

Sports

Students place first in new collegiathon

by Marc Scagnelli
Special to The Pendulum

Under the supervision of Dr. Michael Calhoun, students from Elon College won the first-place trophy in overall competition in the 1987-88 First-Carolinas Collegiathon on April 12.

The Collegiathon is a competition designed to test both athletic and intellectual skills of college undergraduates. Against strong competition, Elon was able to take first place, scoring 760 out of 800 points. Mars Hill took second place and Catawba took third over Newberry, Presbyterian, and Woford.

The Collegiathon allows students who do not usually compete to have a chance to represent their school. It is intended to give students a well-rounded approach to achievement, and stresses skills that students can use throughout their lives.

The Collegiathon was originally designed to be a ten-event competition similar to the olympic decathlon. However, unlike the decathlon, it is team oriented.

In this first year of competition there were only 8 events: tennis, golf, chess, swimming, running, bridge, a college bowl, and grade point averages.

The Collegiathon teams consist of 8 members, 4 men and 4

women. Participants cannot be freshmen and can never have been on a college athletic roster. They must have a grade point average of at least 3.0.

The Elon team members this year were Jason Dunn, Liz Hannon, David McKeller, Scott Oakes, Laurie Panas, Tricia Slawson, and Jeff Zehner. The competition will be held every 2 years, and the off-years will be used to build teams. The next Collegiathon will add 2 new events for a total of ten.

Calhoun was impressed with Elon's team. "Most of the students didn't think they would do as well as they did," he said.

He pointed out that Elon came in first in five of the events including grade point averages. However, he said the most impressive thing was the friendships that developed among the students from the various schools. "At the awards dinner all the student were exchanging addresses so they could stay in touch," he said.

Calhoun feels that the Collegiathon will grow in the future. Already several other schools have shown interest in joining the competition, which may well become a national event. Calhoun noted that several of Elon's participants this year will be graduating, and he hopes new students will try out for the team next year.



Collegiathon champs: (l-r) Coach Mike Calhoun, Scott Oakes, Laurie Panas, Liz Hannon, Jason Dunn, and David McKeller show off their first place trophy. (Not pictured: Tricia Slawson and Jeff Zehner)

Photo by Denese DeJerf

Christians look for district play

by Doug Gorman
Sports Writer

Going into last week's action, the Elon College baseball team found itself in a must-win situation. When the week was over, the 'Fightin' Christians had posted a record of 4-1.

The Christians started off the week with a doubleheader against Gardner-Webb. The Christians pulled off the sweep against the Bulldogs, helping to keep its district playoff hopes alive.

On Friday night, Elon traveled to Pembroke State for a rare night

game. In this game, 11 runners crossed the plate for the Christians. Pembroke State also managed to light up the scoreboard. However, Elon prevailed 11-9.

It is never easy to play a day game right after a night game. On Saturday, a tired Elon team hosted Mt. Olive. The game went into extra innings before Mt. Olive prevailed by a 9-8 score.

On Sunday, Elon played host to the Wofford Terriers. It was the last home game for seven 'Fightin' Christian seniors. On this day, Elon defeated the South Carolina

school by a score of 9-6. Elon is 26-13 on the year.

Elon is still alive for a spot in the district tournament. However, it needs to win its remaining games. The team plays Wingate and Catawba in the last two games of the season.

If Elon clinches a spot in the tournament, it will have two weeks to rest. Another bright spot for the Christians is the status of pitcher Scott Lesmes. During most of the season, the hurler has been suffering from tendonitis. On Monday, he went the distance against the Bulldogs. If Elon makes the playoffs, he should be ready.

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