

Christians improve record

By Doug Gorman
Sports Writer

Last week the Fightin' Christians' basketball team found out exactly what it was made of.

On Wednesday, Coach Bob Burton's squad traveled up the road to play Carolina Conference rival, High Point College. For Elon, the game offered a chance at gaining a little revenge.

Last season, the two teams played three times. Each game was a war that went right down to the wire, and each time the Panthers came away with the hard-fought victory. This included the final game of the season for Elon, a tough loss in the finals of the Conference tournament.

In Wednesday's game, the Christians sent a message to the High Point team that this was a brand new season.

By the time the buzzer had sounded, the Christians had made its point loud and clear. The 91-76 victory was a sign that indeed Elon was a team to be reckoned with.

On Saturday, the Christians returned home to play the Wingate Bulldogs in a Conference battle. Even before the game started, the large crowd that had gathered inside Alumni Gym was shown that this was not going to be an ordinary basketball game. In an unusual occurrence, Elon was assessed a technical foul before action even got started.

The foul was called on the Christians because no

scorekeeper or lineups were at the scorers table by the start of the ball game.

Even though the Bulldogs failed to convert on the foul shots, the weird call sort of set the action for the entire ball game.

It was not until Hary Burrus hit a jumper with 12:59 of the first half that Elon even managed to score its first points from the floor.

Late in the half, Elon seemed to gain some momentum. With time running out, Burrus fed a pass to Chris Calton. Calton hit the shot and was fouled.

After completing the three-point, play time expired and Elon had cut the half-time lead to 23-18.

Little changed in the second half. A stunned crowd watched the possibility of a major upset in the making. It was not until almost 6 minutes to go in the ball game that Harry Burrus took over.

Scoring 7 points down the stretch, Burrus helped the Christians gain the lead for the first time.

Clutch baskets by Eric Blair, who finished the night with 12 points, and Brian Branson, who lead Elon scorers for the second straight contest with 16 points, helped Elon avoid the major upset.

The 53-50 victory improves Elon's record to 10-2 overall, and 6-1 in the Conference.



(40) Elon's Brian Branson shoots over Wingate opponent. The Christians defeated the Bulldogs last Saturday night in a 53-50 come from behind win.

Photo by Denese Dejerf

Baseball team ranks 5th in national pre-season poll

By Norman Perduk
Sports writer

In the 1988 pre-season baseball poll conducted by Walt McAlexander of Lubbock Christian, TX., Elon College is ranked fifth nationally with a total of 334 points, behind a strong showing by Lewis & Clark State, Id. which recieved 31 of a possible 32 first place votes and 638 pts. to finish atop th poll. Grand Canyon, Az., which picked up the other number one vote, placed second with Point Park, Pa. and Southern Arkansas rounding out the top five.

Atlantic Christian was the only other SAC-8 team to make it into the Top Twenty and should provide Elon with the competition for

the top spot in the conference this year. Elon finished last season with a 37-13 record and earned a birth into the NAIA World Series before bowing out in the double-elimination tournament with losses to Emporia St., Ka. and Lewis & Clark St., this year's pre-season No. 1 team.

Not returning to play at Elon this year is the powerful 1-2 punch of Jimmy Caldwell and Randy Warren who combined for 31 of Elon's 66 homers and over 100 R.B.I's last season. However, Tom Alessi and Bill Nemenz should take up the slack and provide some power for the Fighting Christians. Alessi, a senior from Dunkirk, N.Y. batted .406 in 1987 with 5 H.R's and 42 R.B.I's, while Nemenz a junior from Erie,

Pa. added 4 homers and 35 ribbies averaging .343 from the plate. These two men also sparked the running game by stealing 48 bases, half of last season's entire output.

Pitching should also not be a problem for the Christians with the return of Chris Cole, a junior from South Boston, Va. who compiled an 11-2 record and 3.97 E.R.A in '87. He will be backed in the starting rotation by Doug Zachary and Scott Lesmes.

So again it looks like Elon and Atlantic Christian will be vying to capture top honors in both the conference and district in 1988 and try to regain the form that made them successful just one short year ago.

Sports Beat

Clark denied first class

By Wes Durham
Sports Writer

Early last fall I was talking with Dwayne Clark about what he wanted to try and accomplish in the '87 football season after being named NAIA All-American in his sophomore year at Elon. Clark simply said he wanted to get better as a player and he wanted the team to do well and contend for the national title.

Clark exceeded his previous standards by rushing for 1,500 yards and scoring 22 touchdowns.

Along the way, he set a school record for most yards in a game with 309 against Mars Hill in the season finale.

But on December 22, when the NAIA released its All-American teams, the best Clark could do was an honorable mention selection. That is crazy.

Nationally, Clark had finished as the 2nd best scorer. But he scored more touchdowns than anyone else. He was the 4th best rusher based on per game average, but was second in total yards gained rushing.

Over the last two seasons, Clark has rushed for 2,025 yards and scored 41 touchdowns. Yet according to NAIA, who selects three running backs per team on the A-A squads, only considers Clark the 8th best running back in the land. You see, he wasn't even the first pick for the

honorable mention team, instead he was the second.

For Clark, he will have to let this pass and keep an eye on continuing to exceed his previous standards. Then just hope that ignorance won't prevail on those who select the All-American teams.

Dwayne Clark, a 5-9 rising senior from Laurinburg, NC, Elon's second all-time scorer and rusher, has to now prove the critics wrong in his senior season next fall.

If Clark and the Fightin' Christians have another outstanding year, then it will be the All-American committee who will wish they had seen the light a year earlier, and selected him where he belongs.

Plans, cont. from pg. 1

visions apartment type housing for upperclassmen. Each unit will contain kitchen facilities so a student may have the option of eating in if desired.

Minor renovations existing and planned are also included in the use of the funds. Renovations such as the new computer center on second floor Mooney and additional office space are included in the college's current expansion.

An addition to come is the installation of air conditioning on second and third floor Alamance. Not ready to be built, but in the planning stages, is a new student center.

You're
smart enough
to calculate
the size of a
Hydrogen
atom.

And you're
still smoking?