

Tennis teams set sights on tourney

Chip Lupo
The Pendulum

The nationally ranked men and women's tennis teams are gearing up for their upcoming conference and district tournaments.

For the men's squad, coach Tom Parham, despite bringing back one starter from last year's NAIA national championship team, has lost little momentum in attempting to defend that title. The Christians are currently ranked seventh in the Volvo Tennis/Collegiate Team rankings.

Parham's lone star from 1990 is Mike Leonard, a senior from Laurinburg, N.C. Leonard is ranked 15th in both the singles rankings and in doubles, where he is paired with freshman standout Peter Lindstrom of Stockholm, Sweden. Lindstrom is ranked 31st in the singles rankings.

The Christians will serve as host school for the South Atlantic Conference Tournament which runs from April 12-13. Singles matches begin at 9:30 am on the 12th, with doubles matches to

follow.

The NAIA District 26 tournament follows; its winner will qualify for the NAIA playoffs. The tournament gets underway on April 19 and will run through the 22nd, at Greensboro's Oka Hester Park.

The Christians won both the conference and district tournaments en route to the national championship.

All of the successes of the men's tennis team hasn't overshadowed an outstanding year by the women netters. Coach Jackie Myers' team is ranked 21st in the Volvo Tennis rankings and features Helen O'Dea, Volvo's 32nd ranked singles player.

O'Dea, a junior transfer from Melbourne, Australia is paired with Coleen Smythe as the 17th ranked doubles team.

The Lady Christians will travel to Presbyterian College in Clinton, S.C. for the South Atlantic Conference Women's tournament on April 12 and 13th.

The District 26 tournament will be held at Elon from April 19-21.

Christians make late-season surge

Ted Toomer
The Pendulum

The Fightin' Christians baseball team is trying to do what they normally do this time of the year, and that is to perform well enough in conference play to earn yet another trip to the NAIA World Series.

The Christians won three pivotal games last weekend to put themselves in position to make a late-season run during the upcoming South Atlantic Conference Tournament and to make it back to the NAIA World Series playoffs, which has become an annual trip for the Christians.

The Christians defeated Gardner-Webb 3-2 and 9-1 in a double header last Saturday and cruised to a 7-2 victory over Lenoir-Rhyne on Sunday.

Freshman Chris York, who hit a three run homer in the bottom

of the first inning in Sunday's game against Lenoir-Rhyne thinks the team is in a good position.

"We're playing well right now considering how we started the season. We have a chance to finish either first or second in the conference," York said.

Junior right-hander Scott Gulley, who is 4-2 this season, led Elon on Sunday with seven strikeouts and two earned runs.

On the offensive side Mike Beckom, Rick Ulasewich and Bart Wingerd all had two hits apiece.

The Christians are 18-9 and 10-8 in the SAC. The Christians are in fifth place just behind Catawba and Presbyterian who are both tied for fourth place with 9-7 records.

The Christians have three games remaining and must perform well during this stretch.

"I'm feeling good about our team. We just need to continue to play well," York said.



Rob Whiteside/The Pendulum
The Lady Christian tennis team, ranked 21st in the NAIA, gears up for the South Atlantic Conference tournament this weekend.

Don't count on A's and Reds in '91

Major League Baseball is in full swing this week, with the opening week of the season just underway.

What makes this country's national pastime so great is the level of parity in both leagues that makes championship dynasties improbable at best. Oakland came close, but blew it.

Not since 1978, when the New York Yankees captured their second straight World Series has a major league team repeated as champions.

Last year the Cincinnati Reds shocked the baseball world by sweeping the Oakland A's to win the World Series. So does that mean that we can look forward to another Oakland-Cincy matchup in 1991?

Baseball logic says don't count on it. Never mind the fact that the A's have defied this logic by winning the American League West division three straight times. Expect someone else to come forward and take a crack at creating a baseball dynasty.

Exactly who is favored to make a run at the Fall Classic this year? With the talent level on many clubs the highest it's been in years, we'll go out on a limb, looking at each division:

AMERICAN LEAGUE EAST: Boston Red Sox: Once again

Chip Lupo



the Bosox and Toronto will fight tooth and nail for the title in an otherwise mediocre division. The Baltimore Orioles, however, are waiting in the wings and could prove to be a challenge.

The Red Sox have way too many weapons this year, including the addition of slugger Jack Clark and pitcher Danny Darwin, the majors' E.R.A. leader from a year ago while at St. Louis. With the addition of Joe Carter in Toronto, and the luxury of playing in a home run factory known as the Sky Dome, Gruber, Olerud and Co. are definitely going to make things interesting in the East.

AMERICAN LEAGUE WEST: California Angels: Oakland's three year reign atop the AL West will be seriously threatened by this bunch from Anaheim. The Angels made serious steps to rebound from last year's 80-82 record. Gary Gaetti arrives from Minnesota to anchor third base. The acquisition of Dave Parker will bolster the offense, and Dave Winfield hopes to benefit in his

first full season away from the troubled New York Yankees franchise. If the pitching corps of Kirk McCaskill, Mark Langston, and Jim Abbott can complement Chuck Finley (18-9, 2.40 ERA in 1990), while Bert Blyleven starts the season on the disabled list, then the Angels should make a serious run at the A.L. pennant that eluded them by a single pitch in 1986.

NATIONAL LEAGUE EAST
Chicago Cubs: The East is competitive in 1991, believe it or not. Montreal, New York and Pittsburgh will all challenge for the division title, but in baseball, there are no wild cards. All three must try to keep pace with Harry Carey's pride-and-joy. The Cubbies are loaded, with big names such as Dawson, Grace, Sandburg, Dunston, Walton and Smith.

With Danny Jackson arriving in Wrigley Field from Cincinnati, Carey might live to see the Cubs win their first World Series since...it has been a while, hasn't it? Holy Cow! You'll drink to that, right, Harry?
NATIONAL LEAGUE WEST
Los Angeles Dodgers: If the men from Tinseltown can ever get both the offense and the pitching in sync at the same time, the

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