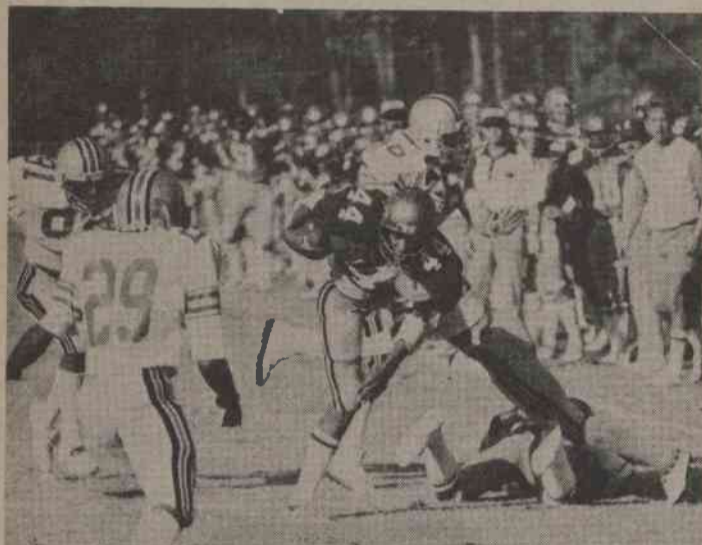


The Elon Sports Corner

Sports Editor

Vicki Blankenship



Runningback Bobby Hedrick in balancing form for extra yardage. He rushed for 188 yards and two touchdowns against Newberry College. The yards put him over the NAIA career rushing record. He now holds the title with 4,847 yards rushing and two scheduled games left to play. Photo by Mark Thomas.

Strikers win conference title

By Robert de la Fe

"We went bonkers," says freshman midfielder Jim Burton summarizing the moments following Elon's 2-1 soccer victory over Guilford. Players were hugging and jumping on top of each other. The team picked up Coach Steve Ballard and threw him into the mud.

The reason for this seemingly insane behavior? Elon clinched a tie with High Point for the Carolina's Conference Championship. It is the first championship the soccer team has ever won and the first time Elon has defeated Guilford.

Early morning rain made a mud bowl of the soccer field but when the rain stopped, the field was judged playable.

Elon took control from the opening kickoff because of outstanding playing by midfielders Eric Wigren, Carlos Torrelino, and Paul Harris. Harris, usually a striker, registered a fine performance and played his best game of the year.

At halftime Elon was ahead 1-0. Coach Ballard said it was the best half Elon had ever played.

As the second half began, Elon scored again and then tried to commit suicide. They simply stopped playing. Elon allowed Guilford to set up and take control of

the game.

The Quakers (Guilford) slipped in a free kick to make the score 2-1, but individual determination from several Fightin' Christians would not allow defeat. "We stayed in there and showed a lot of character even when we were tired," commented Coach Ballard.

Goals for Elon did not come easy. The Quaker goalkeeper made several good saves to keep Guilford in the game. In the 39th minute, Jeff Shields put a corner kick to the far post, where Scott Reynolds headed it back towards the middle, taking the Quaker keeper out of position.

Eric Wigren took two successive shots before Steve Belechak extinguished all doubt. With Belechak's goal, Elon went into a frenzied state of ecstasy. "It gave me the best feeling I've had in two years of collegiate soccer," said Belechak.

Elon's second goal came on an alert play by Luis Pages. "The Guilford keeper was going for the ball when the mud stopped it and he missed. I saw a yellow jersey (Elon)," continued Pages, "at the far pole and hit the ball in that direction." Sliding through the mud, Jeff Shields took Pages' cross and blasted the victory goal into

Christians smash Newberry

By Vicki Blankenship

It was like a summer day in November, as Elon faced Newberry College in a Homecoming match up. A crowd of 5,500 witnessed the 31-0 smash up job that Elon put on the Newberry Indians.

