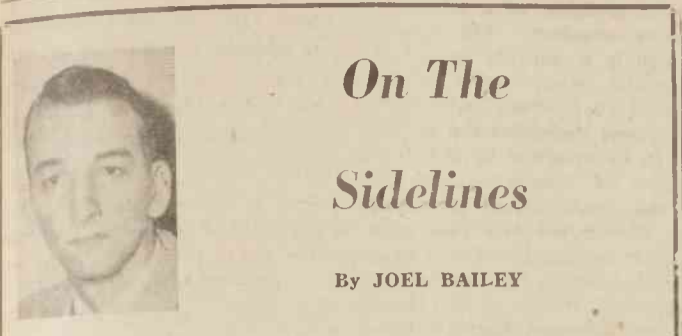


Elon Squad To Face Guilford In Baseball Opener



On The Sidelines

By JOEL BAILEY

Like the guys who argue about spotting the first robin in the spring, there have been heated arguments concerning the appearance of the first baseball on the Elon campus. Some authorities swear that the horsehide made its first appearance outside East Dormitory, while others seem to be of the conviction that the spheroid first showed up on the floor of the old gym in North Dorm or alongside South Dormitory where a number of the varsity baseballers make their home.

Regardless of where and when it came forth on the local scene, the moment has finally arrived. Local baseball aspirants can be seen streaking around the field or trudging through the gymnasium when the frequent precipitation halts outside activities, as was the case on several days last week.

Perhaps some of the more youthful and newer students at Elon will wonder why Elon does not play such traditional rivals as Catawba, Lenoir Rhyne, Appalachian and Western Carolina, so here is an explanation of the baseball set-up in the North State Conference, which for the past three years has operated under a split league arrangement.

The Conference is divided into two groups, with the four teams listed above comprising the Western Division, while Elon, Guilford, High Point, East Carolina and Atlantic Christian are grouped together in the East Division. Each team meets other opponents in its division four times during the regular season, and the league championship is settled by a two-out-of-three series between the division champs. Elon's diamond forces have captured the Conference cup four times since 1949, which clearly illustrates the power of past Elon nines.

Watts patrolled the outer pastures last year, and enemy hitters face a tough task as they try to push hits through this fleet-footed outfield trio.

It is among the battery forces that Coach Mathis finds most joy, however, for Homer Hobgood is back to bid for the catching assignment, and there are five senior veterans on hand for the pitching tasks, including Captain Hank Hamrick, Sherrill Hall, Luther Conger, Charlie Swicegood and Ronnie McIntyre. Four of this group were All Conference last year, and from all reports this pitching staff should have enemy hitters shivering in their spikes.

The freshman hopefuls should give Coach Mathis a solid bench, and now we get around to the fans. If fan support keeps picking up, the attendance figures should be astronomical, but we doubt that such will happen. The fans stayed away in droves from the football contests, and then they partially vindicated themselves as they thronged to the basketball games. That made a definite difference, so let's all jump in behind the baseball squad and give it our solid support. The field is only a short stroll from the campus and is easily found. Let's swell the stands for the opener and then continue to support the local nine for the remainder of the season.

Although baseball is the chief interest at the present time, football is still being played in this section. Our Elon eleven journeyed down to Presbyterian some weeks back and scored an easy 33 to 13 victory over the Blue Stockings in a game that climaxed winter practice. In fact, the scrimmage game took on the aspects of a route as the Christians scored almost at will.

Now comes the report that the same Presbyterian squad walloped Lenoir Rhyne by three or four touchdowns in a later off-season scrimmage game. It doesn't take a football strategist to figure out that this spells a bench-load of trouble for Elon football foes in '55. Remember last year's Lenoir Rhyne contest when a good Christian squad played a good game and won by a 13-7 margin.

This year's team should be another powerful outfit, for it numbers twelve lettermen and a host of hopeful freshmen, from whom Coach Doc Mathis will choose his starters. Lettermen back in the infield include Larry Dofflemeyer at second base, Nick Thompson at shortstop, and Alton Myers at third base, but the first base position appears wide open. Bobby Green, Don Packard and Paul

Watts are regular outfielders back from last season, Green having won All-Conference honors. They will have competition from Charlie Cassell, a 1950 letterman, who re-entered college recently after completing his military duty. A number of youngsters and reserves will bid for positions and give the veterans keep competition.

