

Catawba Tops Elon 32 To 26

THEY FILL IMPORTANT POST IN FIGHTING CHRISTIAN LINE PLAY



Doug Thomas, a rugged defensive line star from Asheboro, and Frankie Mensch, who hails from Siler City and holds the all-important pivot post in the Elon offensive line, have played important roles in the play of the Elon line during early season games of this 1968 season. Thomas, whose older brother, Morris Thomas, was a co-captain of the Elon gridders some years ago, has been a bulwark of Elon's defensive play so far this fall, and Mensch has anchored the Christian offensive forward wall in the first half of this 1968 season.

Christians Threaten All-Time Grid Marks

With five games already played and past the halfway mark of this 1968 football season, the Elon Christians and big Burgin Beale were both well ahead of the per-game pace in the all-time Elon statistics for both team and individual passing yardage.

The all-time Elon team mark for yards gained by passing during a single season stands 1,637 yards in 9 games in 1967, which represents an average of 181.9 yards per game. In five games this fall, the Christians have gained 1,189 yards by passing, which represents an average of 237.8 yards per game.

After five games, Burgin Beale had passed for a total of 1,127 yards this fall, which represents a per-game average of 225.4 yards per game, and once more that figure is far ahead of the all-time Elon mark of 152.5 yards per game set by Beale himself during the 1966 season.

Beale at this stage of the season has thrown 149 passes, for an average of 29.9 passes per game, and that again is ahead of his own all-time average of 27.1 passes per game set in 1966. His completion mark of 72 passes in five games shows an average of 14.4 passes completed per game, and that too is ahead of his all-time Elon average of 13.1 completions per game in 1966.

Richard McGeorge, who has caught 31 passes in the first five games of this 1968 campaign, is averaging 6.2 pass catches per game, and that is ahead of his all-time per-game mark of 5.9 pass receptions per

game, but McGeorge is slightly behind his own all-time per-game average for yardage on pass receptions that he set last year.

On the "No So Bright" side of the record ledger is the fact that in the first five games this fall the Elon defensive units had yielded 1,865 yards in total offense by the five opponents, an average of 373 yards per game, and that is far ahead of the all-time worst defensive average in all Elon history of 320.2 yards per game yielded to opponents in 1966.

Part of this dismal defensive picture is the fact that the Elon pass defense has yielded to five opponents this fall an average of 216.8 yards per game, which is far worse than the all-time worst mark in Elon history, set when the Elon 1966 team gave up an average of 175.3 yards per game through the air.

Also part of this dismal defensive picture is the fact that the Elon defense has given up 151 points to the five opponents this fall, which is an average of 30.2 points per game. That is somewhat worse than the all-time record, when the Elon team of 1959 gave up to 10 opponents an average of 25.9 points per game in ten games.

EMMA LAZARUS

"Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning
to be free,
The wretched refuse of your
teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless,
tempest-tossed, to me:
I lift my lamp beside the
golden door."
The New Colossus:
Inscription
for the Statue of Liberty, New
York Harbor

Elon In Tough Tilt At WCU Saturday

The Fighting Christians take off into the high hill country of western North Carolina this weekend on a hunt for Catamounts, hoping to bag the football scalp of the Western Carolina Catamount football squad in a battle which looms as a crucial one in the competition for honors in the Carolinas Conference in the 1968 campaign.

There was a time in the early season when a clash with these Catamounts of Western North Carolina did not loom as a really major test for Coach Red Wilson and his Elon Christians, for the prophets listed the Catamounts as the favorites for the cellar spot in the Conference standings and at the same time named the Elon gridders as a prime contender for the Conference title.

There has been considerable change since those pre-season prophecies were voiced, however, and after the 1968 season hit its midway point the Western Carolina gridders were still undefeated in Conference play and loomed as a real challenge for the title.

It is true, of course, that this was written before the Catamounts invaded the lair of the Lenoir Rhyne Bears last weekend, and it is quite likely that the Bears may have marred the previously unbeaten record of Coach Dan Robinson's Western Carolina outfit.

