

Sports

Elon stops Bears for Homecoming

By Jeff Plummer
Staff Writer

A Homecoming crowd of more than 6,000 saw the Fightin' Christians come from behind last Saturday with two fourth-quarter touchdowns to defeat upset-minded Lenoir-Rhyne, 33-27.

Elon takes its 3-0 slate and NAIA national No. 2 ranking on the road this weekend to face Ferrum College in Ferrum, Va. It will be the first meeting ever between the two colleges. Ferrum until recently was a junior college. Both the Christians' and Bears' defenses took a holiday as the offenses piled up more than 800 yards each. But Elon's defense came up with the big plays when they were needed most.

The Christians took a 27-24 lead with 9:29 remaining when quarterback Mike Brodowicz fired 31 yards to end Stanley Hairston. That proved to be the winning score.

On the next possession, the Bears charged to the Christian 29. On a fourth and one, cornerback Al Hendricks stopped Bear runningback Rex Tonkins cold. From there the Christians used a ball-control offense behind QBs Brodowicz and Garrett Robinson to drive for the clincher.

Jonas Davis, who had 162 yards on 27 carries for three touchdowns, churned up the field along with fullback Mike O'Lari, who enjoyed a good game with 41 yards on eight carries. But it was Robinson's 26-yard pick-up that put the extra spark in the drive. Davis capped it with an 11-yard jaunt that put the score at 33-24 with only 2:28 remaining.

The Bears managed to tack on three more for the 33-27 final. This time it was Grady Williams who came up with the big play when he sacked QB Brian Bryson at the eight, forcing the three-pointer. It was Williams' second sack of the drive.

Overall, the Bears outgained the Christians, 451 yards to 410 yards. Bear QB Bryson threw for 225 yards, hitting 22 of 30 with one interception.

That one interception led to Elon's first score on their opening possession. Hendricks picked it off at the L-R 34. Two plays later Davis scampered around the left end for 33 yards and the TD. Paul Mullen added the extra point for the 7-0 lead.

Two possessions later, Brodowicz guided the Christians 80 yards to go up 13-7. A 10-yard pass to Chuck Ward finished the drive. From here it looked like it



DEEP THREAT: Elon's Al Hendricks (38) and Jake Welborn (46) close in on L-R's Terence Steward (1), who caught 10 passes on the day.

would be a breeze on the crisp, clear autumn afternoon.

Lenoir-Rhyne, starting from their own 18, ripped the Elon defense for big gains. Using three running backs and All-American end Terence Steward, Bryson guided them the distance to cut it to 13-7. Steward had a 10-catch

day for 121 yards.

From then until shortly after the half Elon would have its problems.

A muffed hand-off at the Bears' 21 ended one drive. On the next possession, a partially blocked punt traveled only 19 yards and gave L-R the ball at midfield.

Behind their surprisingly tough ground attack, the Bears took the lead with only 2:13 left in the half.

With Brodowicz passing to Ward and Hairston, the Christians seemed to be headed for the goal line. Elon got as far as the 30 before an interception sent them to the intermission trailing by one.

On their first possession after the half, Elon took back the lead, 19-14. This time Davis and O'Lari moved the ball on the ground for big gains.

Lenoir-Rhyne came right back with a drive starting at their own 12. The drive was stopped at the 34, but a roughing the kicker penalty kept things alive. The Bears ate up more than seven minutes en route to the 44-yard field goal that brought the score to 19-17.

Christians ranked no. 1

Elon is rated number one in this week's NAIA Football poll following the 33-29 loss by former number 1 Central State (Okla.), which bowed last Saturday to Angelo State.

This represents Elon's first top ranking since the 1982 season. The Christians were NAIA National Champions in 1981 and 1982.

Cuda

Transfer QB ready, despite delay

By Steve Johnston
Staff Writer

"I'm just here to help," says Perry Cuda, a much-publicized transfer quarterback from the University of South Carolina who originally played for legendary coach Paul "Bear" Bryant at Alabama.

With that kind of background, Cuda was seen by some Elon fans as the possible starting QB on this year's team. But he missed spring practice and upon arriving here this fall became ensnared in an eligibility controversy that was only last week resolved in his favor.

As a result, Cuda's playing time so far has been minimal. He played in one series of downs against Carson-Newman, handing the ball off three times in the final quarter. Last Saturday against Lenoir-Rhyne, Cuda held the ball for two point-after-kicks—both of which failed.

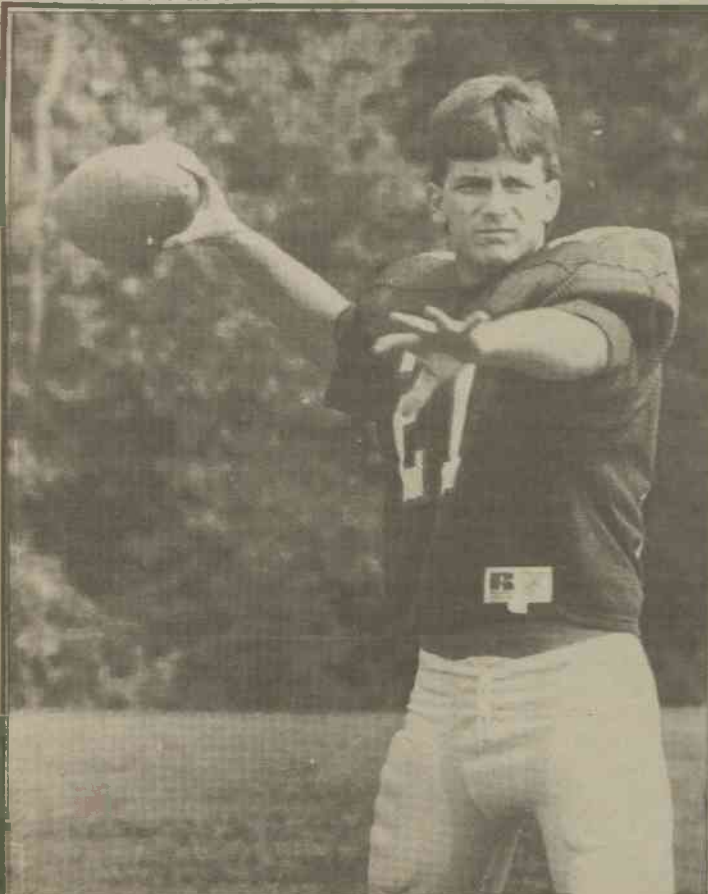
However, head coach Macky Carden insists Cuda will probably be a more important part of the team. "We just have to get him in a game situation where his passing ability will be tested," Carden says. Cuda was declared ineligible on Sept. 20, only one day before Elon's season opener.

Fightin' Christian Athletic Director Dr. Alan White, with the help of Faculty Athletic Chairman Wes Alexander, appealed the ruling and had it overturned.

Cuda's eligibility was questioned because he received a "D" in a three-hour course that he took at South Carolina, which the NAIA executive committee considered non-transferable.

The NAIA eligibility regulations state that a transfer athlete must have passed 24 hours in the past two semesters; the rules say

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Perry Cuda