

# Wrapping up Elon fall sports

## Football improves, women's soccer excels

Chip Lupo  
The Pendulum

It was a year of vast improvement for the football team, a record-setting year for women's volleyball, an up-and-down season for men's soccer and yet another day at the office for women's soccer.

Football head coach Leon Hart could only hope to improve on 1989's 1-9 campaign. After a season opening loss to Wofford, it appeared that a long season was to be in store for the Christians. A 17-16 victory over N.C. Central and a heartbreaking last-second defeat to Fayetteville State showed signs of promise. After dropping two straight to nationally ranked Carson-Newman and Lenoir-Rhyne, the Christians exploded for four victories in five games, including a 31-17 pasting of Gardner Webb. A shot at a winning season hinged on the outcome of the season finale at Wingate. The Christians, however, were turned away, 34-13, ending their season at 5-6.

All things considered, this could still go down in the books as a banner year for Christian football, considering the fact that such a record was achieved with the luxury of only one legitimate home game. The football team opened with two games at Jamieson Stadium in Greensboro, faced Carson Newman at

Cummings High School, and had to have the Parent's Weekend game moved to Clinton, S.C., home of the opposing Presbyterian Blue Hose. Problems with the grass at Memorial Stadium in Burlington, kept the Christians from enjoying most of their home games.

Kelly Holder, last year's starting quarterback, converted this year to wide receiver is overall pleased with the team's performance.

"I feel pretty good, considering we were so young and we did play only one game at home," the junior from Mt. Airy, N.C. said. "I still think we could have done better...you can never be completely satisfied, but still, I'm kinda pleased."

Crowds of fans packed Jordan Gymnasium this season to watch the Christians women's volleyball team take to the net.

The reason was obvious. When the smoke had cleared following a second-place finish in the Conference tournament at Presbyterian College on October 26-27, Coach Sue Leonard's team walked away with the most single season matches since 1974, posting a 24-14 mark. The mark was also second best in the program's history.

1990 was not without other highlights for women's volleyball. The Christians placed first in class B in the

Maryville (Tenn.) College Tournament and took the consolation bracket of the Francis Marion Tournament in Florence, S.C. It was that second place finish in the conference tournament that prevented the Christians from advancing in postseason play.

Lynn Hefty and Cheryl Spivey led the attack for the Christians this season. Both were honored by being named to both the All South Atlantic Conference team and the All District 26 team. Spivey, a sophomore striker from Robbins, N.C., was also named to the SAC-8 All Tournament team as was teammate Fae Foster, a sophomore stiker/hitter from Baton Rouge, La.

What was supposed to be a standout season for Coach Rob Brewer's men's soccer team, turned out to be one of up-and-down spurts and inconsistencies, leading to 8-10 overall record.

The outlook for 1990 could not help but look promising with the return of Jeff Cabot, MVP from a year ago, and senior midfielder Kevin Thomas. The addition of goalkeeper Nelson Palacios, a junior transfer from New York City looked to keep opposing offenses in check.

The senior leadership of Cabot and Thomas, however, would succumb to the inexperience of a

freshman/sophomore dominated lineup. The Christians' roller coaster ride started with four straight defeats, followed by a three game winning streak. The celebration was short lived as the Christians dropped four straight. After defeating Guilford 2-0 and then falling to Presbyterian 4-3, the Christians went on a tear, closing out the season with three straight victories, outscoring the opposition 9-1. The Christians entered the SAC-8 tournament on a emotional high, knocking off Gardner-Webb 3-1 in the first round. A powerful nationally ranked Catawba squad ended any title hopes for Cabot, Thomas and Co. in the second round, by knocking off the Christians 6-1.

Freshman Bob Artioli provided a ray of hope for the future by leading the Christians in goals scored with five. Cabot and Thomas scored four apiece.

Since its beginning in 1986, the Christians' women's soccer team have been among the nation's elite. And with returning standouts Kelly Gonteski, Chris Greenspan, Tara Houston and Amy Melander, plus the experience of Heather Kline in the goal, national championship dreams could easily have become a reality.

With key recruits Katie McGrath and Jane Skidmore complementing an already powerful lineup, the Christians

only regular season defeats would come against NCAA powers North Carolina and North Carolina State, and UNC-Greensboro.

Meanwhile, the Christians, with Brewer doubling as the women's coach, would go undefeated in both the conference and the district, destroying all opposition, including an 11-0 thrashing of Gardner-Webb and a 10-0 drubbing of Lenoir Rhyne in the first round of the SAC-8 tournament. A 0-0 tie against nationally ranked Berry late in the season would set the stage for a South regional showdown between the two arch rivals. But Berry, on their home field in Rome, Ga., shattered the Christians title dreams, 4-0, ending the Elon women's season at a remarkable 12-4-1.

Despite the heartbreaking loss to Berry in the regionals, Melander is keeping a positive outlook on the season as a whole.

"When you lose 4-0 in the regionals, you tend to look down on things. Coach Brewer told us to remember how successful our season was and to not let one game influence our thoughts or perspectives of the entire season."

The junior midfielder from Bowdoinham, Maine added: "It was a really fun season with a fun group of people....at least we did tie the national champions."

## Lupo

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The reason? Because the 1990 version of the Boston Celtics are hitting on all cylinders, just like the Celtics we've known and loved (or hated) over the years. And -- the Celtics are currently the second hottest team in the NBA, having rattled off seven straight victories en route to an Eastern Conference leading 11-2 mark.

If Boston is the second hottest team in pro basketball right now, which is the hottest?

The Portland Trail Blazers, which are currently 11-0. Get this

-- in addition to Clyde Drexler and Buck Williams, the Blazers feature their newly acquired, playmaking point guard named Danny Ainge.

Imagine that. **EXTRA POINT:** Forget the incoming crop of NBA films. If you see one NBA flick this year be sure to catch the blockbuster film *Sex Lies and Videotape*, an action packed drama in which James Worthy patrons a local escort service and finds himself in the midst of an FBI sting operation.

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