The schedule, as it stood last weekend, still needing dates settled for two East Carolina games and two McCrary battles, is as follows:

April 2—Guilford, home.
 April 4—Williams, home.
 April 5—Williams, home.
 April 9—A.C.C., away (DH)
 April 12—Guilford, away.
 April 14—Guilford, home.
 April 16—Bur-Gra, away.
 April 18—Greensboro, away.
 April 19—Guilford, away.
 April 23—E. C.C. away (DH).
 April 25—H. Point, home (DH).
 April 30—A.C.C., home (DH).
 May 4—H. Point, away (DH).

Hamrick To Captain Baseball Team

Hank Hamrick, veteran left-handed pitcher from Draper, will captain the Elon College Christians through the 1955 diamond season, according to an announcement made by Coach Doc Mathis last week.

The clever little southpaw, one of five senior mound stars on the Elon roster, was named to the captaincy by vote of his teammates in the annual squad election, and the honor comes as a climax to a fine career that was broken by two years of military service.

Hamrick, who has gained All-Conference honors in both baseball and basketball, came to Elon in the fall of 1949 and played both the court and diamond sport through the 1950 and 1951 seasons before he was called to the army for a tour of duty that included eighteen months of Korean combat.

Returning to the campus in the fall of 1953, the Draper boy picked up where he left off in both sports. He has just concluded his fourth season of basketball, and last spring he was one of four Christian hurlers to win All-Conference posts.

During his freshman season Hamrick teamed with Lefty Taylor and C. K. Siler in a "Big Three" that pitched Elon to the Conference championship, and then as a sophomore in 1951 he joined with Taylor and Austin Brewer



Captain Hank Hamrick

on the staff that pitched the team for three championship teams. Christians to another loop crown. Rather small for a pitcher at Last year, in his first campaign 5 feet 10 inches and 165 pounds, after returning from the army, he Hamrick has made up for his lack of size with a fighting heart and a staff that again clinched the with a stock in trade that includes North State honors for Elon, giving plenty of speed, a good curve and ing him the unique record of pitch-excellent control.

Elon Cagers Set New Team Mark In Scoring As Maddox Leads Way

Christian Stars On Honor Teams

Dave Maddox and Ed Juratic, the two pace-setters in Elon cage scoring through most of the 1954-55 season, each topped off the season by winning All-Conference honors, with Maddox being named to the All-Conference squad that was named at the close of the regular season play and Juratic being chosen on the All-Tournament squad picked at the close of the loop tournament.

Maddox, whose driving play throughout the regular season enabled him to lead the Christian scoring for the year, never really got hot in the Conference tournament. Juratic then picked up the slack and came within one point of setting a new individual mark for a single game when he hit 35 points against Guilford.

The Elon Christians, who wound up their 1954-55 basketball season with a mark of 17 wins and 11 defeats set a new Elon team scoring mark for the year with an average of 80.2 points per game, breaking by nearly five points per game the old mark that was set in 1953.

The Christians also turned in the best defensive mark in the North State Conference for the year as they held all opposing teams to an average of 73.8 points per game. The season totals showed Elon with a total of 2,246 points in 28 games, compared with 2,066 points for all Christian opponents.

Leading individual scorers for the Christians were Co-Captain Dave Maddox and Ed Juratic, both of whom approached the 500-point mark for the year. Maddox hit 491 points for an average of 17.5 points per game, while Juratic had 462 points for a game average of 16.5 points. Juratic, with 35 points against Guilford in the tournament, came within one point of the Elon single-game mark of 36 points, which was set by Roney Cates against Atlantic Christian in 1947.

With Maddox and Juratic becoming the ninth and tenth players in Elon history to top the 400-point mark for a single season, Elon had two others to hit better than 200 points this year. They were Ray Whitley with 283 and Don Packard with 206 points.

The final scoring figures for seventeen players participating in Elon games this year follow:

Intramural Basketeers In Tourney

The Day Student basketball squad, which emerged winner in the intramural play-offs here at Elon, journeyed over to High Point on Thursday of last week and advanced to the finals of the first annual North State Conference intramural tournament. Each school entered its intramural champions.

The Elon outfit topped the Catawba intramural champs by a 47-32 margin the first round, while High Point was advancing over Guilford. The High Pointers then defeated Elon by a 77-60 score in the finals, while Guilford defeated Catawba in a consolation battle to annex third place. Glenn Walker and Dickie Routh topped the Elon scoring in the two games.

