

# Christians Post Third Victory Over Pirate Cagers

## Catamounts Down Elon By 64 To 54

The Western Carolina Catamounts, ranked among the top ten small-college cage squads in America, mixed deadly shooting and a tight sliding zone defense as they turned back the Christians of Elon 64 to 54 in a Conference basketball battle at Cullowhee on Saturday night, February 8th.

Blazing hot in the opening minutes, the Catamounts blasted out to a 22 to 3 lead in the first 12 minutes of the game, and that was the ball game. The Elon quintet fought back brilliantly during the next 28 minutes of action and was able to narrow the game to as little as six points at times, but the early edge was too much to overcome.

The Christians were still playing without the services of sharpshooting guard, Roland Miller, and Dave Winfrey was unable to go at top speed during the fray. This threw the bulk of the offensive play on big Jesse Branson, although he got fine help from Bill Morningstar.

Branson turned in one of the finest games of his entire career and hit 24 points, despite the fact that Tiny Lavelle and Bill Gustafson, a pair of 6-9 centers, both fouled out trying to stop him. Morningstar had 10 points and was the only other Elon player in double figures.

The Elon cagers broke even with the Cats on field goals, hitting 20 of 50 from the floor, while Western Carolina got 20 of 42 floor tries. However, the Cats had a big edge in free throws, canning 24 of 31 while Elon got only 14 of 26 at the charity stripe. The Cats led 32 to 20 in rebounds.

## BRANSON TWISTS AND SQUIRMS FOR BASKET



Jesse Branson, wearing Number 40 in the white uniforms, went through all sorts of contortions as he rammed home 32 points in Elon's 74 to 62 win over the Pfeiffer Falcons in a Carolinas Conference battle on the Elon floor on Tuesday night, February 11th. The referee looks on and hunts a foul as the tall Elon star twists through and under the Falcon defense to toss another two-pointer through the nets.

The Details:  
Pos. Elon (54) West Carolina (64)  
F—Branson (24) Murray (7)  
F—Smith (1) J. Brintnall (3)  
C—Andrew (8) Lavelle (13)  
G—Morningstar (10) Horne (13)  
G—Winfrey (5) Tharpe (24)  
Half-time: Western Carolina 37, Elon 22.  
Elon subs—Davis 6, Atkins. Western Carolina subs—Gustafson 3, P. Brintnall 1.

## Elon Quint Turns Back East Carolina 66 To 60

The Fighting Christian basketball team chalked a third straight Elon victory over the East Carolina Pirates for this 1964 season when they posted a 66 to 60 overtime victory at Greenville last Saturday night, February 15th. The Christians had defeated the Pirates in the finals of the Lejeune Christmas tournament and had also won an earlier regular-season battle on the Elon floor.

The Christian cagers moved to the front early in the game, with Jesse Branson receiving able aid from Art Davis and Dave Winfrey as Elon posted a 37 to 30 margin as the first half came to a close. Branson hit 17 points in this first half drive, with Davis getting 8 and Winfrey 6 counters in the same period.

Elon stretched this margin in the early moments of the second half and grabbed the longest lead of the game at 47-35 at one point. The Pirates rallied there and began hacking away at the Christian margin, finally tying the score at 54-all as Bobby Kinnard tipped in a rebound bucket with slightly over a minute left in the game.

The Christians were the victim of ball-handling errors as they allowed East Carolina to catch up,

and they were still plagued by the miscues on the floor as they tried to hold the ball for a single shot. A bad pass gave the Pirates the ball, but Kinnard missed the final shot for the Pirates and sent the game into over-time.

The extra period saw Elon double the score on the Pirates, with the Christians gaining a 12-6 margin in the five minutes overtime. Again it was the towering Branson who led the Christian charge in the over-time.

Branson had one of his better nights as he hit nine of twenty from the floor and 14 of 16 from the charity stripe for a 32-point total. No other Elon player was in double figures. Billy Brogden topped the Pirates with 23 points, while Bobby Kinnard added 13 counters.

