

Branson Betters His Season Record As Elon Loses To Cats

Elon Downs App Cagers By 72 To 59

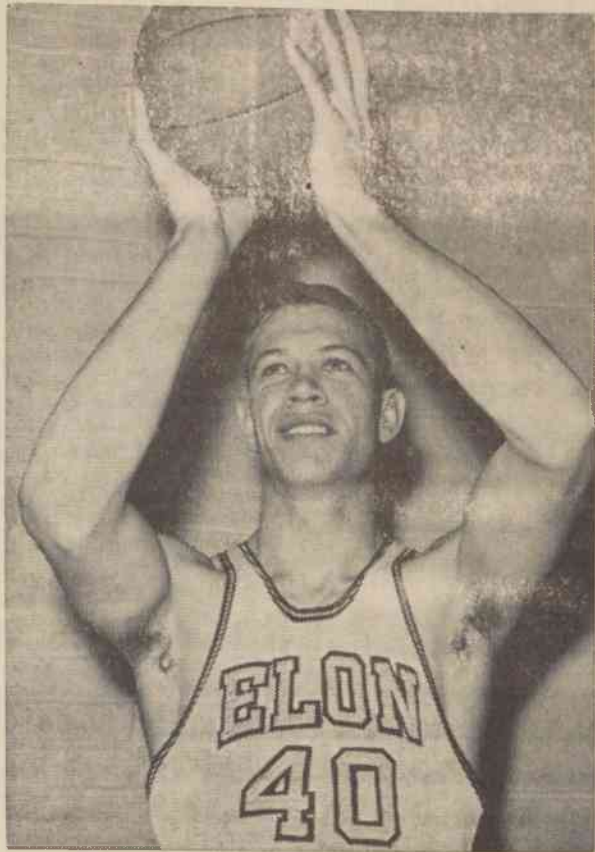
With big Jesse Branson apparently recovered from an attack of flu that had hobbled him for several days and once again hitting like the All-American ace that he is, the Fighting Christians of Elon knocked another of the Carolinas Conference contenders when they toppled the Appalachian Mountaineers in Elon's Alumni Memorial Gymnasium 72 to 59 on Wednesday night, February 10th.

Coming back strong after a loss to the Pfeiffer Falcons two nights before, the Christians rolled for their fifth victory in their past six games as they grabbed an early lead over the Mountaineers and were never headed. The Mounties did tie the score one time at 13-13 in the early minutes of play, but Branson dropped a pair of charity tosses to regain the Elon lead, and the Christians never trailed again.

It was definitely one of Branson's finer nights as he hit on 14 floor shots from all ranges and all angles and connected on 11 of 15 tries from

(Continued on Page Four.)

ELON CAPTAINS CLOSE CAREERS IN CONTRASTING MANNER



Jesse Branson (left) and Dave Winfrey (right), Elon's cage captains, who led the Christians into the Carolinas Conference tournament at Lexington this week are closing their careers in contrasting styles. Branson, who smashed his own season scoring mark at Western Carolina last weekend, is closing out in brilliant style; but Winfrey, with many brilliant performances behind him, has been injured all season and was expected to see little or no action in the tournament battles.

Christian Ace Pushes Total To 638 For Year

The Elon Christians dropped a 77 to 69 decision to the Western Carolina Catamounts at Cullowhee last Saturday night, but Jesse Branson, Elon's All-American forward, earned a personal triumph when he racked 31 points to outscore Western Carolina's Henry Logan and at the same time set a new all-time Elon record for most points in a single season.

When Branson ripped the cords for nine field goals and thirteen free throws against the Catamounts, his game total of 31 points pushed his total for the season to 632 points in 25 games to surpass his own Elon season record of 675 points that he set in 28 games last season. The above 632-point total includes Branson's scoring against Fort Eustice, a game which does not count in the Conference statistics but does count in Elon's own records.

