

Catamounts To Be Elon Foe In Homecoming Tilt

Elon Battles Catawba '11' At Salisbury

The Christian gridders take to the road for the third straight weekend when they travel to Salisbury to meet the Catawba Indians in the twenty-sixth annual renewal of a football series that had its beginning more than three decades ago, and the Elon eleven will be seeking to retain the slim margin it holds in victories over the Indians.

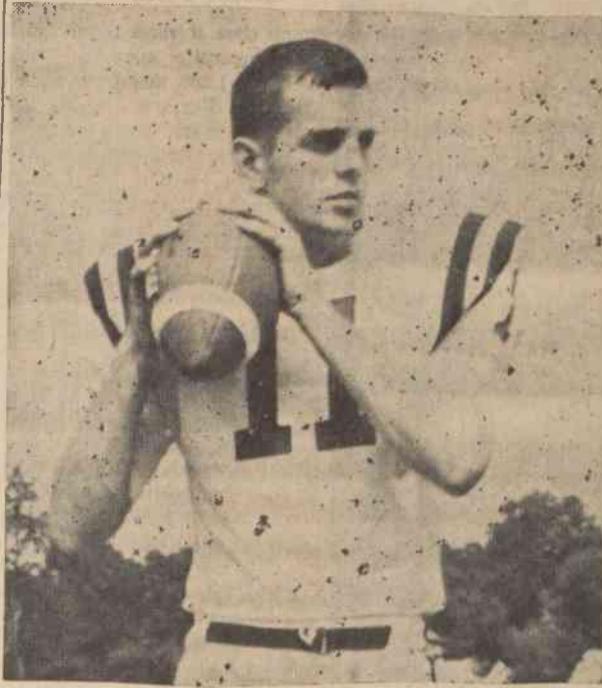
The series had its beginning back in 1928, and in twenty-five games played since that time Elon has won twelve games while losing eleven and tying two, with many of the decisions coming after close and thrilling battles.

No more thrilling game has been played in the entire series than that of last season, when George Wooten raced 108 yards in the final seventeen seconds of play to grab a 13 to 12 decision over the Indians before an Elon Homecoming crowd.

The sprint by Wooten was the longest scoring run by any college football player in America last season, and the Elon alumni and students who saw it will never forget the thrill it gave them, and many felt that truly a football miracle had been wrought before their eyes.

The Indians were leading by a 12 to 7 margin at the time and had possession of the ball deep in Elon territory, seemingly ready to

VETERAN BACKS PLAY BIG ROLE IN ELON AERIAL PLAY



score another touchdown. It was then that Catawba elected to try a field goal, and the kick went deep inside the Elon end zone to start Wooten's dash to victory.

It was the second time in recent years that Elon had defeated Catawba in the final seconds of a game, for the Elon eleven of 1956 grabbed a 14 to 13 victory in the final two seconds on a pass from Kerry Richards to Tony Carcatera. Last year's win was the more spectacular, however, in that Wooten's dash was the longest touchdown run in Elon grid history.

Two Elon backfield stars who have played a big part in the early-season play of the Fighting Christians are George Wooten and Ken Cooke, who are pictured above in action poses. Wooten, a 178-pound junior from Hamlet, moved out front as the total offense leader for both the Carolinas Conference and the Carolinas District of the NAIA after four games of the 1961 campaign. The Christian quarterback had run and passed the ball for 499 yards, an average of 125 yards per game, in the four contests. Cooke, a 185-pound junior halfback from Hillsboro, has been handicapped by injuries during part of the season, but he has proved himself to be a hard runner and an outstanding pass receiver. He was leading the Carolinas Conference in pass receiving after the first four games.

Despite Christian Rally . . .

Pirates Top Elon In 22-20 Battle

Striking by land and air in a rally that has had few parallels in in Elon College football history, the Fighting Christian gridders scored three touchdowns in the final half, but the East Carolina eleven hung on to a scant lead that netted the Pirates a 22 to 20 victory over Elon in a Carolinas Conference battle at Greenville on Saturday afternoon, October 7th.

The game, which attracted an East Carolina Homecoming crowd of 10,000 fans, saw each team dominate one half of the game. The Pirates held a wide edge in the statistics as they gained a 7 to 0 lead in the first half, but the Elon eleven dominated the statistics throughout the last two quarters of play.