The summary:  
Pos. Elon (66) East Carolina (60)  
F—Branson (32) Woodside (4)  
F—Davis (8) Williamson (7)  
C—Andrew (4) Kinnard (13)  
G—Winfrey (8) Brogden (23)  
G—Morningstar (6) Phillips (4)  
Half-time: Elon 37, East Carolina 30.

Elon subs—Such 2, Smith 6  
East Carolina subs—Reges 5, Eure 2.

## Elon Cage Games

- Elon 95, Frederick 58.
- Elon 87, Wofford 100.
- Elon 94, A.C.C. 74
- Elon 80, Pfeiffer 71.
- Elon 77, Lenoir Rhyne 71
- Elon 59, High Point 57
- Elon 94, Pembroke 67
- Elon 87, Lejeune 58.
- Elon 71, East Carolina 70.
- Elon 71, Campbell 64.
- Elon 96, Wofford 74
- Elon 78, A.C.C. 71
- Elon 82, East Carolina 57.
- Elon 89, Appalachian 61.
- Elon 71, Catawba 46.
- Elon 59, High Point 68.
- Elon 73, Belmont Abbey 66.
- Elon 85, Frederick 52.
- Elon 52, Catawba 73.
- Elon 63, Campbell 62
- Elon 54, West Carolina 64.
- Elon 74, Pfeiffer 62.
- Elon 54, Appalachian 56.
- Elon 66, East Carolina 60.

(REMAINING GAMES)  
Feb. 18—Gulford, away  
Feb. 20—Rhyne, home  
Feb. 22—West Carolina, home  
Feb. 26—Conference Tournament.

## Branson May Set New Elon Cage Records

By TOM CORBITT

Jesse Branson is well on his way toward becoming the greatest player in the history of Elon College basketball. He already held the Elon record for most rebounds in a single game when this season started, and he has already shattered one all-time record and tied another during the current campaign.

On January 7th Jesse banged in 44 points in Elon's 96 to 74 win over Wofford at War Memorial Gymnasium, shattering Dee Atkinson's old 39-point mark for the most points in a single game. This record had been set against Western Carolina in 1956. In breaking the old single-game scoring mark, Branson also tied Atkinson's record of 18 field goals in a single game, a mark which had been set in the same 1956 contest.

Dit Atkinson, in his great four-year career for the Christians, established most of the college's scoring records. He holds the college record for the most total career points with 1,834, the most career field goals with 656 and the most career free throws with 522.

Other notable Elon cage records include Jug Irvin's mark for the most total points in a single season, with 632 in 1961, and Dewey Andrew's top per game scoring average for a single season, a mark of 21.2 points per game in 1962.

Jesse Branson is in the process of breaking most of these records. After last Saturday's battle at East Carolina, Branson had scored 571 points in 24 games, and he was still slated to play at least four more games in which to ring up the points needed to smash Jug Irvin's all-time season record. Branson's per-game scoring average, which has hovered at or near the 24-point mark all season, seems assured of topping Dewey Andrew's best average mark.

It is too early at this time to guarantee that Branson will smash Atkinson's all-time record for a whole career, but certainly the present figures indicate a fine possibility. We find at this time that Branson is well ahead of Atkinson's mark at the same stage in his career.

The Atkinson four-year record is tabulated below:

Season	Games	FG	FT	TP
1962	35	75	75	225
1963	35	193	126	512
1964	29	178	160	516
1967	30	210	161	581

By comparison, the marks for Jesse Branson's first two seasons are listed just below:

Season	Games	FG	FT	TP
1962	30	147	144	438
1963	25	120	108	348

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## Branson Leads Scoring As Elon Tops Pfeiffer

Jumping Jesse Branson rode both backboards from the first whistle to the last and pumped shots through the netting with deadly accuracy as the Fighting Christians turned back the Pfeiffer Falcons 74 to 62 in a Carolinas Conference cage battle on the Elon floor on Tuesday night, February 11th.

Branson hit a jumper with the game only seconds old, and Calvin Lawson retaliated for Pfeiffer to get the score at 2-all, but that was the last time the score was tied. Branson tipped in a rebound, and Elon was out front for keeps.