The towering Elon forward needed every one of his 31 points on Saturday night to top the efforts of Logan, the Catamount freshman star, for Logan hit for 30 points as he paced the attack for the Western Carolina victory, a triumph which avenged an earlier Elon triumph on the Christian court.

A crowd of 3,800 rabid Catamount supporters packed the Western Carolina gymnasium and watched the Carolinas Conference rivals swap the lead back and forth through a tight first half. Elon pushed from behind in the closing moments of that first half and led by a 32-31 count at intermission.

The second half started off in nip-and-tuck fashion through the first six minutes of the final period, with neither team able to gain more than a three-point margin, but after the 6-minute mark Logan blasted through the Elon defense for three consecutive baskets and shot Western Carolina to a decisive 56-44 margin.

The Christians narrowed the count to seven points edge with seven minutes left and was within six points of the Cats with barely two minutes to play, but J. B. Kiser, Charlie McConnell and John Brintnall joined with Logan to shoot the Cats ahead by ten as the final seconds ticked off, only to have Branson rip the nets for a last-second bucket that cut the final score to 77-69 and an eight-point lead.

In addition to Branson's 31 points that topped both teams, Richard Such was the only other Elon player who could score double figures. The Elon sophomore hit 14 for the night. With Logan hitting 30 points, other double-figure scorers for the Cats were McConnell with 16, Kiser with 14 and Brintnall with 12 points.

The line-ups:
Pos. Elon (69) West Carolina (77)
F—Branson (31) McConnell (16)
F—Such (14) Bloom (13)
C—A. Davis (8) Brintnall (12)
G—Atkins (8) Logan (30)
G—T. Davis (5) Kiser (14)
Half-time: Elon 32, Western Carolina 31.
Elon subs — Van Lear 3, Mixon, Western Carolina subs — Moore 2, Nurrell.

Bears Get 70 To 62 Win In Cage Tilt At Hickory

The Christian cage squad led the scoring through nearly three-fourths of the game only to hit a cold streak in the closing minutes and allow the Lenoir Rhyne Bears to forge ahead in the final seven minutes and win a Carolinas Conference battle by a 70 to 62 margin at Hickory on Wednesday night, February 17th.

The Bears broke out in front in the first moments of the game, but Jesse Branson and Richard Such paced a drive that sent the Christians ahead, and the Elon cagers led by a 40-38 count at the half-time intermission. The Christians maintained that lead through the early part of the second half, but the Bears tied the count at 57-all with 6:30 left in the game and moved ahead from there to win the game.

The Christians played without the services of Co-Captain Dave Winfrey, who missed the battle when his injured knee gave trouble, and his deadly outside shooting was sorely missed in the drive for the win over the Bears.

Neill McGeachey, Bruin guard, led both teams for the night with 22 points, while Jesse Branson topped Elon with 21 counters. Such contributed 14 and Art Davis 10.

The line-ups:
Pos. Elon (62) Lenoir Rhyne (70)
F—Branson (21) Miatkowski (12)
F—Such (14) Cochran (5)
C—A. Davis (10) LaMoreaux (2)
G—Atkins (8) McGeachey (22)
G—Mixon (1) Bua (1)
Half-time: Elon 40, Lenoir Rhyne 38.
Elon subs — Van Lear 2, T. Davis 6, Lenoir Rhyne subs — Deeban 17, Wells 11.

Elon Cage Games

- Elon 65, Wofford 64.
 - Elon 66, Pfeiffer 68.
 - Elon 85, Lenoir Rhyne 84.
 - Elon 65, High Point 76.
 - Elon 56, Appalachian 59.
 - Elon 60, Erskine 65.
 - Elon 100, Loyola 80.
 - Elon 71, Fort Eustis 75.
 - Elon 84, Wofford 92.
 - Elon 106, A.C.C. 79.
 - Elon 60, East Carolina 67.
 - Elon 70, Campbell 59.
 - Elon 67, Guilford 44.
 - Elon 86, Campbell 77.
 - Elon 67, High Point 68.
 - Elon 62, Catawba 60.
 - Elon 91, A.C.C. 68.
 - Elon 72, Frederick 56.
 - Elon 92, West Carolina 81.
 - Elon 61, Pfeiffer 65.
 - Elon 72, Appalachian 59.
 - Elon 72, East Carolina 66.
 - Elon 69, Catawba 62.
 - Elon 62, Lenoir Rhyne 70.
 - Elon 69, West Carolina 77.
- (Remaining Games)
Feb. 24-27—Conference Tourney at Lexington.

