

Sports

Christians beat Newberry to keep playoff hopes alive



Photo by Mike Simonelli

RACE THE BALL: Elon's Glenn Gess (4) dribbles the ball down field as a High Point player (dark jersey) defends, and Elon's Joe Nepay follows the action

Christians set record

The most successful soccer season in Elon history ended here last Thursday as High Point College upset the Fightin' Christians 1-0 in the semifinals of the District 26 tournament.

Elon finished with a 13-3-1 record and set the record for the most wins ever in the district with 10. But the Christians lost the two games that counted most, both by 1-0 scores—to Catawba in the Carolinas Conference championship game on Oct. 26 and to High Point in the district tourney.

Elon had drawn a bye in the first round of the district as the No. 2 seed, but couldn't get by the Panthers, who had earlier tied the Christians 0-0.

Although disappointed, Coach Steve Ballard's squad can still look back with pride on a season in which opponents scored only 14 goals in 17 games (six Elon foes were shut out). Four Elon players—Joe Nepay, Andy Schaefer, Glenn Gess and Mike Wessels—made the all-conference squad. Freshmen Gess, Wessels, Jimmy Eppard and Rudy Jean-Baptiste should form the nucleus of another fine team next year.

"In the past three seasons, we've won 12, 11 and 13 games, so our program is in good shape if we continue to recruit well, said Ballard.

Elon College, ranked 12th last week by the NAIA, remained alive in the chase for a playoff spot with a 42-31 win at Newberry Saturday night. The Fightin' Christians are now 4-2 in the SAC-8 and 6-2 overall.

The Christians had their biggest offensive night in a long time against the Indians. Quarterback Garrett Robinson rushed for 166 yards and passed for 159 more, getting 325 yards total offense on the night. Tailback Jonas Davis accounted for 173 more as Elon ended the evening with 572 yards of total offense.

Elon now needs to win its final two games to stay high enough in the rankings to receive a bid to the playoffs. Elon will host non-conference Wofford on Saturday at 2 p.m. in Burlington Memorial Stadium.

Robinson scored on runs of 45 and 39 yards and passed 64 to Richie Linens for another score. Davis tallied on runs of four and three yards. George Dixon added Elon's final score on an eight-yard run. Freshman Paul Mullen tacked on six extra points.

The Indians led 24-21 at halftime but Elon scored 21 unanswered points to put the



Garrett Robinson

game away in the second half before the hosts scored the game's final TD.

The offensive line of Jay Perdue, Al Morrison, Mike Henley, Tony DiPietro and Ricky Sigmon were credited with a fine game. Also opening holes were Davis and fullback Mike O'Lari.

The defense was led by safety Mike Ferrell, who totaled 22 tackles, 12 of which were solo. He also had one of five interceptions of Indians' QB Jimmy Skip-



Mike Ferrell

per. Nose guard Grady Williams and linebacker Jack Arnold were also double figures in tackles. Albert Hendricks, Tim Bines, Mitch Ryan and Tim Farmer had the other interceptions.

Elon coach Mackey Carden said he was pleased with the win. "It was one of the most emotional games I've been involved with in some time at Elon," Carden said. "I was even more pleased tonight because Newberry was really, too. It was a great game."

Grapplers win in season opener

The Fightin' Christians' wrestling team began its third season under head coach Jim Richardson with a victory over Pfeiffer College here last Friday.

The Christians were third in the NAIA District 26 a year ago, and Richardson expects the team to be greatly improved in 1985-86. Richardson has Bobby Brown returning in the 142-pound class, as well as a cast of freshmen who should challenge some of the veterans for the starting spots.

"The schedule appears to be one of the toughest in the school's history," Richardson said. "As a team, we do not expect to go undefeated, but we do expect to be improved throughout the season. We hope to qualify five wrestlers for the NAIA Nationals."

Brown was 26-6-1 a year ago as a freshman and was ranked in the top 10 at the nationals. He

was champion of the Southern Regional Tournament, Washington and Lee Invitational Tournament, and District 26 last year. Richardson said he feels that Brown is definitely an All-America candidate.

At 118 pounds, freshman Dan Frabbri from Landisville, N.J., has earned the number one spot and he will be backed up by

junior David Lawlor of Ashburn, Va.

Backing up Brown in the 142-pound class is freshman Kent Pond of Chester, Va.

In the 150-pound weight class, two freshmen have earned the one and two spots. Sitting number one is Jon Frederick of Woodburn Heights, N.J., while number two is Silver Spring, Md., native Steve Leach.

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