

SPORTS



Airborne: Elon's Mike Wessels goes high against an opponent of West Virginia Wesleyan as Elon members (4) Scott Smith and (7) Hunter Fitts look on.

Photo by Denese DeJerk

Christians make short work of Quakers

By Wes Durham
Sports Writer

Elon scored in the first three minutes Saturday against Guilford and never looked back as they whipped the Quakers 56-13 in Greensboro. It was a performance by the Fightin' Christians that allowed everyone wearing a white jersey to have a hand in the win.

Craig Taylor passed to Chuck Ward on the game's seventh play to give Elon an early 7-0 lead. The 13-yard pass was the only scoring strike for Taylor, but the senior signal-caller finished with a 13 of 15 passing performance for a career-high 245-yards. It was just that kind of day for Elon.

But the Fightin' Christians, who are 5-4 in 1987 with one game left added three touchdowns before the end of the half. After Craig Taylor scrambled for an 18-yard gain and a Guilford penalty, fullback Mike Ollari galloped 28-yards for the score to make it 21-6 Elon.

Jeff Slade's fifth interception of the year set up Dwayne Clark's 17th touchdown of the season coming five plays later. Laconial Esters picked off another Quaker

pass to give Tailback Gerge Dixon a chance to score his second touchdown of the day on a 1-yard plunge just before the half. A game that had been close 9-minute ago was now out of hand as Elon led 35-6.

In the second half, the Fightin' Christians scored in the first 35-seconds they had the ball as Dixon scored his third touchdown on a 14-yard run. He carried the ball 5 times for 44-yards on the afternoon. Clark's numbers were similar as he had 9 carries for 55-yards.



But both Dixon and Clark gave way in the second half to some players who had been waiting all season for a game like this. Reserve quarterback John Wadsworth came in during the third quarter and directed Elon to a couple of scores.

Wadsworth hit Melvin Palmer on a 19-yard pass to cap a 45-yard drive, then came back to find tight end Jeff Davis open on a 15-yard pass play to give Elon a 56-6 lead. The Wadsworth-Davis score was aided by a 41-yard run from freshmen Brent Norfleet. He carried the ball 7 times for 61-yards, and was the Christians leading ground gainer on the day.

GAME NOTES: Against Guilford, Elon scored in their 193rd straight game. The streak dates back to the Wofford game of the 1972 season when Elon lost 17-0.

In the last two games, the Elon offense has scored five touchdowns in less than 1-minute.

Men's soccer defeated

By Doug Gorman
Sports writer

All year long the Elon men's soccer team played like they were hungry for a national championship.

Last Sunday those dreams were shattered when they lost to West Virginia Wesleyan 1-0 in the area VIII championships.

Everything seem right for Elon to win the ball game. The team was riding a very impressive 11 game winning streak and the game was being played on Elon's home field in front of the largest crowd of the year.

Unfortunately Elon had trouble getting on track and lost the game in overtime.

The Bobcats controlled the game by outshooting the Christians 19-7. The Elon defense bent but did not break during regulation play. As he has done so many times, Elon's senior goalie Kip Racky keep the game close with spectacular diving saves.

At the end of regulation play the score was tied and the teams

played two ten minute overtime periods.

Midway through the first overtime period the Bobcats capitalized on an opportunity. Mike Cuthill raced down field and passed the ball to Darren Darwent. Darwent caught Elon's Racky off position and fired the ball into the net.

The Christians were unable to even the score and time ran out in the game and on the Christian season.

Elon ranked 15th by the NAIA going into the game finishing the season with a record of 15-3-1.

West Virginia Wesleyan advanced to the championship tournament in Texas.

This is the fourth year in a row the team from Buckhannon, West Virginia has made the trip.

For Elon soccer enthusiasts the future looks very bright. Coach Steve Ballard will lose only two players from this year's squad. Senior goalie Kip Racky and fullback John Pullen ended their playing careers on Sunday.



by Jeff Marcini
Sports writer

The 1987 season is history for both the men's and women's teams and although it was one for the books, the soccer program is still living in the shadow of the other fall sport -- football.

The successful campaign for both squads went virtually unnoticed by the college sports fans, and for that missed it, you missed some exciting soccer.

Coach Steve Ballard, in his ninth year at Elon, guided both teams to the NAIA playoffs this past season.

The Elon mens team finished the year with a 15-3-2 record, one of the best in Ballard's nine seasons. Thier season ended on Sunday when they lost a heartbreaking 1-0 match to West Virginia Wesleyan in the finals of the NAIA Area 8 playoffs.

The women's team also advanced to the NAIA playoffs in 1987 for the second time in as many years of existances. Although their 10-9 record may not look that impressive in most books, the program is still in its youth stages. Their schedule was also key. They play several top NAIA Division 1 teams each year, including national champion North Carolina, so the competition is top caliber. This year's team faced adversity, losing key players to injuries late in the year. Although the program, the team is youthful also. There are no seniors on the team and only three juniors. Add to that nine sophomores and a freshman and you have a young team.

The Lady Fighting Christians will return all of its starters next year, led by tri-captains Chris Pedalino, Kris Porter, and Chris Skinner, so look for continued success next season.

Yes, 1987 was a memorable year for Elon's soccer program and with the teams returning most of their top players, next year could even be better. But it is in that these teams got the recognition they deserve.