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Elon College, Elon College, N.C.

Thursday, Feb. 24, 1983

Elon Christians to host Carolinas Tournament

In 1972, the only Carolinas Conference basketball tournament ever held in Elon's Alumni Gym drew the largest crowds in the tourney's history. Next Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, March 1-4, the tournament will return to Elon after an 11-year absence. And the host Christians must win the tournament if they are to advance to the district playoffs.

The first three nights' games start at 7 and 9 p.m., while the championship will be held at 8 p.m. on March

Admission for each night's game will be \$3 for students and \$4 for adults. Elon's employees and students will receive a \$1 discount if they buy their tickets in the Campus Shop or the athletic office in Alumni Gym before 5 p.m. on the day of the game. This discount applies to all games, not just Elon's. Pairings for the opening round of the tournament will be announced at a press conference tomorrow.

Bill Hunter, an Elon graduate who has covered many Elon games in his 30 years as sports editor of the Burlington Daily Times-News, remembered the 1972 extravaganza fondly in his column "Highlightin' Sports" last week. Hunter's fellow Elon sports Hall of Famer Tommy Cole led the Christians to the championship that year. But Hunter remembered the tournament as more than just a great moment for "Fightin' Christian basketball; the entire tourney was a "first-class operation" he said. He said there were "pounds and pounds" of rolled shrimp, as well as rolled ham and roast beef. Hospitality, he said, "knew no bounds."

Assistant Basketball Coach Danny Morrison, who has been involved in preparation for the tournament, said that while this year's tournament will not be as extravagant as the one in 1972, many people and organizations are giving a concerted effort to make this tournament a success.

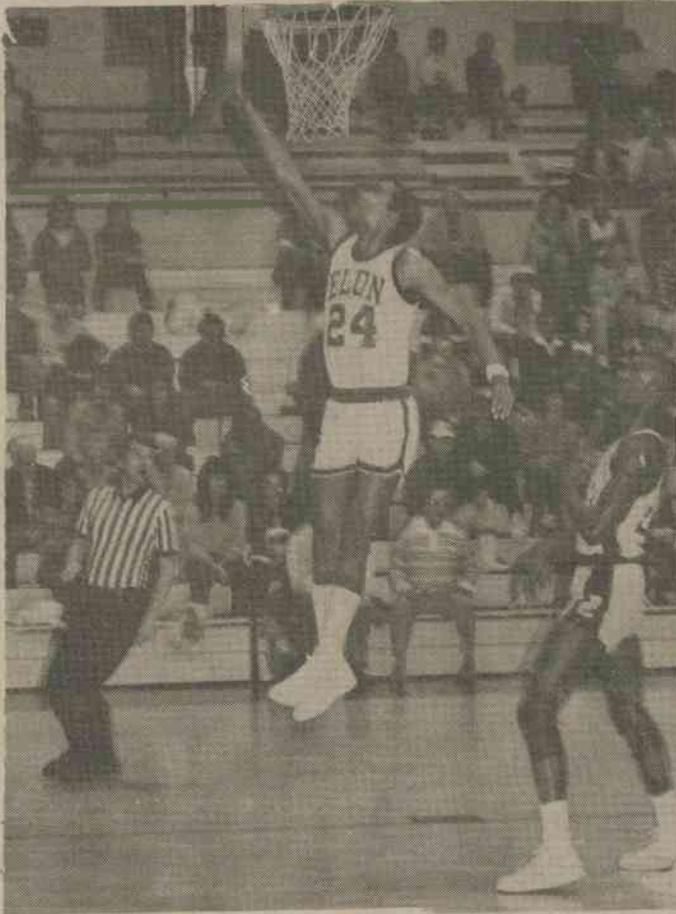
Tournament sponsors Coca-Cola, Beta Systems, West Western Motel, Pilot Life Insurance, Hunan's Chinese Restaurant and Mark Four Beverages have all helped with the financial burden of holding the tournament here, Morrison said, and they have helped "add a touch of class" to the event.

Morrison said that Best Western will serve as a sort of off-campus headquarters for the tournament, while Pilot Life will fund Hospitality Rooms at the motel and Huey Lounge, the Fightin' Christian Room in Alumni Gym.

Three appointees, Vic Vickers, Jeff Stewart, and Tripp Owen, will serve on the Library Committee. Their duties involve discussing administrative matters pertaining to the library.

The Student Government Association (SGA) will allocate \$700 to the Elon College Lacrosse Club. The money will be used to purchase equipment, which is returned to the SGA at the end of the season. This will also pay for the cost of officials during home games.

A final bill confirmed the Teacher Education Committee. Timothy Tally was appointed, and his duties are to plan, develop, and administer a program for the education of teachers.



RAYMOND TYSON, a transfer from Surry Community College, has been one of six newcomers to help the Fightin' Christian basketball program through an injury-riddled season. Elon will host next week's Carolinas Conference Tournament. Photo by Ron Kruppa.

During the senate meeting held on Feb. 17, six bills were passed, and members discussed a fall break survey.

The first bill confirmed the Curriculum Committee. Bob Symanski was appointed to serve on the committee. His duties will include studying and making recommendations to the faculty concerning major fields of study.

Bert Wieland will serve on the Committee on Athletics. He will act for the faculty in the supervision of intercollegiate athletics.

Another bill confirmed the Student Union Board treasurer. Robert Morabito was appointed to the position.

Working as hard as anybody to prepare for the tournament are head basketball coach Bill Morningstar and his charges. Plagued by injuries most of the season, the Christians have struggled to a 4-9 mark in the conference and an 11-13 overall record. But now the Christians are healthy again, and while they are a long shot to repeat the 1972 performance, Morningstar and his staff think Elon can win the tournament if the team can get three days of consistently strong basketball.

The champion of the tournament, the conference team with the highest rating in the Klaus Kount rankings, and the highest ranking area independent team will get bids to the district tournament. Elon must win the tournament to advance to the districts, and Morningstar said that that is possible, noting that the sixth-seeded teams have won the tournament the last two years.

"We think we have played everybody pretty close," Morningstar said. "And if we get it all rolling, we could win it all." He said that he and his team have become familiar with the other conference teams during the regular season, and that will help the Christians in tournament play.

He said he thinks Elon's fans are the best in the conference and his team responds when they have the fans' support. Morrison said that Alamance County residents and Elon's students "have shown a lot of interest in Elon College, the Carolinas Conference, and the tournament."

Committees formed, fall break discussed



Tubman portrayed

Sandra Dunson Franks portrayed Harriet Tubman in Tuesday's performance. See page 6 for story. Photo by Ron Kruppa.

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