

Elon plays 1st 'home' game

Ted Toomer



A House is not a Home

"A house is not a home when there's no one there...." is a part of Luther Vandross' hit "A House is not a Home." Nor is a Stadium a home when there are no fans to fill it.

I have never liked "fair weather fans". For example, all of these instant Chicago Bulls fans, who now claim they have always been Bull fans (yeah right). Or these rejuvenated Atlanta Braves fans who now proudly display their tomahawks. Where were the tomahawks last year when the Braves were in last place? This is equivalent to the friend who leaves you when your money gone or beer has run out.

Elon plays its first "home" game Saturday against Fayetteville State University. Burlington Memorial Stadium is the home of the Christians. It's no secret that majority of fans or players don't like this set up.

BMS seats 10,000. The stadium hasn't been full at a Elon yet. However, if Elon were

national champions there would no doubt be standing room only at games.

The University of Miami and University of Southern California play games in front of an average 80,000 screaming fans and neither one of these football dynasties play football games on their campus.

I realize that it is unfair to compare Elon to Miami and USC. However, I guess to tell the story one must use extremes.

Successful college teams depend on their crowd support. For example, "Duke's Zoo or as it's formally known, Cameron Indoor Stadium. The opposing coaches not only have to prepare for the team, they also have to prepare for the crowd.

Well, Luther's song ends by saying, "A room is not a house and a house is not a home, when there's no one there to kiss goodnight". Or should I say, no one there to scream on Saturdays.

Soccer team drops to 0-3

Rogers Harrison
The Pendulum

Elon was defeated by High Point 3-2 on last evening. Not only did Elon lose the game but they also loss their team leader, senior, Marcus Ford. The loss pushes the Christians record to 0-3-1.

Ford was injured five seconds after he attempted and made a penalty kick. Details involving Ford's injury are sketchy.

Drew Boling, of High Point, scored the first goal with an assist from teammate Sean Jones. With 38:38 gone in the game, Mike Hatfield scored Highpoint's second goal.

High Point came out the second half still playing well as Adam Duff scored on a penalty kick, pushing the Panther's lead to 3-0. Elon then showed some heart, coming back with goals by Derek Phillips and Ford. However, the rally wasn't enough as the Panthers held on for the

win.

Elon's other losses came against the University of South Carolina at Aiken, 2-0 and Belmont Abbey 1-0. The tie came against Winthrop, an NCAA division II school.

Despite the losses, the team isn't feeling down.

Nelson Palacios, a senior reserve goalie/utility forward, feels some of the games were close calls. "We should have beaten USC-Aiken badly and the tie against Winthrop is questionable because they are a good team."

Ford, a senior from Atlanta Georgia, Ford, was an All-Conference and All-District performer. Ford also received All American recognition from the NCSAA last season.

Defense will be the key to the Christians success this year. With several starters returning to the squad and an aggressive group of newcomers to challenge for playing time, Elon should be turn their season around.

'I knew something was wrong' Knee injury ends football season for McCleod

Ted Toomer
Pendulum

It was a third quarter kickoff. Elon kicked the ball off. The tackle was made. The specialty teams were leaving the field. Everyone got up. Everyone except Ray McCleod. Saturday, September 14, will be the last time McCleod plays football in 1991.

McCleod is a 5'8 200, sophomore from Rock Hill, South Carolina. He's the kind of player that you think would never get hurt. However, in Saturday's 38-14 win against North Carolina Central, McCleod lost his battle to remain injury free.

Teammate, Terry Fox saw the injury when it happened.

"I was running down the field and I could see Ray out of the corner of my eye. I split two guys trying to block me. I hit the

one of the guys and he bounced off me and hit Ray."

McCleod didn't realize that he was actually hurt.

"All I knew was that two guys came down on my leg and I went down," McCleod said. "I got up and stood for a second. Then I looked at my leg and I fell back down. I saw the way it (his leg) was laying and I knew something was wrong."

McCleod was rushed to Duke hospital where his leg was evaluated. Even in the hospital, it still hadn't dawned on McCleod that his season was over.

According to Marty Baker, the team's trainer, the injury is a bad one.

"Ray has a complete tear of the medial collateral ligament and the anterior cruciate ligament," Baker said.

Although the injury is bad, Baker feels that McCleod will

recover just fine.

Needless to say, McCleod is upset by this injury.

"When I first got to the hospital, I thought I would be able to play in about three weeks," McCleod said. "I feel that all of the preparation for the season was a waste."

Surgery is scheduled for October 1 at Duke Hospital.

"He will tough road to haul. There will be 6 to 8 months of rehabilitation," Baker said. "We have 11 months to get him back. He'll miss the spring practices or a good portion of it, but he should be back next season."

It didn't matter that McCleod was one of the strongest players on the team. It didn't matter that McCleod was prepared to have a great season. All of that was thrown out of the window on one play. Injures, like death, come without warning or welcome.

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