they had shown in three meetings with Elon this year, but the other Bear players took up the slack in a well-balanced attack that showed four men in double figures for the night.

Captain Reese, who had sunk the Christians twice with his deadly corner shots, managed only 11 points for the night, and the lanky Norman was held to 14 counters. Others of the Bears who came through with double-figure scores

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East Carolina Tops Cagers

The East Carolina Pirates had four boys hitting double figures in the scoring columns as they turned back the Elon Christians 88 to 55 in a North State Conference cage battle at Greenville on Monday, February 15th.

The Pirates grabbed off an early lead and were ahead by 20 points at 43-23 at the end of the first half, and they came back in the final half with Lacy West leading the scoring to push their final margin to 33 points at 88 to 55.

The top scoring honors for the game, however, went to Gary Teague, one of Elon's freshman guards. Teague racked eight field goals and a free throw for 17 points.

The line-ups:

Pos. Elon (55) E. Carolina (88)
 F—Teague 17 Smith 8
 F—Bell 9 West 13
 C—Neidig 4 Bowes 13
 G—Hall 2 Clayton 11
 G—Conatser Lenoir 14

Half-time: East Carolina 43, Elon 23.

Elon subs: Andrew 15, Hawks 4, Palkovics 2, Wright 2, Hodge. East Carolina subs: Starrett 6, Hall 4, Fowler 4, Adcock 4, Fornes 8, Boyette.