However, if the Lenoir Rhyne gridders did roll over the Catamounts last

Elon Football

Elon 66, Concord 12.
Elon 21, Guilford, 10.
Elon 26, Appalachian 70.
Elon 17, Presbyterian 31.
Elon 7, Car.-Newman 28.
(Remaining Games)
Oct. 26 - Catawba, H.
Nov. 2 - W. Carolina, A.
Nov. 9 - Newberry, H.
Nov. 16 -- L. Rhyne, H.

weekend, that will only serve to make the Elon task all the more difficult this weekend when they trek into Cullowhee to tackle the Cats in their own den.

Billed ahead of time as suffering for want of a quarterback, the Catamounts have come up this fall with a real sleeper in the person of Don Dalton, an unheralded star, who has averaged 156 yards per game in passing and has also come up with fine running to rank third in the Carolinas Conference in passing and fourth in total offense.

This 6-1 Catamount passing ace from Hendersonville looms as a fitting rival for Elon's rifle-armed Burgin Beale in the clash at Cullowhee this weekend, for Dalton has passed for nine TD's in five games, which is one better than the eight TD tosses uncorked by Beale in 5 games.

Dalton tossed four touchdown passes and hit 17 of 27 throws for a total of 288 yards to give

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See-Saw Tilt Feature At Homecoming

By BILL WALKER

The disaster-ridden Christians dropped their fourth successive football game last Saturday afternoon, when the Catawba Indians turned back the Elon eleven 32 to 26 in the annual Elon Homecoming battle in Burlington Stadium.

The Elon gridders had four pass interceptions, some of which set up fine scoring chances, but the Christians failed to capitalize on these chances, and these failures proved costly.

The scoring began when Emery Moore dived in from the one to top a 65-yard drive, but Helsley missed the point, and Catawba came back to get on the scoreboard as Ray Hardison hit Mike Reynolds with a 10-yard pass, and Mike Strejck kicked good for a 7-6 lead.

Elon came right back as Beale hit Richard McGeorge with a 32-yard scoring toss, but the kick missed again, and Catawba added a second TD before halftime on a 31-yard pass from Hardison to Greg Singleton, and Strejck kicked for a 14-12 lead.

Catawba took the second half kick-off but Elon held and then sent Emery Moore in for his second score, with Helsley kicking for an Elon 19-14 edge.

Three consecutive scores by Ray Hardison, all on short plunges, shot Catawba back ahead by 32 to 19 before Burgin Beale tossed a fine 55-yard pass to Joe Rinaca for a final TD, and Helsley kicked good for the final 26-19 score. An Elon fumble marred the final chance for victory in the closing

Despite the agonizing defeat, Elon had several outstanding players, with Beale passing for 238 yards, Moore running for 127 yards, McGeorge catching seven, Rinaca catching three passes, each getting a TD pass.

Figure Facts

Elon	Catawba
19 First Downs	17
167 Yds. Gain Rush	155
33 Passes Attempt	20
17 Passes Completed	13
238 Yds. Gain Passing	178
405 Total Yds. Offense	333
4 Opp. Passes. Int.	1
35 Runback Int. Passes	10
8 Number Punts	6
31.9 Ave. Yds. Punts	42.3
135 Runback All Kicks	118
1 Fumbles Lost	0
32 Yards Penalized	12
SCORE BY PERIODS:	
Elon	0 12 7 26
Catawba	0 14 6 12 32
Elon Touchdowns -- E. Moore 2 (1-run, 1-run), McGeorge (32-pass from Beale), Rinaca (55-pass from Beale). Extra Points Helsley 2 (kicks). Catawba Touchdowns -- Reynolds (10-pass from Hardison), Singleton (31-pass from Hardison), Hardison 3 (1-run, 1-run, 3-run). Extra Points -- Strejck -- 2 (kicks).	