The scores of the two battles follow:

Player	Games	FG	FT	TP
Maddox	28	166	159	491
Juratic	28	194	74	462
Whitley	28	116	51	283
Packard	26	85	36	206
DeRita	26	59	48	166
Stone	28	48	62	158
Hamrick	28	43	53	139
Mazzilli	25	30	30	90
Walker	22	35	14	84
Brown	17	20	14	54
Tommons	14	16	11	43
King	15	12	7	31
City	10	6	2	14
Crump	2	2	4	8
McIntyre	18	2	3	7
Rickover	2	1	0	2
Stegall	1	0	1	1
ELON	28	837	572	2,246
OPPONENTS	28	708	650	2,066

Pos.	Elon (47)	Catawba (32)
F—Walker (9)	Beach (8)	
F—Miles (13)	Journey (1)	
C—Routh (16)	McKaig (4)	
G—Stout (8)	Randall (6)	
G—Holt (1)	Snyder (8)	
Elon subs—Reavis, Hudson, Harris, Catawba subs—Swanner (5), Kition, Broome, Brown.		

Pos.	Elon (60)	High Point (77)
F—Walker (24)	Smith (2)	
F—Miles (4)	Skidmore	
C—Routh (14)	Royals (21)	
G—Stout (8)	Moore (17)	
G—Holt (2)	Harris (22)	
Elon subs—Reavis, Hudson, Harris, High Point subs—Roberts (5), Fowler (2), Hawkins, Newman, Marby.		

Player	FG	FT	TP
Crump	69	38	176
King	75	18	168
Rickover	70	20	160
Stegall	56	39	151
Sharp	53	25	131
Brown	47	19	113
City	44	21	109
Allston	34	9	77
DeRita	29	7	65
Stone	13	10	36
Cleary	15	6	38
Mazzilli	3	2	8
Henderson	3	0	6

Ten-Game Football Schedule Listed By Coach Varney For 1955 Season

The Fighting Christian football squad will face a rugged ten-game schedule during the coming 1955 gridiron campaign, marking the first time since 1952 that the Elon gridders have been able to line up ten games. There were only eight games in 1953, and last year's outfit played only nine contests.

The new 1955 schedule, which was released by Coach Sid Varney recently, comprises one of the toughest season assignments ever faced by a Maroon and Gold squad, and one of the roughest engagements of the entire season will be met in the opening game with Mississippi Southern at Hattiesburg, Miss., on Saturday, September 17th.

The Mississippi Southern outfit has very definitely been a "Big Time" contender in recent years, for the Deep South squad has opened the season in each of the past two years by defeating powerful Alabama. Reports from down Mississippi way are that the team will boast a line that averages better than 225 pounds from tackle to tackle.

Following the Deep South in-

1955 GRID SCHEDULE	
Sept. 17—Miss. Southern, away.	
Sept. 24—The Citadel, away.	
Oct. 1—Appalachian, home.	
Oct. 8—East Carolina, away.	
Oct. 15—Newberry, home.	
Oct. 22—Catawba, away.	
Oct. 29—W.C.T.C., home.	
Nov. 5—Naval App., home.	
Nov. 12—Lenoir Rhyne, away.	
Nov. 19—Guilford, away.	

vasion, the Elon gridders will travel to Charleston, S.C., to face The Citadel Bulldogs for a second successive year, after which Coach Varney's lads will swing into the thick of their North State Conference campaign. Six Conference battles will be interspersed by a pair of non-Conference tilts with Newberry and Naval Apprentice. Both of these non-Conference tilts will offer sharp tests for the Christians this fall. The Newberry Indians, who have romped for decisive victories over Elon in both 1953 and 1954 are reported to have most of their squad returning. The Naval Apprentice outfit,

which hails from Newport News, Va., appeared frequently on Elon schedules in past years.

Advance information is that many of the North State Conference opponents will be improved over their last year's teams, and that will spell trouble for the Christians, who managed four victories, one defeat and one tie in their six loop battles last fall.

The Christian gridmen completed a successful series of winter drills just prior to the annual spring holidays, climaxing their off-season workouts with a jaunt to Clinton, S.C., where the Elon squad chalked a decisive 33 to 13 win over the Presbyterian College Blue Stockings. Grape-vine reports on the campus last week were that the Presbyterian outfit later rolled over Lenoir Rhyne in another practice encounter.

The bright spot for Elon as local supporters contemplate the rugged 1955 schedule is the fact that Coach Sid Varney lost only two men by graduation from last season, and eighteen lettermen are expected to report for the workouts next fall.

Quaker Squad To Invade Local Field On April 2nd

The Christian baseballers, handicapped in early season workouts by the almost constant rain, will face Guilford Quakers in the opening encounter of the 1955 diamond season, the opener being carded for the Elon field on Saturday afternoon, April 2nd.