off, only to have Branson rip the nets for a last-second bucket that cut the final score to 77-69 and an eight-point lead.

In addition to Branson's 31 points that topped both teams, Richard Such was the only other Elon player who could score double figures. The Elon sophomore hit 14 for the night. With Logan hitting 30 points, other double-figure scorers for the Cats were McConnell with 16, Kiser with 14 and Brintnall with 12 points.

The line-ups:
Pos. Elon (69) West Carolina (77)
F—Branson (31) McConnell (16)
F—Such (14) Bloom (13)
C—A. Davis (8) Brintnall (12)
G—Atkins (8) Logan (30)
G—T. Davis (5) Kiser (14)
Half-time: Elon 32, Western Carolina 31.
Elon subs — Van Lear 3, Mixon, Western Carolina subs — Moore 2, Nurrell.

Elon subs — Van Lear 3, Mixon, Western Carolina subs — Moore 2, Nurrell.

Christian '5' Tops Pirates By Six Points

Superiority at the free throw line proved the deciding factor as the Christian cagers fought off a determined bid by the East Carolina Pirates and turned back the Pirate squad 72 to 66 in a non-conference basketball game on the Elon floor on Saturday night, February 13th. Each team hit 25 field goals, but Elon caged 22 free throws in 30 tries to lock up the win.

The battle proved close through much of the first half, with the lead swapping hands many times before Dave Winfrey dropped a pair of charity tosses to shoot Elon ahead 23-22, and the Christians then built the margin to seven points, only to have the Pirates narrow the gap to 31-29 at intermission on shots by Bobby Kinnard and Jerry Woodside.

Combined efforts of Jesse Branson, Dave Winfrey and Bobby Atkins shot Elon to a 48-40 margin soon after the second half opened, and the Christians never trailed again. However, East Carolina did tie the count at 66-all on a Kinnard rebound, and it took four consecutive free throws by Branson to pull Elon back to the front for keeps. Art Davis dropped a hook shot at the final whistle for the final six-point margin.

(Continued on Page Four.)



Spotlighting The Fighting Christians

By TOM CORBITT

In the past school spirit at Elon has been discussed frequently in the Maroon and Gold, and the consensus of opinion through the years has been that Elon College lacks school spirit.

In 1958 Bill Walker, at that time the sports editor of the Maroon and Gold, labelled the Elon student body as "fair weather fans". Another observed "the listlessness of school cheers" and suggested that the insufficient "moral support of Elon's teams" was due to some extent to what he termed the mediocrity of cheering.

Ted Fields, the sports editor in 1960, suggested that "school philosophers" check the registrar's office, where "after scanning the cryptic marks that will show your own scholastic production" the students "might find it a bit hypocritical to cast scathing remarks at a team which is giving its best."

At present, the general belief is still that Elon College lacks school spirit, for too many of us are still "fair weather fans." Our cheers are still "listless," and many students feel that the cheerleaders leave something to be desired.

School spirit at Elon appears to have improved in recent years, but it must be noted that the Fighting Christians' won-loss record in various sports has been a creditable one over the past three years.

Elon students demand perfection in athletics, and when something is at stake, then school spirit is good. The school spirit at the last home basketball game was a peculiar phenomenon.

Laurels at Elon come infrequently, but the seniors on the basketball team were honored in starting roles in this last performance of the season before the home crowd. What followed the introduction of the seniors was a spontaneous and heart-warming outburst of school spirit.