HOW IT HAPPENED

Elon	East Carolina	
15	First Downs	12
172	Yards Gain Rushing	180
16	Yards Lost Rushing	10
157	Net Yards Rushing	170
12	Passes Attempted	12
7	Passes Completed	3
106	Yards Gain Passing	50
263	Total Yards Scrimmage	220
1	Opp. Pases Intercepted	0
5	Runback Int. Passes	0
3	Number Punts	3
39.3	Ave. Yards Punts	31.3
78	Runback All Kicks	176
2	Fumbles Lost	1
15	Yards Penalties	45

Score By Periods:
Elon 0 0 6 14-20
Elon 0 0 6 14-20
East Carolina 7 0 15 0-22
Elon Touchdowns—Clements 2 (1-run, 1-run); Kelley, (8-pass from Wooten). Extr Points—Clements 2 (run). East Carolina Touchdowns—Strickland (1-run), Rudisill (13-run), Galloway (55-punt return). Extra Points—Mauldrow 2 (kicks), Anderson 2 (pass).

The figures showed that East Carolina chalked ten first downs to three for Elon in the first half, but Elon grabbed nine first-and-tens against two for the Pirates as Coach George Tucker's boys crossed the Pirate goal three times after the intermission. Two of the Christian TD's came in the final twelve minutes of play.

The Pirates moved like a well-oiled machine when they took the opening kick-off and marched yards in exactly seventeen plays, chalking five first downs enroute to their first score, which came when Billy Strickland bucked over from the one on a fourth-down attempt Bob Mauldrow kicked the extra point for the 7-0 lead.

The Christians moved the ball well the first time they got it, sweeping to the Pirate thirty-five in five plays, but an Elon fumble blocked that threat, and Elon never threatened again until after intermission. The Pirates penetrated to the Elon in the early minutes of the second quarter, but a Pirate field goal try failed and neither team could score during the rest of the first half.

The third quarter produced three touchdowns, two by the Pirates and the other by the Christians. East Carolina scored five minutes into the quarter. An Elon gamble on fourth down failed at mid-field, and the Pirates hit pay-dirt in eight plays, with Larry Rudisill going thirteen for the

score. Mauldrow again kicked good for 14 to 0.

A 56-yard aerial thrust, coming on a pass from George Wooten to Ken Cooke, carried to the Pirate four, and Burl Clements barreled over the goal in two carries, scoring Elon's first TD and cutting the margin to eight points. Frank Galloway romped 5 yards with an Elon punt to score East Carolina's third touchdown, and Vince Elduke passed to Johnny Anderson for a two-pointer that sent the Pirates ahead 22 to 6 just half minute before the third period closed.

The fourth quarter was all an Elon show. Marvin Crowder returned the Pirates kickoff to the Elon thirty, and Elon chalked

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Christians Seek Revenge For Last Year's Defeat

An up-and-clawing crew of Western Carolina Catamounts comes down from the hills of Cullowhee to furnish the opposition for the Fighting Christian gridders in Elon's annual Homecoming football game, set for Saturday afternoon, October 28th in Burlington Memorial Stadium.

The game looms as tough test for the Christians, but Coach George Tucker's boys will have all guns primed and ready, strengthened with the double motive of furnishing a Homecoming victory for Elon's returning old grads and also grabbing a bit of revenge for a 41 to 6 shellacking which Elon received at Cullowhee a year ago. That loss a year ago was an unusual event for the Christians, for the Elon gridders have a tradition of victory over the Catamounts, built up during a series that had its beginnings almost thirty years ago. Records show that Elon has won eleven, lost three and tied one in fifteen meetings with the Cats since 1933.

The Christian-Catamount rivalry had its beginning in the heyday of the Peahead Walker coaching regime at Elon, a regime that Christian alumni recall as the "Thundering Thirties." Elon romped to five decisive victories during the early years of the series prior to World War II.

The Christians thrashed the Catamounts 45 to 6 in 1933 and 37 to 6 in 1934, but there was a lapse of six years before the rivalry resumed in 1939. In that 1939 season Elon won 52 to 0, and she added wins by 42 to 0 in 1940 and 28 to 7 in 1941.

The series was broken off during and just after World War II,

Elon Football

- Elon 12, Guilford 8
- Elon 12, Wofford 20
- Elon 0, Appalachian 23.
- Elon 20, East Carolina 22.
- (Remaining Games)
- Oct. 14—Tampa, away
- Oct. 21—Catawba, away
- Oct. 28—West Carolina, home
- Nov. 4—Newberry, away
- Nov. 11—Lenoir Rhyne, away
- Nov. 17—Presbyterian, home

but Elon took up her winning ways again with a 27 to 19 win in 1950 and a 23 to 0 victory in 1951 before Western Carolina rose up to chalk her first triumph by a 12 to 0 count in 1952.