The Falcons kept the score close throughout most of the first half. Elon did go ahead by nine points one time at 25-16, but during most of the half the Christians could show only two to four points advantage. The Elon quint led by 34 to 29 at half-time.

The Christians hit several quick buckets as the second half started, but the stubborn Falcons still clung within striking distance until midway that final half. With ten minutes left in the game, Elon was

still ahead by only four points with a 51-47 margin.

Bill Morningstar took over at that point with successive baskets. The speedy guard pumped in a set shot and five seconds later stole the ball and dribbled under for a two-pointer, and Elon never had less than an 8-point edge after that time.

The Christians could show only two men in double figures. Branson topped both teams with his 32 points, and Howard Andrew racked up 13 counters. Larry Lentz led Pfeiffer with 16, trailed by Danny Carver with 12 and Harold McManus with 11 points.

The summary:  
Pos. Elon (74) Pfeiffer (62)  
F—Branson (32) Lawson (2)  
F—Davis (2) Carver (12)  
C—Andrew (13) Wynne (9)  
G—Winfrey (9) McManus (11)  
G—Morningstar (8) Lentz (16)  
Half-time: Elon 34, Pfeiffer 29.

Elon subs—Smith 4, Such 4, Atkins 2. Pfeiffer subs—Miller 8, Tucker 2, Barnes 2, Hottinger, Williams left in the game. Elon was

## Christians In One-Point Win Over Campbell Five

A three-point play by Jesse Branson moved Elon to the front, and four free throws by Art Davis down the stretch preserved the slim Elon margin as the Fighting Christian cage squad edged the Campbell College quintet 63 to 62 in a nerve-rattling non-conference battle here on Tuesday night, February 4th.

The Christian squad, still playing without the services of injured Roland Miller and Dave Winfrey, had to fight for their lives all the way against an inspired Camel outfit. The Camels moved out to a 7-point margin twice in the first half, but Elon rallied to knot the score at 26-all at the break.

Glenn Lindsey and Mike Reidy, a pair of senior stars, paced the visitors to the front during most of the first half, building their longest leads at 15-8 and 19-12, but Jesse Branson and Sonny Smith topped the Elon scoring for the half as the Christians pulled up to a 26-26 tie as the half ended.

That tie set the stage for a real cliff-hanger during the final half, with first one team and then the other moving ahead, usually by a single point. The Camels were out front at 46 to 45 with eight minutes left, and during that final eight

minutes the teams swapped the lead seven times and were tied five times.

Bobby Atkins, a sharp-shooting freshman guard, kept Elon in the running as he dropped three set shots from outside during this stretch. Then, with Elon trailing 59-56, Jesse Branson made good on a three-point play to push Elon ahead to stay at 59-58. Arthur Davis hit four free throws in the final minutes of the battle to preserve the Elon margin.

Jesse Branson led the Elon attack with 27 points, hitting 17 of them in the first half. Other leaders for Elon were Bobby Atkins with 12 and Sonny Smith with 11 counters. Glenn Lindsey paced the Camels with 17, trailed by Dave Bult with 13 and Mike Reidy and Marvin Moss with 10 each.

The summary:  
Pos. Elon (63) Campbell (62)  
F—Branson (27) Reidy (10)  
F—Smith (11) Moss (10)  
C—Andrew Yenchr  
G—Atkins (12) Lindsey (17)  
G—Morningstar (6) Jordan (8)  
Half-time: Elon 26, Campbell 26  
Elon sub—Davis 7, Campbell  
subs—Bult 13, Etheridge 2, Fish 2.

## FROSH PAIR MAY BE STARS



RICHARD SUCH

BOBBY ATKINS

Two of the brightest freshman stars of recent years have been performing with the Fighting Christian cagers this winter in the person of Richard Such (left) and Bobby Atkins (right), both of whom were outstanding players in North Carolina high school circles last season. Such, a 6-4 forward, played his high school ball at Sanford under the tutelage of Don Packard, a former Elon star. Atkins, who played great basketball at North Surry High, paced his team to the state Class 2A high school crown. Both Such and Atkins loom as prospective starters with the Elon cage squad of next winter.

