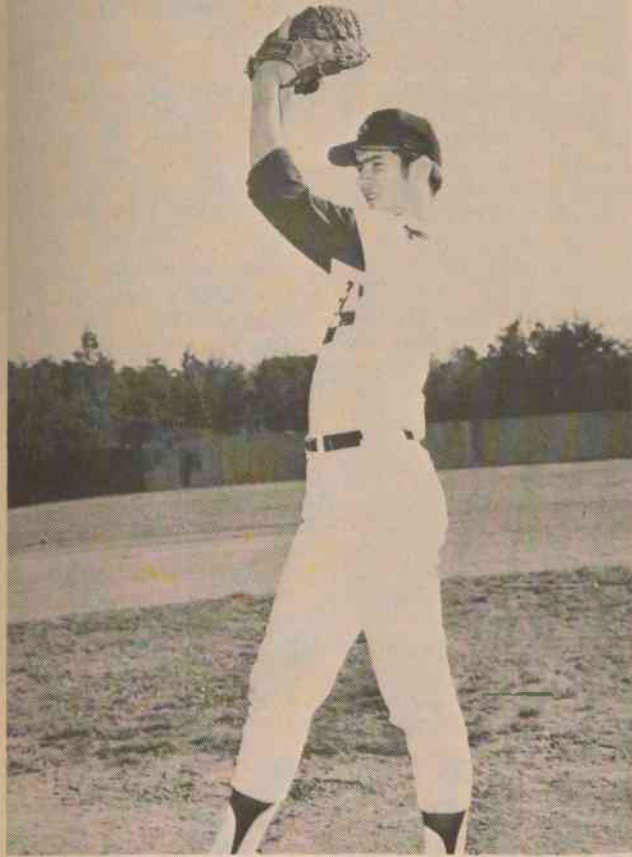


Baseballers Pull Record Up To .500



Gary Brown, Elon's big right-hander, struck out 12 Catawba batters, and also made seven New Hampshire batters go down swinging. Brown's pitching record is 1-1.

Lose Opener To G-W 6-1

By RICHARD YOUMANS

Coach Jerry Drake's baseballers lost to the Gardner - Webb "Bulldogs," in the season opener, in anything but ideal baseball weather, 6-1.

Gardner - Webb combined good hitting along with good pitching, from both Bennie Lail and Wayne McCauley to outscore the Christians.

Dewey Capps started the pitching chores for Elon but found himself with early control trouble. The Bulldogs scored two runs in the first inning, on three hits and an Elon infield error. Elon bounced back in their half of the inning, when Jim Morris was hit by the pitcher, Joe Rinaca drew a walk, and Jimmy Friensinger, Elon's veteran-second baseman, drove in Morris with Elon's first hit of the season. The Bulldogs scored a solo-run in the top of the second, with the help of three walks by the Elon pitchers and another infield error.

Capps found himself in trouble once again in the fourth inning, when after getting the first two Gardner - Webb batters out,

Ronnie Noe lined a double to left-center and scored on Gary Wiley's basehit. With a runner on first, Drake pulled Capps and sent Jerald Campbell out to the mound. Campbell got Elon out of the jam, when he struck out Mike McDaniel to end the Gardner - Webb threat.

Elon tried to get a few runs back in the sixth. Richard Smith walked and Donnie Brady singled, sending Smith over to third. With runners on first and third, and one out, Lail got Marty Bonnett to hit into a force play, and Jerry Ward, batting for Campbell struck out.

Elon's third pitcher, Jim Ramsey, found himself in the worse jam of the cold afternoon. After getting the first batter to ground out in the seventh, Joe Stepp smashed a homerun, making the score 5-1. Ramsey made Roger Swain pop-up, but

three successive Gardner - Webb basehits scored another run.

Gary Brown replaced Ramsey in the eighth, making it the fourth Elon pitcher to be used and he looked very impressive. Brown struck out the first two batters he faced, walked one, and got the last batter to pop-up.

Gardner - Webb's Ben Lail was replaced by Wayne McCauley in the eighth inning and did not permit an Elon batter to hit the ball out of the infield.

The Gardner - Webb pitchers permitted four walks and struck out ten Elon batters, while the Elon pitchers gave up eight walks and struck out nine Bulldog batters.

Ron Noe and Joe Stepp both had two hits apiece for Garner - Webb, while Jim Friensinger, Jim Arrington, Don Brady, and Dewey Capps hit safely for Elon.

Defeat Akron 7-3, Smith-Capps Star

Rick Smith, Terry Williams, and Dewey Capps led the Elon baseball team to their first victory of the season over Akron Univ., 7-3.