The Elon gridders celebrated Homecoming by trouncing the Catamounts 13 to 7 in 1953, but the Catamounts managed a thrilling 20 to 20 tie with Elon's strong squad of 1954.

There was another Elon Homecoming victory in 1955, when the Christians rolled for a 19 to 7 win at Burlington Stadium, and Elon boasted her margin in the series with two other wins by 26 to 6 in 1956 and 15 to 6 in 1958. The 1957 game was cancelled due to a flu epidemic on the Cullowhee campus.

The last two years have brought Catamount wins, with the Cullowhee eleven grabbing a 14 to 6 shellacking a year ago. It is the memory of these two recent losses that Elon will be seeking to erase in the 1961 Homecoming tilt here on Saturday of next week.

Elon Gridiron Statistics Shown For Four Games

They say that figures do not lie, but the figures in the Elon College football statistics for four early-season games certainly appear at variance with the Fighting Christian record of one win

and three losses prior to last week's invasion of Florida for the Tampa game.

In fact, the only figures which jibe with the Christian record of one win and three losses are those for the total points scored. The Elon gridders had tallied only 44 points, compared with 73 points for all opponents, and such figures fit the win-loss record.

All other figures might well be those for a winning team, even for an undefeated team, a good instance being the first downs. The Christians in four games had chalked 55 first-and-tens, compared with 48 for the opposition, and a quick survey of individual games shows that only Appalachian among the first four opponents could top Elon in the first down columns.

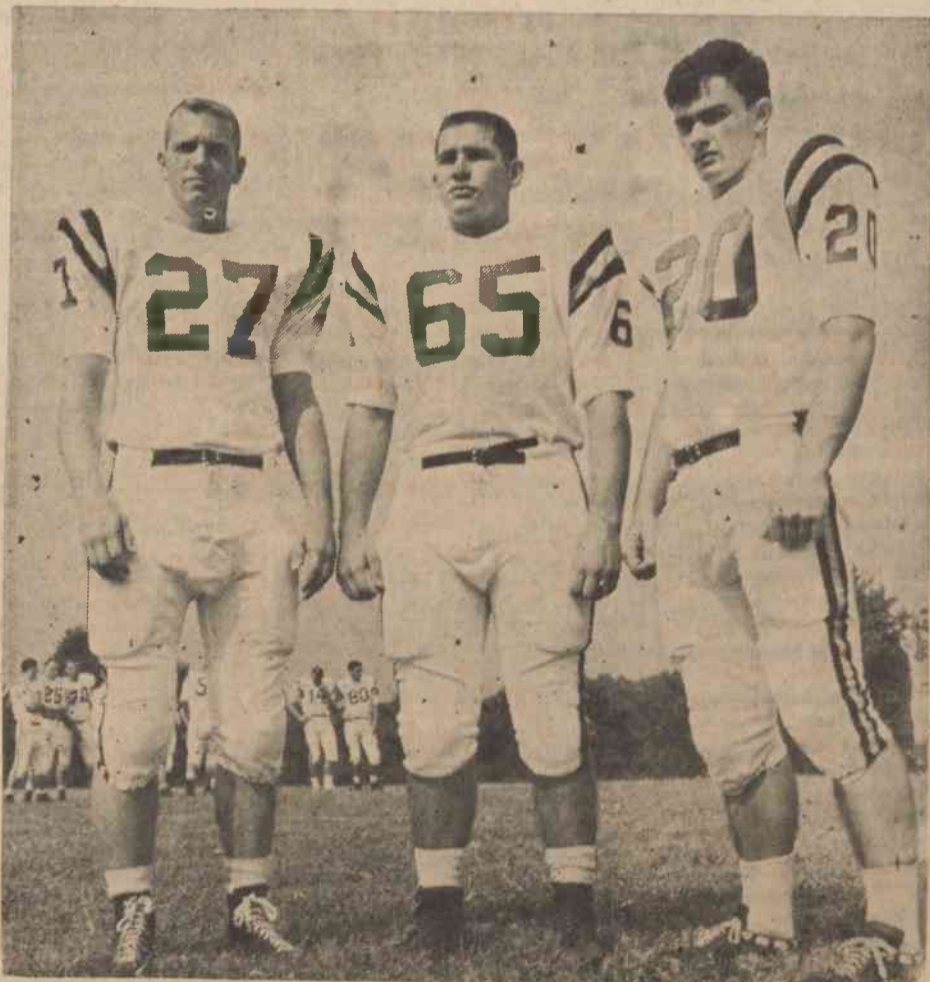
Many coaches say that ball possession is an all-important part of winning football, but such has not proven true for the Elon eleven this fall. The statistics disclose that Elon has had the ball for 235 offensive plays, not including punts, while the opposing teams have had the ball for only 215 offensive plays.

