

sports



BLITZING CHRISTIAN DEFENDERS Ken Angel [32] and Stanley Tootoo [46] pressure Winston-Salem State quarterback Mike Winbush [1] in Saturday night's game. Photo by Ken Lipstein.

Elon butts Rams 21-7 in last game

by David Temple
Staff Writer

Runningback Ray Dalton rushed for 83 yards and two touchdowns as the Elon College Fightin' Christians closed out their 1982 regular season with a 21-7 victory over the Winston-Salem State Rams last Saturday in Burlington Memorial Stadium.

Winston-Salem State and penalties dominated the first half of play. The Rams scored early in the first quarter when Ronnie Johnson scored from the eight-yard line. But there was to be no additional scoring in the half as both teams saw drives brought to an end by

numerous penalties and turnovers. By the end of the first half nine penalties had been called, totaling 85 yards, and each team had lost two fumbles.

The Fightin' Christians tied the score at the beginning of the third quarter when Mitch Ryan capped an Elon drive with a 14-yard touchdown run.

Elon took the lead on its next possession when Dalton ran 15 yards for a touchdown.

The Fightin' Christian defense protected that lead for the remainder of the contest. Elon added an insurance touchdown midway through the fourth quarter as Dalton scored from seven yards out.

Fightin' Christian quarterback John Bangley, closing out a fine career here, completed nine of 21 passes for 118 yards. His favorite target was Jessie Jones, who netted 85 yards on five catches.

Elon finished the regular season with a 7-3 overall record and a 5-2 mark in conference play. The Christians' slim playoff hopes remained alive because not all NAIA teams have concluded their season. Elon would have to be ranked in the top 12 in the final NAIA national poll to return to the playoffs.

End of an era?

Despite graduation losses, Anderson optimistic for '83

This year's edition of Fightin' Christian, under first-year head coach Wright Anderson, started out this season as if they would fulfill preseason predictions of a third national championship. After winning their first three games, including one over Carson-Newman now ranked third in the NAIA, the Christians dropped three in a row to Lenoir-Rhyne, Wofford and Presbyterian. They rallied to finish the season 7-3.

While Anderson does not blame injuries solely for the defeats, many of Elon's starters were incapacitated by injuries and he does acknowledge many of the injured provided on-the-field leadership. Next year, many of these leaders will be lost to graduation. Among those graduating are 12 starters, including many very familiar names to Elon football fans.

Quarterback John Bangley and his backup Boyd Byerly, All-American linebacker Stanley Tootoo and his backup Darrel Moore, defensive backs Jerry Hedrick, Keith Murrell and Mike Edmonson, kicker Phil Renn, tight end Kelly Stanley, offensive guards Alan Peters and John Murray, defensive tackle Quinton Ballard, wide receiver Steve Vargas, defensive end Frank Hughes and center Clint York are among the many leaving.

Anderson said that the string of injuries that plagued Bangley, Tootoo, Ballard, Hedrick, Murrell and other

starters may have helped the players who must fill their positions next year by giving them badly needed experience.

"We're just getting started on recruiting," he said, "Quarterback and linebacker are the biggest void areas we will have to fill."

"We have several good young quarterbacks on campus."

"There are a lot of underclassmen that have talent," he said, "what we will be losing is leadership."

He said that eastern North Carolina, the Tidewater area of Virginia and central North Carolina have all been good recruiting grounds for Elon.

Whether or not Elon gets an opportunity to defend its championship in the national playoffs is still uncertain, but Anderson said he thought the chances of getting a bid is rather slim. Either way, he said Elon will still be considered an excellent football school among colleges its size and caliber.

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