First to be introduced was Jesse Branson. A tumultuous standing ovation ensued. This occurred first because Jesse is truly an All-American and has quite literally rewritten the Elon record book. But there are other important reasons. Jesse has changed quite a bit as an Elon student and has settled down to serious effort in many respects.

Art Davis was next, and the response from the still standing crowd was equally as appreciative. Art has improved during each year at Elon, both on and off the court.

Dave Winfrey achieved a different kind of greatness here at Elon. Hampered by injuries through much of his cage career, Winfrey has fought on, and except for a limping leg or a bad arm, no one would have ever known that by medical standards he should not have been playing at all.

Howard Andrew has also improved each year, and during his four years here at Elon he has become a proud father and has worked his way to the Dean's List, so he also received an ovation.

Perhaps, however, the greatest ovation was for the last senior. When the announcer said "from Pleasant Grove, N. C.," pandemonium reigned, for the Reid Hughes story is a great one. Cut from the squad and from a scholarship, Reid came back out for the team and

(Continued On Page Four)

Elon Baseball Squad Lists Twelve Vets

Coming as a sure harbinger of spring is the crack of baseball bats and the thud of horsehide and glove leather on the Elon College baseball field, where Coach Jack Sanford already has 25 of his Christian diamond hopefuls working out daily.

Nine of the twenty-five candidates in the early baseball sessions are lettermen from last year, and three other monogram veterans will join the Christian baseballers when the basketball season and the winter football workouts are ended.

The twelve letter veterans due to be on hand when the Christians open their baseball season late in March include Pete Crook and Tommy Newsome, catcher; Art Davis, first base; Gary Taylor, second base; Comar Shields, shortstop; H. L. Robinson, third base; Carlton Highsmith and Carroll Monger, outfielders; and Richard Such, Herbie Johnson, Lefty Everette and Jack Burtsche, pitchers.

Davis and Such are still with the Elon basketball squad, and H. L. Robinson is on the winter football roster. Fred Stewart, who saw heavy duty last year but did not letter, is also due to report when football drills are over.

With 22 Letter Veterans . . .

Fifty-One Boys In Winter Grid Drills

Winter football drills are in full swing at Elon College, with fifty-one Christian gridgers working daily under the direction of their new head mentor, Coach Gary Mattocks, who is assisted in the off-season workouts by Assistant Coach Alan White.

The Christian squad for the winter workouts includes 40 returnees from last fall's Conference championship squad, among them 22 letter winners, along with eleven boys who are new to the roster for the winter practice.

Missing from the 1964 squad are seven of the 29 gridgers who won letters for their work with Elon's championship squad, four of those lost by graduation and completion of eligibility and the others due to academic difficulties or dropping from college.

The major problem facing Coaches Mattocks and White looms in the finding of a replacement for Ed Wheless, Elon's great quarterback, who wrote so many new records as a passer, and they will be giving several boys a try at the spot during the off-season work which is due to continue through the second week on March and to close out with an intra-squad game between Maroon and Gold squads.

The coaches have made no statements as to a probable Wheless replacement, but among the possibilities are lettermen H. L. Robinson, who has played mostly on defense; Burgin Beale, a freshman reserve of the past fall; and Robin Cobia, a fine reserve prospect of two years ago.

Reserves from last fall on the winter roster include ends Richard Williamson, Richard Lee, Frankie Briley and Tim Kempson; tackle Mackie Carden; guards Lee Johnson, Mickey Hughes and Dickie Hughes; center Carey Metts; and backs Gary Jordan, Tom Brown, David Oliphant, Stewart McDonald, Jerry Hogge, Wally Burke, Perry Williams, Burgin Beale and Robin Cobia.

New boys on the squad include ends Charles Spears, Dale Ward and Sam Hibbs; interior lineman Raymond Smith and Bobby Collier; and backs Jerry Jackson, William Walker, Andrew McPherson Clifford Lester, C. V. May and Carl Kirkley.