This marks the first of sixteen North State Conference games that show on the Christian schedule, which has been released in incomplete form by Coach Doc Mathis. The card at present calls for twenty games, with the possibility that two additional contests may be scheduled.

The sixteen Conference battles include four games each with East Carolina, Atlantic Christian, Guilford and High Point, with the Eastern Division title to be decided on a percentage basis and with the eastern winner due to battle the Western Division winners in a best-two-of-three series for the Conference title.

Coach Mathis found it difficult this year to line up non-Conference battles with other college nines, with the North Carolina "Big Four" teams turning a cold shoulder to proposed battles with Elon. Only non-Conference college nine on the card is the Williams College outfit, which will be here on April 4th and 5th during a southern tour.

Hobgood Elected Football Leader

Homer Hobgood, who won All-State honors at center for the Elon College football squad last season, will captain the Fighting Christian gridmen through the coming 1955 campaign. Nick Theos, a junior guard will be alternate captain.

Hobgood, who hails from Oxford, and Theos, a native of Charleston, S. C., were elected recently by vote of their teammates to lead the Christian squad for the coming year. Both boys have lettered for the past two years, and both played a big part in the Christians' successful 1954 season.

Jay-Vee Cage Squad Shows Fine Record

The Elon Jay-Vee cagers coached during the past season by Hank Hamrick, turned in a fine record of twelve wins in fourteen starts, and the Christian youngsters split even with the two squads that defeated them.

The record included two wins over the Guilford juniors and split decisions with both High Point and Catawba's youngsters, along with two victories over Aycock High and single wins over Cone "Y", Mayodan "Y", Aberdeen High Hampden Sidney J.-V. Hargrave Military Academy, and Franklinville High.

There were thirteen different players who played in junior varsity games, and seven of the group hit for better than 100 points for the season, with six boys averaging in double figures. Top scorer for the year was Jimmy Crump, sophomore guard.

The scores of the junior varsity games during the season just ended were as follows:

Jay-Vees 81, Aycock High 33.
 Jay-Vees 89, Aycock High 33.
 Jay-Vees 76, Cone "Y" 37.
 Jay-Vees 84, Aberdeen High 49.
 Jay-Vees 102, Guilford 71.
 Jay-Vees 64, Catawba 59.
 Jay-Vees 67, High Point 78.
 Jay-Vees 85, High Point 60.
 Jay-Vees 70, Catawba 76.
 Jay-Vees 85, Hamp-Sidney 65.
 Jay-Vees 124, Guilford 52.
 Jay-Vees 99, Mayodan "Y" 56.
 Jay-Vees 98, Franklinville H. 36.
 Jay-Vees 109, Hargrave 77.

The individual scoring summary for the thirteen youngsters who played the Jay-Vee games follows:

The Christians also have a pair of exhibition battles with Carolina League professional teams, being carded to play the Bur-Gra Pirates at Graham on April 16th and the Greensboro outfit at Greensboro on April 18th. Two games with the McCrary Eagles, strong semi-pro outfit, are also pending and will probably be arranged.

All except two of the Conference dates are set, but dates are still to be arranged for a final double-header with East Carolina. The double bill was originally set for Saturday, May 7th, but a conflict with Elon's May Day observance necessitated a change. New dates are yet to be announced.

Coach Mathis, beginning his second season at the helm of the Elon diamond squad, will have twelve lettermen back from last year's Conference champions, with an additional letterman from the 1950 squad, who has just returned to college after a tour of military service.

Strongest point on the Christian roster this spring may be found on the pitchers' mound, where there are five senior lettermen on hand for duty. They are Luther Conger, Sherrill Hall, Hank Hamrick, Charlie Swicegood and Ronnie McIntyre. Conger, Hall, Hamrick and Swicegood all won All-Conference honors last year, and Conger and Hall were on the All-State team. McIntyre saw duty mostly as a relief man last spring.

Homer Hobgood, who saw regular duty behind the plate last year until floored by an appendicitis operation, is back to bid for the catching assignment; and there are veterans on hand for three of the four infield positions, including All-Conference and All-State Nick Thompson at short, Alton Myers at third and Larry Dofflemeyer at second.

Bobby Green, Don Packard and Paul Watts are regular outfielders back from last season, Green having won All-Conference honors. They will have competition from Charlie Cassell, a 1950 letterman, who re-entered college recently after completing his military duty. A number of youngsters and reserves will bid for positions and give the veterans keep competition.

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