

Sports

Clark, Taylor lead Elon in opener, 31-16 over Ferrum

By Jeff Marcin
Sports Editor

Elon opened the 1986 football season with an impressive victory over Ferrum College, 31-16. Senior quarterback Craig Taylor threw for two touchdowns and rushed for another, and tailback Dwayne Clark returned a kickoff for a touchdown and added a 144 yard rushing performance to lead the Christians.

On Saturday, the Christians take on the Guilford College Quakers, who are 1-1, coming off an impressive win over Lenior-Rhyne.

Game time is at 7 p.m. in Burlington Memorial Stadium.

In defeating Ferrum, Elon established an NAIA record by scoring in its 175th consecutive game.

"I was pleased with some parts of the game, and distressed with others," head coach Macky Carden said following the game. "Our run defense was outstanding, and our offense was able to do a variety of things."

Both of Taylor's touchdown passes went to tight end Chuck Ward. The first a 29-yard scoring strike, and the second on a key fourth and two situation at the Ferrum two. Ward's two receptions came in the second quarter and gave Elon the lead at the half, 14-0.

Elon opened the second half by receiving, and did it with a bang. Clark caught the ball on his own 25 and dashed, darted and jukeed his way down the field, before diving into the end zone.

Taylor added a 65-yard run for a score, and Paul Mullen added a field goal to account for all the Christians' scoring.

Carden had a great deal of praise for Clark and his efforts for the evening.

"It was the most exceptional game I have seen from a tailback since a guy named Bobby Hedrick played here," he said, "and he also recovered an important fumble, that not too many people noticed."

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Clark was named both Conference and District Player of the Week for his efforts against Ferrum.

Outside linebacker Ronnie Purcell and inside linebacker Tim Farmer led the defense by being in on 15 hits apiece. Russell Evans and Steve Pickett each were in on 14. Pickett added a fumble recovery, and Purcell recorded two quarterback sacks.

However, the Elon defense suffered a crushing blow when sophomore defensive back Jeff Slade went down with a shoulder separation. Carden said that Slade could be out from two to three weeks.

Last season Elon beat the Guilford Quakers 30-10, as the offense rolled up more than 450 yards in total offense.

Guilford will bring to the game an offense that is quarterbacked by Jeff Schreiber. Carden says has the Quakers' offense has a good deal of variety, and a defense that also includes a good deal of variety.

"Guilford is a solid team," Carden said. "They really don't have a 'star' on offense and defense, and they are not a very big team."

He added that they are well coached by Charles Forbes and "will be a good test for our defense."

NOTES: Freshman Watt Baker punted five time for a 33.6 yard average, but pinned the Panthers deep in their own territory twice... Taylor was 8-for-18 passing for 95 yards... The Christians were penalized 10 times for 106 yards... Attendance for the home opener was 5,100.



RUNNING TO DAYLIGHT: Elon tailback Dwayne Clark breaks a tackle en route to a 144-yard rushing performance against Ferrum's Panthers last Saturday.
Photo by Cord Finley

This week's game

Guilford College Quakers at Elon



Game time: 7 p.m.
Place: Burlington Memorial Stadium
Radio: WSOE-FM, Elon College
WWMO-FM, Reidsville
Records: Elon 1-0, Guilford 1-1
Last week: Guilford 23, Lenoir-Rhyne 7
Elon 31, Ferrum 16
1985 records: Elon 7-3, Guilford 5-5
Coaches: Macky Carden, Elon
Charles Forbes, Guilford
Last year: Elon 30, Guilford 10
Quakers' affiliation: NAIA
independent



Craig Taylor



Jeff Schreiber

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