Akron started the scoring when they pushed across two runs in the top half of the second, both runs were unearned off Elon starter Donnie Oak-

Elon bounced back with two runs in the bottom of the second, when Jay Simpson drew a walk, Rick Smith reached base on an Akron error and Curly Hazelette singled, while pinch-hitting for Oakes. Joe Rinaca tied the score at 2-2 with a fly ball to rightfield, scoring Smith.

The Christians added three more runs in the third inning on four hits, the big hit of the inning was a homerun by Elon's Terry Williams, over the

left-field fence.

Dewey Capps turned in a superb pitching performance; Capps struck out eight Akron batters and walked only one.

Elon scored two additional runs in the fifth inning, when Terry Williams got his second hit of the game, Jay Simpson walked, Don Brady reached first on a fielder's choice, and Rick Smith lined a basehit through the Akron defense.

Elon not only out-hit Akron but also surpassed them on defense. Rick Smith was the defensive standout by making several outstanding plays in centerfield. Terry Williams led the Elon offensive attack with a homerun and two singles, while Don Brady and Rick Smith each had two hits for Elon.

Jim Moryan and Russ Howard had two hits apiece for Akron.

Capps 13 K's Brady HR's

Dewey Capps struck out 13 batters and gave up only one run, leading Elon past David and Elins 4-1, to make the Elon record two wins and three losses.

Elon struck first for two runs in the second inning, when Joe Rinaca reached base on an error and Donnie Brady smashed a homerun, for the Elon first two runs. The Christians scored their next and final two runs in the bottom of the fourth. Joe Rinaca reached first and stole second, Brady and Rick Smith walked, and Jay Simpson gave up an out by a sacrifice bunt, pushing Rinaca across the plate. Dewey Capps, Elon pitcher, helped his own cause by flying out to center, enabling Brady to score.

Davis and Elins scored their only run in the top of the fifth inning. Bob Mann led off with a basehit to right and Dave Simione drew a free pass to first from Capps. With runners on first and second, Capps got the next two batters to go down swinging, but John Little singled to right scoring Mann from second.

Capps, once again turned in a superb pitching performance, yielding only three hits, striking out 13, and walking only one.

Elon Loses, 2-1; Drop 0-2 In CC

The Catawba "Indians" behind strong pitching and hitting, defeated Elon in a doubleheader last Tuesday by the scores of 2-0, 2-1.

In the first game, Catawba scored their two runs in the fifth inning on three hits, a walk, and a fielder's choice.

Elon's big right-hander, Gary Brown, stood out on the mound, striking out 12 Indians and only allowing three free passes. Brown gave up only three hits in the ballgame, but the hits proved to be timely.

Jimmy Friensinger,

Elon's third baseman, led the hitting attack for both teams, getting basehits his first two times at the plate. No other batter had more than one hit.

In the second game, Jerald Campbell pitched a one-hitter as did Catawba's Bailey but Catawba scored more runs to win. The Indians once again put their runs on the scoreboard first in the sixth inning. Elon fought back several times, but all attempts proved unsuccessful. Campbell struck out seven and walked two, while Bailey struck out four and walked three.

Elon Pitchers Strike Out 12 Defeat New Hampshire 17-2

Jimmy Friensinger, Rick Smith, and Joe Rinaca, led Elon past the Univ. of New Hampshire on March 31, in a slugfest in the Christians favor 17-2.

Elon started the fireworks in the bottom of the first, by pushing across four runs on four hits, and adding four more runs in each of the next two innings.

Elon combined 11 hits, nine walks, and eight N.H. errors to score their runs. The Elon pitchers

struck out 12 batters and walked five. Gary Brown, who started the game on the mound for Elon, struck out seven batters and Mike Futrell, who relieved Brown in the seventh inning, struck out five.

New Hampshire used four pitchers to try and tame the Elon bats, but made no Elon batters go down on strikes, while walking nine Christians.

Rick Smith and Joe Rinaca each had three hits for Elon, and Jim Friensinger had two hits.

BASEBALL SCOREBOARD

| | | | |
|----------------|----|-----------------------|-----------|
| Gardner-Webb | 6 | WP Lail, LP Capps | (0,1) |
| Elon | 1 | | |
| Akron | 3 | WP Capps (1,1) | LP Parisi |
| Elon | 7 | | |
| Catawba | 2 | WP Hardison LP Brown | (0,1) |
| Elon | 0 | | |
| Catawba | 2 | WP Bailey LP Campbell | (0,1) |
| Elon | 1 | | |
| Davis & Elkins | 1 | WP Capps (2,1) | LP Little |
| Elon | 4 | | |
| New Hampshire | 2 | WP Brown (1,1) | LP Norris |
| Elon | 17 | | |

Wins 3 Losses 3