Total gains from scrimmage can usually be termed a fine indication of winning football, but such has not been the truth in the case of the Elon gridders. The figures show that the Christians have moved the ball on the ground and through the air for a total of 1,015 yards in four games, while all opponents combined could gain only 797 yards, and yet the opponents won three of four games.

The Christian ground attack has been potent all the way, with Elon having gained a net of 855 yards on 179 rushes, an average of 3.7 yards each time an Elon back has carried the ball. By comparison, the opposing teams have gained only 586 yards in 168 rushes, an average of 3.5 yards for each carry for opposing backs.

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TRIO OF FROSH GRIDDEES SEE HEAVY DUTY



A number of freshman gridders have played fine roles in Elon's early grid games, among the outstanding first-year gridders being the three pictured above. Left to right in the picture, the three youthful Christians are Clayton Johnson, 170-pound halfback from Graham; Randy Keziah, 200-pound guard from Hamlet; and Junior Webster, 170-pound halfback from Lexington. Both Johnson and Webster have seen much service in the Christian backfield this season, with each one shining in the field of punt and kick-off returns. Keziah is rated as one of the most promising young linemen in the Elon squad and is expected to see much service during the remainder of the season.

Talking Sports

With

DAWD 'PROPHET' MARSHBURN



Mother Luck must surely smile on our Elon Christians sometime! Yes, it seems that it is about time that the old lady should turn her wheel of fortune and let the lucky breaks fall for once at least on the side of the Maroon and Gold gridders of Elon College.

In saying this, I would like to point out that certainly Mother Luck has been looking the other way in most of our early contests of the 1960-61 grid campaign, for time after time the "breaks" of the game have seemed to fall in the laps of our opposition.

Only two weeks ago, in the previous issue of the Maroon and Gold, I declared my belief that this would be the year for the Christians, that the thrills and chills of a few years ago would be ours once again as the Elon footballers battled for the honors and chalked a few victories.

However, such a prophecy now seems somewhat off the beam, although we would not call it impossible, for since writing that prophecy the Christians have dropped a hard-fought battle to Wofford, gone down before the Appalachian Mountaineers and then lost a real heart-breaker to East Carolina.

Although our Christians now seem more or less out of the running for the Carolina Conference title, we've got a pair of battles coming up with Catawba and Western Carolina in which the Christians have a chance to redeem themselves and move into the upper brackets of the Conference standings.

Seldom have we seen such a heart-breaker as was that loss to the East Carolina Pirates, for the Christians went down after signing a rally that had Elon fans all pepped up and alive with hope, whether the fans were in the stands or listening to the radio account of the game.

The game had started off in its

early moments as if it were entirely a Pirate day, and the East Carolina eleven had swept everything before it in chalking a 7 to 0 lead by the half-time, but the final half was a different story for Elon supporters.

Surely the Elon Christians lived up to their "Fighting" name in the final half, which saw them rebound from the half-time shortage and score three touchdowns to come within two points of a victory, and only the failure of a pass for two extra points kept Elon from tying the score at 22-all. Failure on try for points after two of the Elon touchdowns, in fact, told the whole story of the Pirate victory, a victory which left the Pirates undefeated and on top of the standings in the Carolinas Conference.

Just as had been the case with many Elon-East Carolina battles in the series that had its beginning way back in 1946, it was a real scoring duel, with both teams bringing the fans to their feet with thrilling scoring plays.

The Pirates had entered the final quarter with a 22 to 6 margin, and it appeared that they truly had the game on ice, but George Wooten and his mates in the Elon backfield had other ideas, and they came back to score two touchdowns in the final twelve minutes and leave the Pirates reeling on the ropes like a groggy prize fighter.

It was the bullet-like passes of George Wooten, which sped straight to their marks when they were needed, plus the hard running of Burl Clements, Marvin Crowder, Wayne Mahanas and others that enabled the Christians to come from so far behind and threaten to overtake the East Carolina outfit in the closing minutes.

It was this game with East Carolina in particular, along with the battle that was lost to Wofford,

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