

## SPORTS

## Central Florida Tops Elon

By Jeff Marcini  
Sports Writer

Elon opened the 1987 football season in the "Sunshine State" of Florida, but found it to be anything but sunny, as the Christians fell to the University of Central Florida, 34-10, in Orlando's Florida Citrus Bowl.

The Golden Knights struck early and never looked back as the NCAA Division II school dealt the visitors their first opening season loss under coach Macky Carden.

Elon received the opening kickoff but could get nowhere and were forced to punt. It took quarterback Darin Slack three plays to find receiver, Bernard Ford, for a 22-yard touchdown pass, to give the Knights the 7-0 lead.

After another Elon punt, the Knights needed only five plays to put points on the board as runningback Robert Ector scored on a two-yard run to bring the score to 14-0. The knights added another touchdown in the first period as Slack hit wide receiver Arnell Spencer for a 27-yard scoring play to increase their lead to 21-0.

The Christians then began an 80-yard drive and ended it 11 plays later when back-up tailback George Dixon scampered for a touchdown from 36-yards out. Paul Mullen kicked the extra point and the Christians were on the scoreboard.

Defensive back Jeff Slade then picked off a Slack pass and returned it 26-yards to the Central Florida 43. Elon drove to the Central Florida 27, but the drive stalled and Mullen booted a 44-yard field goal to bring the Christians

within striking distance at 21-10.

Before intermission, Slack hit Spencer again, this time from 29-yards out and the Knights went to the dressing room with a 27-10 lead.

After a scoreless third period, the Knights began the fourth quarter with a 12-play drive which ended on a nine-yard scoring run by fullback Gilbert Barnes.

The Central Florida touchdown was the final score for the game went on to win 34-10.

This week, the Christians will travel to Jefferson City, Tenn. to take on SAC-8 rival Carson-Newman. The Eagles are coming off an impressive 42-21 win over Fairmont State, in which Kenneth Tyson rushed for 263-yards on nine carries, in only two quarters of action.

Last year, Elon defeated Carson-Newman 15-12, in Burlington.

## NFL Players Strike

By Wes Durham  
Sports Writer

Although the National Football League is experiencing its second players' strike in this decade, there are some former Fightin' Christians who went through the pre-season and short regular season.

There are no active players, but some might eventually play key roles for some NFL teams. John Mickens only accumulated 23 tackles in two seasons as a linebacker. But the Coral Gables, Florida, native did sign a free agent deal with the Washington Redskins.

He was joined at the Skins training camp by fellow Elon teammate Tony Settles. Settles like Mickens signed a free agent contract with Washington.

Mickens suffered a knee injury four days before the first pre-season game against Pittsburgh, and has been listed on injured reserve since then. His injury opened the door for Settles, who had been released on the first cut, to rejoin the team.

An All-SAC 8, District 26, and Honorable Mention All-American at Elon, Settles stayed with the team through two pre-season

games before being released.

Mickens continues to be listed on the Washington injured reserve list. At 6-feet, 225-pounds, Mickens has all the physical tools to play in the NFL, and now just needs the experience.

If he'll play this year or not is still up in the air. Redskin coaches have not been able to evaluate Mickens due to the injury. But those willing to comment said they feel he will be a part of the team after he's healthy again.

Mickens may spend the season listed on injured reserve, and learn the Redskins system. The same process that a "red-shirt" player does on the college level.

Two other players from past seasons at Elon also tried to return for the '87 NFL season. Joey Hackett played for the Denver Broncos last year after spending two prior seasons in the old-USFL.

Hackett caught 3 passes for 48-yards from his tight end spot. He also started three games, including the AFC title game at Cleveland, which the Broncos won to send them to Super Bowl XXI.

After appearing in all four pre-season games, Hackett was released on the last cut before the



George Dixon

Broncos first game against Seattle. If the owners elect to try and play during the strike, it's almost a sure bet that Hackett will be picked up to play for Denver or another team.

That opportunity also sets up the possibility of Tony Settles returning to the Redskins or another team in the league. Another former Elon player, Darren Goode, may be extended an invitation to play.

Goode played at Elon in '84 after transferring from Virginia. He ran for almost 300-yards in 49 carries. He was signed as a free agent by the Super Bowl Champ New York Giants. But Goode was released after the Giants first cut.

## Men's Soccer Tied

Doug Gorman  
Staff Writer

According to Elon Coach Steve Ballard, the team missed several good scoring chances.

On Friday night, the team traveled to Wilson, and battled Atlantic Christian to a tie.

After last week's action, the Fightin' Christian soccer team is still unbeaten with a record 3-0-2.

The Fightin' Christian soccer team began conference play last week on the road against Pfeiffer College and Atlantic Christian College.

Elon, ranked 19th in the country going into last week played to 2-2 ties in both games.

The Christians were forced to come from behind in the game against Pfeiffer. Elon, held scoreless for most of the game, scored its first goal at the 35 minute mark of the second half after Mike Wessels took a pass from Tom Balkus and fired the ball through the net.

Elon tied the game six minutes later on Eric Brown's unassisted goal sending the game into overtime.

Neither team was able to score in the two ten minute overtime periods.



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