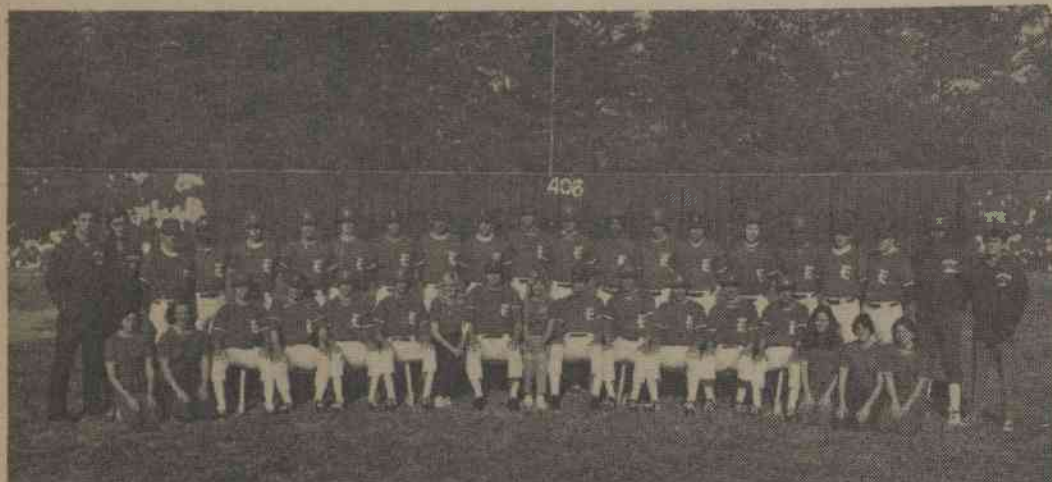




Sports

by
Gary F. Spittler, Sports Editor



1977 Elon College "Fightin' Christian" Baseball team.

Teams rolling along Baseball, tennis, golf reaching peak

Elon's spring sports have been rolling in the last few weeks, and the schedules for all the teams are heading for a peak in the next few weeks.

Baseball stands at 2-4 overall and 1-1 in the conference as of press time. The team has posted wins over Pembroke State 17-2 and Madison College 6-5, while the diamonders have fallen 7-6 to N.C. State, 16-8 to East Carolina, 5-0 to Pembroke State and 9-4 to Madison. The team is

hitting a swift .270 and has proved they can hit the ball and run. Through six games, the team has stolen 32 bases which averages 5.3, far better than the other conference teams.

Tennis stands 3-1 with the team posting a 9-0 shutout over Pembroke State last weekend. The team has posted wins over Guilford 6-3, Catawba 7-2 while only falling 4-5 to Kutztown from Pennsylvania.

The golf team have been

stroking along the same lines as last year. The team has won "first" place in four out of the five tournaments or matches they have participated in. The team is hoping to go to the nationals again this year to repeat the 1976 season except finish two strokes better. The team finished #2 in the NAIA last year by one stroke loss to Gardner-Webb.

Be sure to check out the "Sports Clipboard" for the upcoming sports events.

Athlete keeps 42-year promise for new Elon baseball field

by Tim McDowell
Public Information

During the 1935 Elon College football banquet, Webb Newsome, a young, muscular athlete who dominated Elon's football, baseball and boxing teams, stood and made an announcement to the college president.

"Some day I'm going to come back here and build you an athletic field you'll really be proud of."

Dr. Leon Edgar Smith, who was president of the college at that time, applauded and told Newsome that certainly would be fine, and went about his business of eating.

Webb Newsome came back to Elon College on March 7, 1977, with a commitment for \$50,000 for the baseball field which he promised Dr. Smith 42 years earlier.

"I guess he thought I was joking," Newsome commented with a smile that spread across his broad face as he and his wife sat in the president's office on campus and remembered their days at Elon.

The first week after Newsome graduated, he got a job teaching and coaching, and got married.

Although he loved teaching and coaching, Webb quickly found it was not rewarding enough to support a family.

"During those days I played

professional baseball in the old Piedmont League. I made more money in the summer playing ball than I did all year teaching. I couldn't have made it except for saving what I made in the summer to carry me through the winter," Newsome recalls.

So, with a degree in history and physical education, he went into the roofing contracting business and eventually settled down for a comfortable life at Bermuda Run in Advance, N.C.

Elon, however, remained on his mind, and he vowed to keep that promise he made to President Smith.

It was at Elon that Newsome was an outstanding footballer at quarterback and halfback. He scored 17 touchdowns and two extra points for a 104-point scoring total, and is still the 10th leading scorer in Elon football history. He threw at least six touchdown passes, scored four touchdowns in one game against Western Carolina, was named all-conference three times at quarterback and halfback and was named to the all-state team twice, once as a halfback and once at quarterback. He was captain of the 1934 grid squad.

In baseball, Newsome posted an 11-8 pitching record, while batting .265 during a four-year career. He batted .349 during his freshman year and was the

leading batter in the "Little Six" Conference. Newsome played six positions while donning a Maroon and Gold uniform — pitcher, first, second, third, shortstop, and right field.

