

FIGHTING CHRISTIAN WRESTLING TEAM WINDS UP FINE INITIAL SEASON OF MAT SPORT



SPORTS SPOTS

By EDDIE OSBORNE

This is the weekend when the Carolinas Conference basketball are sweating it out to see which of the Conference cage teams will take home the trophy and reign as the top team in the fast small-college circuit.

The tournament got underway on Wednesday of this week and will continue through tonight and Saturday night, with the action taking place in the huge Winston-Salem Coliseum and certainly we who support the various teams in the tournament can enjoy much better accommodations that have been offered in the much smaller gymnasium at Lexington in recent years.

As this issue of the Maroon and Gold hits the campus and brings this column to the readers, two nights of the big tournament will have already been played, and four of the eight teams who won berths in the annual meet will have bitten the dust of defeat.

There's one satisfaction, however, and that is that our Fighting Christians were there in the first round to put up a fight for the laurels. Results of that first game are unknown at this writing, but let us hope that we'll still have the Maroon and Gold bucketeers on hand for the semi-finals tonight.

Our friends, the Quakers of Guilford, entered the tournament as the favorites for the title, having displayed tremendous scoring and rebounding power throughout the season, paced by such stars as big Bob Kauffman, Pat Mortarity, Ed Fellers and others. In fact, the Quakers have been ranked among the top ten teams in

the national small-college ranks and have brought much attention to our Conference.

Other teams which battled for first division spots through most of the season have been Catawba, Western Carolina, Lenoir Rhyne and Atlantic Christian, and as this column was written it was still undecided as to which three of the group would join with Guilford to make the top four teams in the tournament pairings.

The High Point, Appalachian and Elon squads were already in the tournament as the final week of regular-season play began, but there had been a time during the season when it appeared that our Christian cagers might miss the tournament for the first time in history. They dropped seven in a row to Conference opponents before they could get started, but they then put together six wins in seven starts to move into the select eight teams that entered the tournament eliminations.

As a matter of fact, only the first and second spots in regular season are of value as the tournament starts. The two top teams automatically go into separate upper and lower brackets, and the other teams had to draw for positions at the pairings meeting held last Sunday.

The third and fourth teams had to draw to see which would be bracketed with the first ranking team and which would go into the bracket with the second club. Once the top four teams were placed, the other four teams were drawn to determine first-round pairings. Under

The Elon College wrestling squad, first in the history of the school, has just completed its initial season with a successful mark of four wins and three losses. The wins were over Guilford twice, Methodist College and N. C. State, while losses were to Duke, Pembroke and Carolina Freshmen. The Christian wrestlers shown left to right above are as follows: Assistant Coach Paul Sebo; Gary Dean, of Charlotte; David Oliphant, of Mooresville; Phil Larrabee, of Virginia Beach, Va.; Bobby Hughes, of Madison; Emery Moore, of Schenectady, N.Y.; Ralph Moore, of Schenectady, N.Y.; Bill Franks, of Wilmington, Del.; Mike Hughes, of Madison; Tom Jernigan, of Fayetteville; Buster Alston, of Newport News, Va.; and Coach Mickey Brown. Members of the squad not present for the picture included Jack Shirley, of Sterling, Va.; Roger Norman, of Elkin; John Goins, of Winston-Salem; and John Romano, of Virginia Beach, Va.

Elon Loses To Catamount '5' In Loop Battle At Cullowhee

Matmen Lose In Final Meet

The Elon College wrestling team dropped a hard-fought 21 to 15 decision to the Carolina Freshmen in Elon's Alumni Memorial Gymnasium on Saturday afternoon, February 17th, closing out Elon's first mat season with a record of four wins and three losses.

Buster Alston and Emery Moore each won decisions for the Christians, and Gary Dean and David Oliphant got forfeits for Elon's other wins. The Carolina outfit, with one of its strongest teams in recent years, gained three falls and two decisions.

This meet marked the close of a campaign during which the Christian matmen chalked victo-

ries over Guilford twice, over the Methodist College team and over N.C. State. Losses were to Pembroke, Duke and the Carolina Freshmen.

- The summary:
- 123 POUNDS: Dean (E) won by forfeit.
- 130 POUNDS: Alston (E) decisioned Mertry.
- 137 POUNDS: Bennings (CF) decisioned Shirley.
- 145 POUNDS: Oliphant (E) won by forfeit.
- 152 POUNDS: Long (CF) pinned Franks.
- 150 POUNDS: Murdoch (CF) decisioned Jernigan.
- 167 POUNDS: Wynne (CF) pinned M. Hughes.
- 177 POUNDS: Ball (CF) pinned B. Hughes.
- UNLIMITED: E. Moore (E) decisioned Tate.

The Elon Christians, after winning four straight games and grabbing six wins in their last seven starts, found themselves ambushed by a pack of hungry Catamounts up in the Cullowhee hill country on Saturday night, February 17th, and the Maroon and Gold cagers went down before the Cats' sharpshooting assault by a 103 to 73 count.

The Catamounts started early in the game and moved out to a 46 to 31 margin at the halftime in the Saturday night game, with Western's Henry Logan personally matching the Christian scoring output for that first half. Logan's twelve field goals and seven of seven free throws for a personal to

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ELON BOASTS GREAT SET OF BACKCOURT PERFORMERS



There are no three finer guards on any team in the Carolinas Conference than the Elon combination of Bobby Atkins (left), Nobel Marshall (center) and Tom McGee (right) in the above pictures. Atkins, who is a senior from Mount Airy, rejoined the Christian squad this year after being out of school last year. Marshall, who hails from Roanoke, Va., and McGee, who comes from Deer Park, N.Y., are both sophomores. All three have hit better than 20 points in single games this year, and all hit equally well from outside and on driving shots.

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