

Sports



photo by Shannon Wynn

Hoops: The Locals Only Intramural Basketball team defeated AOPi 43-19 during Tuesday's night 9 p.m. game.

Jones optimistic about youthful team

by Rene Mauldin
Sports Editor

According to head coach Rick Jones, this year's baseball season will be quite different from the previous years for Elon's Fighting Christians. The team is composed mainly of young players, there is a possibility that there will be no senior in the starting lineup.

The practices are more intense and are more in depth than the past three years. A lot of attention will be placed on defense which is a weakness for them.

The team is composed of persistent and dedicated men, but because of their youth, more teaching and instruction is being done.

The Fighting Christians have had terrific past seasons they were

District 21 champions three of the four years that Jones has coached the team and they won the NAIA World Series twice.

Last year, the Fighting Christians were 26-15, making it the first time during Jones' five years of coaching at Elon to not win the district.

At one point last season, they were 16-3 ranking 5th, but because they faced injuries in pitching, the team did not do as well as had anticipated.

Players Chris Cole and Scott Lesmes will help guide and offset some of the inexperience of the team. Cole is three wins away from setting the school's pitcher record. Lesmes, who suffered from injuries, had a lot to do with their success during his sophomore year in '87.

According to Jones, when the Fighting Christians, dressed in their maroon and gold and ready to play ball, each and every opponent will play and pitch better.

Elon is the team to beat because of their outstanding previous records. The Fighting Christians must mentally prepare themselves for every opponent because everyone sets out to destroy them.

Although they will be facing a tough league, coach Jones is excited about the season because the team shows a lot of enthusiasm and are ready to work harder to regain what they had lost.

Jones says that there may be good days, not so good days, mistakes made, but the team will be aggressive and fun to watch.

Ashe to speak on fitness

Arthur Ashe needs no introduction to American sports fans. His brilliant tennis career speaks for itself - winner of the first U. S. Open and a Wimbledon championship, with a number one ranking in the world in 1968 and 1975. He is also well-known as an articulate spokesman for sportsmanship in athletics.

Ashe will deliver the Elon College Liberal Arts Forum Lecture on Wednesday, March 1, at 7:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Theatre.

He will address the importance of maintaining good health as well as the responsibility of athletes to

dogged concentration which served his game masterfully. Ashe's career includes the 1968 U. S. Open Championship, the 1970 Australian Open Championship, and the 1975 Wimbledon singles title - a defeat of Jimmy Connors which clearly brought Ashe worldwide acclaim.

He was ranked as one of America's leading players when he suffered a near-fatal heart attack after a tournament in 1979. The sports world was stunned that a 36-year-old athlete in top physical condition could be brought near death with heart disease. After quadruple bypass surgery and

"a man of unusual intelligence, articulateness, and width of vision."

serve as role models. The public is invited to attend free of charge.

Ashe was born in Richmond, Virginia, in 1943. His father, Arthur R. Ashe, was a playground superintendent with the city parks department - the link which originally brought Ashe to the tennis courts.

Though he showed promise by the age of 7, there was virtually no tennis program for blacks in the segregated Richmond of 1950. He found a mentor in Dr. Robert Walter Johnson, a black physician in Lynchburg, Virginia.

With Johnson's backing and encouragement, Ashe survived the racism black athletes encountered before the days of the civil rights movement, especially in a sport which was the bastion of upper-class whites.

According to author John McPhee in *Levels of Tennis*, Ashe turned the disadvantage of discrimination to his advantage as an athlete, learning self-control and

slow, determined recovery, Ashe returned to tennis as captain of the Davis Cup team, an affiliation he began in 1967.

A 1966 graduate of UCLA and author of several books, Ashe was described once by Herbert Warren Wind in *The New Yorker* as "a man of unusual intelligence, articulateness, and width of vision. His life and career have provided material enough to fill several biographies, including his critically acclaimed autobiography, *Off the Court*."

Ashe continues to be one of the few genuinely multi-talented individuals ever to achieve superstardom in any sport.

Ashe was originally scheduled to speak at Elon in September 1987, however, he was hospitalized at the time for surgery to remove a brain tumor. His successful recovery and resumption of his tennis and lecture schedule are testimony to his strong personal convictions about health and sportsmanship.

Few spectators support Lady Christians

by Rene Mauldin
Sports Editor

The Lady Christians hosted Mars Hill in what turned out to be an exciting, but poorly attended game. Although Mars Hill defeated the Lady Christians 81-70, these ladies gave a tremendous effort to winning the game.

However, many bleachers were left empty with the poor turnout of 57. Elon's unwillingness to display their support for the Lady Chris-

tians created practically a vacant audience.

"Women athletes should be given more of a chance and support. Although the male athletes have more support, our games are just as important," says forward Barbara Johnson.

The Lady Christians played a hard game, but their weakness was their defense. The Lady Christians totaled defensive rebounds were 24 compared to 42 defensive rebounds by Mars Hill.

Johnson fired up 22 points while junior Lynnice Joyner basketed 14 points. The two ladies' combined scores totaled more than half of the points made.

Johnson believed that overall, their performance was good, but they were slack on defense at crucial times and they weren't able to open shots.

The Lady Christians gave a gallant effort and showed a lot of spirit and determination. The team exemplified great sportsmanship.

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