

Newest feature: staff game picks

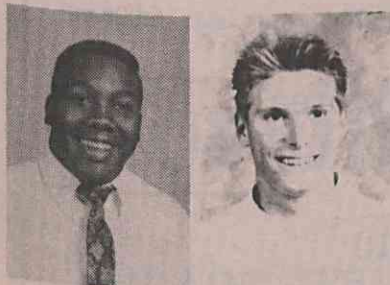
Chip
Lupo



Beginning this week, for the remainder of the college and professional football seasons, the sports page(s) of *The Pendulum* will feature a weekly sports staff pick for key matchups in both major college football and the NFL.

I'm sure, if you've kept a close eye on sports for the past year or so, you all are very much aware of who I am and what I do with this area of the newspaper. But this year, I have an actual sports staff consisting of one full-time writer/reporter and one intern. The sports page(s) also feature occasional works from other writer/reporters.

Allow me to introduce our full-fledged Sports staff:



Toomer

Fitts

Ted Toomer is a junior from Sanford, N.C. He has written for *The Pendulum* a little over a year, with written works touching into areas other than sports. He is currently the beat writer for the Fightin' Christian football team, providing us with recaps of previous week's action and previews for the coming games.

Hunter Fitts, a senior from Wake Forest, N.C. is a student intern in the Sports department. A former four-year soccer standout for the Fightin' Christians, Hunter debuted on *The Pendulum* sports pages last week with a progress report on both the Elon men and women's soccer team.

This week, the staff takes a look at two key weekend matchups:

Florida St. at Miami:

Lupo: Next to the Miami/Notre Dame matchup, this will be college football's game of the year. I still think that Miami is far better than their #9 ranking indicates, and the Hurricanes are

out to avenge the only blemish on their otherwise perfect season in 1989, a heartbreaking loss at Tallahassee last October. Miami's defense is up to the challenge of trying to stop the second-ranked Seminoles' pro-style passing attack, and quarterback Craig Erickson, who missed last year's showdown with an injury, should prove that he is worthy of Heisman consideration. The key factor is that the game is being played in the Orange Bowl, where the Hurricanes are virtually unbeatable. Miami in a high-scoring thriller.

Toomer: Last year, Florida State won the state's bragging rights and Miami won the national title. However, this year, the tables are turned and Miami is the team that comes into this contest with a blemish on their record. Miami is playing typical Hurricane style football now, but the always confident and unpredictable Bobby Bowden will have the Seminoles prepared. Florida State, 28-24 in a close offensive show.

Fitts: Florida State had a hard time stopping the Virginia Tech running game last week. If they're unable to stop the Miami ground attack, it's going to open things up for Miami quarterback Craig Erickson, and it could be a very long day for the Seminoles in the Orange Bowl.

Miami 27, Florida State 17. Cincinnati vs. L.A. Rams
Lupo: Two of the most explosive offenses in the NFL clash in Anaheim this Sunday. The Rams, after a week's rest should have their already suspect pass defense healthy, and need a win here to avoid falling too far out of contention in the tough NFC West.

The Bengals, after suffering a humiliating 31-16 drubbing at the hands of the Seattle Seahawks, may find it hard to rebound against the Rams. Jim Everett should find a way to squeeze out just one more touchdown than his opponent, Bengal QB Boomer Esiason, in a matchup that may go down to the

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Offense shines in losing effort L-R hands Elon 4th defeat

Ted Toomer
The Pendulum

The Bears of Lenoir-Rhyne proved to be unkind to their visitors from Elon College as the Christians dropped their second conference game of the season on Saturday losing to L-R, 34-26.

The Bears, undefeated in conference play, share the SAC-8 lead with defending champions Carson-Newman who gave Elon their first conference defeat the previous week.

"We dug a hole for ourselves early in the ball game," said Elon linebacker Rodney Sweet.

"We fought back hard at the end of the game but it was just too little too late."

The Fightin' Christians continued their bad habit of falling behind early in the ball game as L-R had a two touchdown lead before Elon kicker Troy Ford got the Christians on the board early in the second quarter. Both teams scored two field goals apiece as

This Week

Opponent: Mars Hill
Game Time: 2:30 p.m.
Location: At Mars Hill
Elon's Record: 0-2 in SAC-8
Opponent's Record: 2-0 (conf.)
Elon Last Week: Lost to Lenoir-Rhyne, 34-26

the Bears took a 20-6 lead at intermission.

With starting quarterback Heath Hewett out of the second half with a bruised shoulder, reserve Kelly Holder stepped in to give Elon a much needed boost in the arm. Holder led Elon to three second half scores. The Christians came with in seven points before L-R quarterback Joel Roope hit receiver Russ Baldner with a five yard pass to put the game out of reach and preserve the win for the Bears.

Bobby Johnson, Elon's leading rusher was pleased with the team's offensive performance.

"We finally came together on

offense. It's just unfortunate that we didn't come away with a win," he said. Johnson shredded the Bears' defense for 142 yards on 17 carries and two touchdowns, including a 61 yard run from scrimmage.

"We finally came together on offense. It's just unfortunate that we didn't come away with a win," said Johnson.

Johnson ran for 142 yards on 17 carries with two touchdowns and a 61 yard run.

Elon seeks its first conference victory on the road against Mars Hill at Meares Stadium beginning at 2:30 pm on Saturday.

"We are young, and that's true, but we can't keep using that as an excuse; we need to win some ball games," said Sweet.

ELON FOOTBALL SCHEDULE:

October: 6 at Mars Hill; 13 vs. Presbyterian (Parents Weekend); 20 at Catawba; 27 at Gardner-Webb. **November:** 3 vs. Newberry (Homecoming); 10 at Wingate

Up-and-coming star dead at 22

NASCAR's Moroso dies in auto accident

Murray Glenn
The Pendulum

On Sunday September 30, Winston Cup auto racing lost one of its up-and-coming stars. 22 year old Rob Moroso, of Terrell, N.C., died in a two car accident.

The ironic part of this tragedy is that Moroso did not die in an on-track accident. He was on his way home from a race in North Wilkesboro, N.C., when he lost control of his car and slid across the median of Highway 150 and collided with an oncoming car. The driver of the other car was also killed.

The North Carolina highway patrol estimates that Moroso was driving 20 mph over the posted speed limit when the accident occurred.

Moroso first got his star in big-time auto racing at the age of

16. He decided not to go to college so that he would be able to devote all of his attention to racing. His career advanced rapidly to the point where he won NASCAR's Busch Grand National Championship in 1989. Moroso was leading Jack Pennington by 63 points in this season's Winston Cup rookie of the year award.

Racing fans will remember Moroso as the driver of the #20 Crown Oldsmobile.

I first got to see Rob race in 1988 at the Charlotte Motor Speedway. I was drawn to Rob because he was the underdog. He was all of 19 years old, racing against seasoned veterans. He was living a lifelong dream of racing against the best in the business. Rob was not afraid of any of his competitors. He accepted all the challenges that were thrown his way en route to

his first victory on a superspeedway. During the 1989 season, Moroso came back and swept both of the Busch Grand National races that are run in

Charlotte. Rob was such a young winner that he was not legally allowed to enjoy the victory lane champagne celebrations during his first two wins at Charlotte.

During this two year period, I gained a deeper respect for Rob. On each return trip to the Queen City of stock car racing, Rob was able to silence the critics and equal his last performance. Rob was different from other drivers in that he never let his past accomplishments go to his head. He spoke to the media with a quiet confidence that many observers thought would carry him to a long and successful future in the sport.