The Fightin' Christian offense went all out a total of 430 yards and the defensive squad held the Indians to a total of 111 yards.

Runningback Bobby Hedrick was the highlight of the Christians' offense. He ran for 188 yards in the hard nose, gridiron manner that has made him as hard to stop as a cannon ball. His 188 yards not only scored two touchdowns and helped Elon set up for two others, but it broke the NAIA career rushing record of 4,839 yards. Hedrick now holds the record with 4,847 yards with two games left on the schedule.

Quarterback John Bangle was his usual cool self as he directed the offense and completed nine of 16 passes for 107 yards and one touchdown.

Bangle hit wide open

Steve Vargas with a 33-yard touchdown pass in the third quarter to put Elon up 21-0 and vanished all hope of a comeback for the Indians.

Fourth quarter action was the most exciting for the Fighting Christians. With 13:58 remaining in the game, Hedrick captured his glory in a record-breaking run for the NAIA career rushing title. Then with 13:36 remaining, quarterback John Bangley snuck around the right end and ran six yards for the final Elon touchdown. With 11:27 remaining, Phil Renn booted a 38-yard fieldgoal to give Elon their final score of 31-0.

It wasn't just a field day for the Christian offense. The defense put on its annual powerhouse brick wall performance and held Newberry with 78 yards rushing and 33 yards passing, for a small total of 111 yards.

Currently Elon is ranked 7th in the NAIA District 26, with an 8-1 record. The victory almost assures Elon of a playoff spot since the top eight teams usually compete. Elon will probably be ranked higher after 5th ranked Mars Hill was involved with a 7-7 tie with Wofford last Saturday.

Elon will travel to Lenoir Rhyne Saturday, Nov. 16. Kickoff is set for 2 p.m.

Scoreboard

FOOTBALL:

Elon 31—Newberry College 0

SOCCER:

Elon 2 — Guilford College 1

VOLLEYBALL:

Elon over UNC-A, 15-8, 6-15, 15-6

NCCU over Elon 15-5, 14-16, 15-4, 15-11

Upcoming Events

FOOTBALL:

Elon vs Lenoir Rhyne College Nov. 15, 2:00.

SOCCER:

District 26 Tournament Nov. 11, 13, 15

VOLLEYBALL:

NCAIAW Tournament Nov. 14, 15

the back of the net.

Elon defense was a virtual iron curtain in one of the most challenging games of this year. Goalkeeper Kevin McCauley made 17 saves. Scott Reynolds, Marash Nikaj and Bob Ramsey all cleared balls off the goal line.

The defensive hero of the game was Bob Strong, however. Strong had two saves himself, including one in the final minute of play.

A Quaker player broke free and put a shot past McCauley. Strong made a desperation dive at the ball. "When I saw the path of the ball, I knew it was going in. Realizing I was the only one that could reach it, I dove and hoped it would hit some part of my body," recalled Strong.

The "luck of the Irish" was with Strong as he assured Elon's victory and the conference title by knocking the ball out of bounds with only 15 seconds remaining in the game.

The Fightin' Christians finish their regular season with an 8-7 record overall and 6-1 in the conference. Elon will play Atlantic Christian in the opening round of the District 26 tournament.

Go Christians



Rightwinger Jeff Shields dribbles the ball down field in full stride. Shields assisted the first goal and scored the winning goal of the game. He also leads the team in scoring. Staff Photo.

Volleyball

cont. from p. 7

dropped one in and Carteraced them again to go ahead 15-14. Elon scored again and won 16-14.

The girls seemed to suffer from a lack of communication in the third game. The score was tied 3-3, but Elon could score only one more time. They lost 4-15.

The fourth game looked

like an Elon victory. but ended in a loss of both the game and match. The Golden Girls' lead of four was cut when NCCU tied it 7-7. Elon scored twice, but Central persisted and tied it again 9-9. After the girls put two more on the board, Central bolted ahead and won, 15-11.