## Apps Rally To Top Elon By Two Points In Game

After holding a nine-point margin in the waning minutes of the game, the Elon Christians saw that decisive edge go down the drain as the Appalachian Mountaineers rallied to tie the score and then grab a 56 to 54 victory on a last-second field goal from the outside in a game at Boone on Thursday night, February 13.

The Fighting Christians were on top by a 53 to 44 count with barely 1:15 showing on the clock, but the Apps came back with a series of steals and tied the score at 54-all with just 1:08 remaining in the game. The killing blow was a jump shot by Jack Lytton from back of the circle with a single second remaining.

There were times in the closing moments of the Carolinas Conference battle when the game showed aspects of the old "give-away" tac-

tics in checkers, for both the Christians and Apps lost the ball several times as if it were hot and hard to hold.

After the Mountaineers tied the score, the ball changed hands three times without a score before the Mountaineers gained possession for the last time to set up Jack Lytton's winning bucket. In each case the switch of possession came on bad passes or seemingly easy steals.

The Elon cagers jumped out to a quick lead in the game, moving ahead by as much as 11 points mid-way the first half, but the Maroon and Gold outfit faltered at that point and allowed the Appalachian tossers to come back and lead by a single point at 31-30 at the half-time.

Jesse Branson played brilliantly

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## Spotlighting The Fighting Christians

By TOM CORBITT

The Fighting Christians last defeated Western Carolina here on our campus in 1957. Only once since 1957 have they beaten them at all, so there is added incentive to win the crucial game coming up here tomorrow night.

Last year, Elon lost 68-67 to WCC over in Memorial Gym in the last seven seconds, after having trailed 63-45 with 10 minutes left in the game. At Cullowhee last year the Christians tried to play slow-down ball and lost 48-42.

In 1962 the Catamounts bettered Elon 54-53 at Elon, as the Christians failed to hold a 53-50 lead with 1:20 remaining. At Western, Elon had suffered a 71-48 massacre.

Both games were played at WCC in the 1961 season. We dropped the first one 85-72. In the second game, Elon trailed 52-32 at halftime but won 85-84 on Jug Irvin's long jump shot with six seconds remaining.

After that the records get worse. In this period, the record alone will suffice. The scores follow:

- 1960 — WCC 75, Elon 65 (at Elon); WCC 63, Elon 45.
- 1959 — WCC 67, Elon 32 (at Elon); WCC 67, Elon 49.
- 1958 — WCC 66, Elon 62 (at Elon); WCC 75, Elon 42.

### Tournament Scores

Recent Carolinas Conference Tournament appearances by the Christians are no better. Last year Elon lost by a 56-55 score in the first round to Lenoir Rhyne, and in 1962 the Christians managed to get to the second round. They beat Pfeiffer 68-59, but lost to High Point 80-73.

The 1961 season was destined to be our year, but Elon was upset

10-78 by High Point, which easily breezed through the remaining tournament games. In that game with the Panthers, Elon held a two-point lead with 30 seconds to go and had possession of the ball. The Panthers proceeded to steal the ball and drive for an easy lay-up and then intercept the inbound play for the winning bucket.

Lenoir Rhyne beat us in the first tournament game 70-48 in 1960 and in 1959 High Point did the honors by a 66-49 margin. Western Carolina had beaten us in 1958, 68-57. Therefore I say to you, O' basketball team of ours, it is time for a change.

With a little luck and plenty of intestinal fortitude this year, the Fighting Christians could draw as tournament opponents Western Carolina, Catawba, and High Point and then beat them all soundly. It would certainly be nice to beat Catawba and then not make any obscene gestures at the crowd and then beat High Point and not have Coach Miller congratulate Quinn before the game is over.

Senior Cagers  
For Roland Miller, Bill Morningstar, Sonny Smith, and Danny Hall, tomorrow night's game will be their last collegiate appearance on the home court.

Each has made a valuable contribution to a team that has compiled, at this writing, a 70-36 record during their college days.

It is, therefore, fitting that we pay honor to them tomorrow night. And what better way could there be to conclude your playing days than with a trip to the national finals in Kansas City?