

Sports

Gridders open season this weekend



1988 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

September	
3—Winston-Salem State U.	H—7:00
17—Livingston University, AL	H—2:00
24—Carson-Newman (PW)	H—2:00
October	
1—Lenoir-Rhyne College	A—7:00
8—Liberty University	H—2:00
15—Presbyterian College (HC)	H—2:00
22—Catawba College	A—1:30
29—Gardner-Webb College	A—2:00
November	
5—Newberry College (HOF)	H—2:00
12—Wingate College	A—2:00
19—Mars Hill College	A—2:00

Men's soccer kicks off

by Norman Perduk
Sports Editor

The Elon College men's soccer team begins their 1988, sixteen game, fall schedule on September 8, at 3:00, with a home contest against Berry College, GA.

The Fightin' Christians will return ten letterman from 1987, and these players figure to have key roles in this season's outcome. Among the returnees for 1988 is All-District standout Mike Wessels. Wessels, a senior forward from Jacksonville, N.C. led the team in both goals with 7 and assists with 9.

Joining Wessels on offense will be junior half-back Scott Graham from Carmel, IN. The defense will be anchored by two 2nd team All-Conference stars, Kevin Thomas and Glenn Gess. Gess, while sparkling on the defensive end, also

added offensive punch by scoring four goals.

The Elon Soccer program also had a successful recruiting year with two players deciding to come here from overseas. Peter Larsson is a forward from Lipkoping, Sweden and Humieda Humeida is a mid-fielder from Sudan. Rounding out the list of top recruits are two All-State performers, Scott Bernsteil from Brick Township HS, in Brick N.J. and Michael Barnette from Myers Park HS, in Charlotte.

Elon hopes to get off to a quick start in '88', as their first five games are to be played at home. Then, the soccer team hits the road for five straight. With the mixture of experienced players and talented recruits, Elon should again be a strong contender for the District 26 title.

by Norman Perduk
Sports Editor

The Elon College Fightin' Christian football team, led by offensive standout Dwayne Clark, kicks off its fall schedule this Saturday at Burlington Memorial Stadium with a game against Winston-Salem State University.

Clark, a senior runningback from Laurinburg, N.C. will be looking for his third consecutive 1,000 yard season and should help Elon contend for the SAC-8 championship. As a junior, Clark led the NAIA in rushing with 1,550 yards and scored 22 touchdowns. He will be joined in the starting backfield by George Dixon, a senior from Macon, GA. who averaged 6.4 yards per carry in 1987.

Calling the signals for the Christians will be junior John Wadsworth, an option-type quarterback who saw limited action last year behind starter Craig Taylor. Look for Elon's offense to run more sprint-out passes to utilize Wadsworth's mobility. Teaming up with Wadsworth through the air will be senior Jay Simmons, a possession receiver who is returning from an injury which kept him on the sidelines for most of '87'. Complimenting Simmons on the outside will be two

speedsters, Casey Beathard and James Jones. Beathard, Elon's leading receiver last season with 39 receptions is known for his "Big Play" capabilities.

An experienced offensive line led by All-American honorable mention pick Tony Dipietro and All-SAC 8 performer Kevin Campbell should be able to open up holes for Clark and give Wadsworth ample time to spot his receivers. Coach Carden believes the combination of an explosive backfield and experienced line will provide Elon with an offense that is as good or better than the one in 1987.

However, the Christians defense is more of a question mark, especially with the loss of three starters from the defensive line. Carden feels there are quality players to fill these positions, but the lack of playing experience worries him. The nose guard spot will be filled by 250 lb. sophomore Sam Trelinski who played well in a reserve roll last year. Junior Steve Herring and Proposition 48 victim Lamar Adams will take over at the ends.

The big question for the linebacking core in '88' is on the inside, where Orlando Washington, Elon's leading tackler last season with 86 and Chris Holly both in-

jured in spring practice should battle for the spot. If neither player can recover from their setbacks look for Matt Ramsey or Carl Merritt to step in. The outside linebackers are the teams fourth and fifth leading tacklers from 1987, Ronnie Purcell and Deane Herring.

The most solid line of defense for Elon could be the secondary as a four starters return. Kevin Alderman and Jeff Slade, the teams interception leader with six will be at the corners. Junior Gene McCree will return at free safety and Laconial Esters will play strong safety. Coach Carden said that the defensive unit showed more spark and enthusiasm in the spring and he looks for them to apply more pressure to their opponent this year.

Elon's football team is hoping that the momentum from the close of the 1987 season will continue this fall. The Christians won their final three games by blowing out their opposition by a 158-5 margin. If both sides of the line play with that intensity in 1988 look for Elon to battle for the top position in the Conference and a possible birth to the NAIA finals.

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