

# Sports

## Elon wins District tourney, advances to regionals

By Jeff Marcin  
Sports Editor

Elon's Fightin' Christians defeated all three teams it faced en route to their third consecutive District 26 baseball tournament championship in Burlington last week.

The Christians, who have won 18 of their last 19 games, now advance to the Area 7 Regional tournament at Bluefield State College in Bluefield, W. Va.

Elon will play the first game of the tournament beginning at 2 p.m. against the University of South Carolina-Aiken. The winner of that game will face the winner of the Georgetown (Ky.) vs. West Liberty (W.Va.) battle in the winners' bracket Friday.

The double-elimination tournament concludes Saturday, with the winner advancing to the NAIA World Series at Lewis and Clark College in Lewiston, Idaho.

In the championship game last Saturday, Elon got three runs in the third and fourth innings and hung on to defeat Atlantic Christian 8-5.



Rick Jones

Although he was touched for 14 hits by the Bulldogs, Micky Dean picked up the win for the Christians, with relief help from Duane Hyatt, who came on in the ninth to retire all three batters he faced.

The Christians had previously rallied from seven runs behind to defeat ACC 12-11 in the first round last Thursday. Then Elon knocked off Wingate 8-2 on Friday to make the finals.

"I'm so proud of these guys," said a jubilant coach Rick Jones following the win. "These guys have a lot of character, and they don't quit."

Prior to the final game, Jones was honored as the District 26 Coach of the Year.

After the Bulldogs took a 1-0 lead in the top of the third on Saturday, Elon rallied in the bottom of the inning.

Shortstop Jimmy Duncan, who was 3-for-3 on the day, singled. Randy Warren followed with another single, and Bill Nemenz doubled, scoring Duncan and Warren. Right fielder Jimmy Duncan then connected on a ground-rule double scoring Nemenz, and Elon had taken a 3-1 lead.

First baseman John Barrick lead off the fourth with a solo home run, his second of the tournament and seventh on the season. With two outs in that inning, Duncan walked and Warren ripped a two-run homer, increasing the Christians' lead to 6-1.

In the sixth, Elon third baseman David Terry belted a solo homer.

ACC, which finished 36-17 for the season, didn't quit, pecking away for one run in the sixth, two in the seventh and one in the eighth. But Dean pitched his way out of a bases-loaded, one-out jam in the eighth, and Elon added an insurance run in the bottom of the inning to sew up the championship.

### Tournament game 2

In the semifinals, Elon coasted to an 8-2 win over fourth-seeded Wingate. Southpaw C.W. Willis went the distance, allowing six hits and striking out nine on the way to his fourth win of the season.

The Christians jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the first inning. They increased that lead to 4-0 in the fourth. Warren walked, then scored on Tom Alessi's double. Caldwell then lined a single to score Alessi.

After Wingate rallied for two runs in the fifth, Elon added their own scoring burst, with the aid of the Wingate pitchers.

Barrick jacked a solo homer over the right field scoreboard onto the recreation center roof in the sixth.

In the seventh, Duncan led off with a walk. Warren walked, and both runners advanced on a wild pitch. Duncan then scored on a sacrifice fly by Nemenz, and Warren scored on a wild pitch. Caldwell then walked as did Tank



**BASEBALL AWARD WINNERS:** From left to right, pitcher Chris Cole, outfielder Tom Alessi, shortstop Jimmy Duncan and second baseman Bill Nemenz were recipients of the baseball awards at the annual sports banquet last week. Cole received the Chester Huey Award; Alessi, the Graham "Doc" Mathis Award; Duncan, the W. B. "Bill" Terrell Award; and Nemenz, the C. V. "Lefty" Briggs Award.

Photo By Sam Walker

Hardin. Barrick then singled to score Caldwell.

Willis then finished off his complete game by retiring the side in the ninth, striking out the final two batters.

### Tournament game 1

In the opening game of the tournament, the Christians rallied for five runs in the sixth inning and held on to defeat ACC in a wild one, 12-11.

The Bulldogs jumped out to an early 3-1 lead against Elon pitching ace Chris Cole in the first inning. They increased their lead to 10-5 with a six-run fourth.

Elon then put on the big rally in the home half of the sixth.

Catcher Jerry Russell opened the inning with a double. Terry walked, and with one out, Warren smacked a triple to the wall in right center, scoring Russell and Terry. Alessi then tripled to score Warren. Nemenz followed with a home run, and the Christians had taken the lead 11-10.

Elon added an insurance run in the eighth and held on for the victory.

## Alessi, Caldwell named all-district

Outfielders Tom Alessi and Jimmy Caldwell were named to the 15-member NAIA All-District 26 team announced this weekend.

Alessi led the team in batting average (.427) and stolen bases (27) and tied the school's season hit record with a team-leading 64.

Caldwell led the team with 16 home runs and 51 RBIs and is one homer away from the season record of 17.



Tom Alessi



Jimmy Caldwell