He was an all-conference selection in the spring sport. Elon's baseball team won the conference championship three of four years during Newsome's playing career, and the Christians were runners-up during his senior year.

And, just so he would have something to do year round, he did a little boxing, becoming the only undefeated boxer at Elon. In fact, he was never even knocked down.

In 1975 Newsome was inducted into the Elon College Sports Hall of Fame at special ceremonies.

"I'm proud to be an alumnus of Elon College," Newsome said. "I married a wonderful girl from here, and I've always kept an interest in the school."

As a child growing up in Salisbury, Newsome always had an interest in attractive baseball diamonds.

"We had a pasture where we used to play baseball. I would go out there and build up the mound, fill feed bags for bases, and make sure there wasn't a blade of grass around home plate. All the other kids played there, but I always took an

1 out of 32 NAIA districts

Elon's Melvin Shreves wins NAIA award

Melvin L. Shreves, Jr., sports information director at Elon has received the Clarence "Ike" Pearson Award. The first "Ike" Pearson Award was presented during the NAIA Hillyard Hall of Fame luncheon, March 11 in Kansas City.

The award commemorates the life and work of the late Clarence "Ike" Pearson who served as the chief of statistical services for the NAIA National Basketball Tournament for 29 consecutive years prior to his death last November.

Mrs. Betty Pearson, Ike's widow, assisted by Bill Grigsby, originator of the NAIA Basketball Tournament radio broadcast service, made the presentation.

The recipient of the Pearson Award is selected annually from among active NAIA sports information directors from each of the NAIA's 32 districts.

The selection of the recipient is made on the basis of "outstanding achievements in the promotion of sports activities on campus, throughout the community served by the institution, and in the NAIA."

A 1966 graduate of Elon College, Shreves returned to his

alma mater in 1970 serving as both public information director and sports information director.

In those six years, Shreves had served as coordinator for Elon for four NAIA championship events and one international event (a basketball game between the USSR women's team and a group of American all-stars). He also assisted with the publicity for the NAIA indoor track and field meets held in Greensboro, N.C. in 1975 and 1976. Shreves has won numerous awards with his Elon publications. He has won the top award for NAIA football programs during the last four years and has won four awards for his varsity athletic press guides. His press guides have also been selected as award winners five times by the College Sports Information Directors of America (COSIDA).

Now serving as secretary of NAIA-Sports Information Directors' Association, he served on a workshop panel during the NAIA Athletic Directors' Association meetings.

He and his wife, the former Peggy Hill, of Chatham, Va. have two sons, Michael and Christopher.

SPORTS CLIPBOARD

MARCH

- 24 Golf vs. Wright State and Pfeiffer - Indian Valley - 1:30 p.m.
- Baseball vs. Atlantic Christian at Elon - 1 p.m. (DH)
- Tennis vs. UNC-G at Elon - 2 p.m.
- 25 Softball vs. UNC-G and A&T at UNC-G - 2 & 3:20 p.m.
- Baseball vs. East Carolina at ECU - 3 p.m.
- 28 Softball vs. Guilford at Guilford - 2 p.m.
- Tennis vs. NC Central - Away - 2 p.m.
- 29 Baseball vs. Carolina - Away - 3:30 p.m.
- 30 Tennis vs. Bucknell at Elon - 2 p.m.
- 31 Golf vs. ACC and UNC-W - Wilson - 1:45 p.m.
- Softball vs. Catawba - Away - 3 p.m.
- Baseball vs. UNC-W at Elon - 3 p.m.

APRIL

- 1 Golf vs. Pfeiffer - Stanley Country - 1:30 p.m.
- Softball vs. N.C. State - TBA
- Baseball vs. Wake Forest - Away - 3 p.m.
- 2 Tennis at Atlantic Christian - 1 p.m.
- Baseball vs. Campbell at Elon - 1 p.m. - (DH)
- 3 Tennis vs. East Carolina - Away - 1:30 p.m.
- 4 Golf in Elon College Invitational
- Baseball vs. N.C. State - Away - 3 p.m.
- 5 Golf in Elon College Invitational
- Softball vs. Methodist College - Away - 2 p.m.
- 6 Tennis vs. Catawba - Away - 2 p.m.
- Baseball vs. Pfeiffer at Elon - 3 p.m.

interest in making it look good."

"The 'Webb Newsome Field' will be a major asset to the Elon athletic program," Elon President Fred Young said.

"More and more emphasis is being put on our baseball program to balance our sports department, insuring sports involvement for all our students who desire competition but may not be suited for football or basketball. Mr. Newsome, who lettered in every sport in high school, knows the importance of a well-balanced program.

"Elon College is grateful for the generosity of Mr. and Mrs.

Newsome, who have remembered their days at Elon and are now making it possible for future students to enjoy some of the things they missed," Dr. Young said.

The Newsomes have three children: Margaret Schilpp of Pennsylvania, Rebecca Clingman of Clingman's Dome, N.C., and Richard Webb Newsome, a senior at UNC-Wilmington; and four grandchildren.

Opening ceremonies will honor Newsome when the Webb Newsome Athletic Field is completed.