WATCH YOUR STEP

The coach had been drafted, and the superintendent was interviewing new applicants.

You'll find me an easy man to work for," he informed one prospective coach. "Now, tell me about yourself, but first take off your hat, stop fiddling with your tie, and try to speak more distinctly."

Elon Trounces Catawba

Richard Such, sophomore forward, came off the bench and racked nine big points in the second half to lead the Christian cagers to a 69-62 victory over the Catawba Indians in the final home game of the basketball season, a Carolinas Conference contest which had been moved out at an earlier date.

The Christians started an all-senior line-up in the final home game, with Jesse Branson and Howard Andrew at the forwards, Reid Hughes at center and Dave Winfrey and Art Davis at the guards, and they moved quickly to the front and gained a 26-10 margin over the Indians.

Then, in the closing minutes of the first half, the Christians ran cold on their shooting, and in less than four minutes of actual playing time the visiting Indians tallied 13 consecutive points as Eddie Rhodes and Jim Sessoms led a rally that

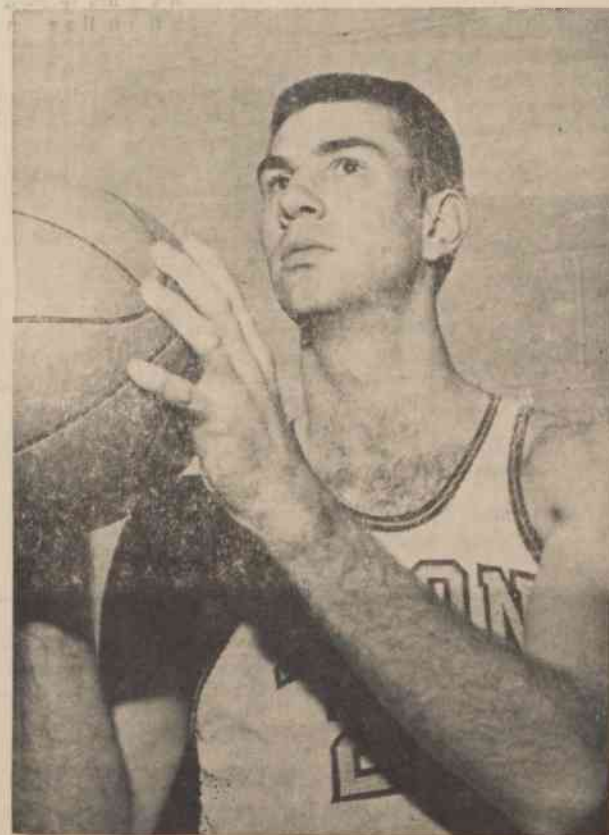
only a free throw by Branson mov-

ed the Elon half-time lead to 27-23. Then, as the second half got underway, Richard Such broke loose with a terrific assault on the basket and ripped the nets for 19 points in the final half to keep Elon out front and to clinch the Christian victory, but Catawba kept it close all the way as Rhodes and Sessoms topped the Indian scoring down the stretch.

Jesse Branson, playing his last game before the home fans, hit for 24 points, with Such as the only other Elon cager able to hit in double figures with his 19-point total. Rhodes led Catawba with 21, the Indian attack.

Pos. Elon (69) Catawba (62)
F—Branson (24) Rhodes (21)
F—Andrew Gamrot (2)
C—Hughes (5) Snyder (3)
G—Winfrey (5) Hodges (5)
G—A. Davis (5) Hackett (11)
Half-time: Elon 27, Catawba 23.
Elon subs — Such 19, Van Lear 3, Atkins 8, Catawba subs — Nester 3, Sessoms 18.

VAN LEAR IS FINE PROSPECT



Charlie Van Lear, a rugged 6-7 and 200-pound freshman from Martinsville, Va., has played some very fine basketball for the Fighting Christians this winter and looms as an outstanding prospect for Elon's future cage teams. He was coached at Martinsville High by Husky Hall and C. G. Hall, a pair of former Elon hardwood stars.