

Ted Toomer



To go for two or not for two

The two point conversion in college football has been a debatable issue ever since Princeton defeated Rutgers in the very first college football game. With the game ending, what should a coach do? The win or the tie? Many a good coach has faced that question.

Leon Hart faced that difficult decision in Elon's last game against Lenior-Rhyne. With Elon down 28-27 and one minute and thirty seconds left in the game, Hart elected to go for the tie and overtime instead of going for the win.

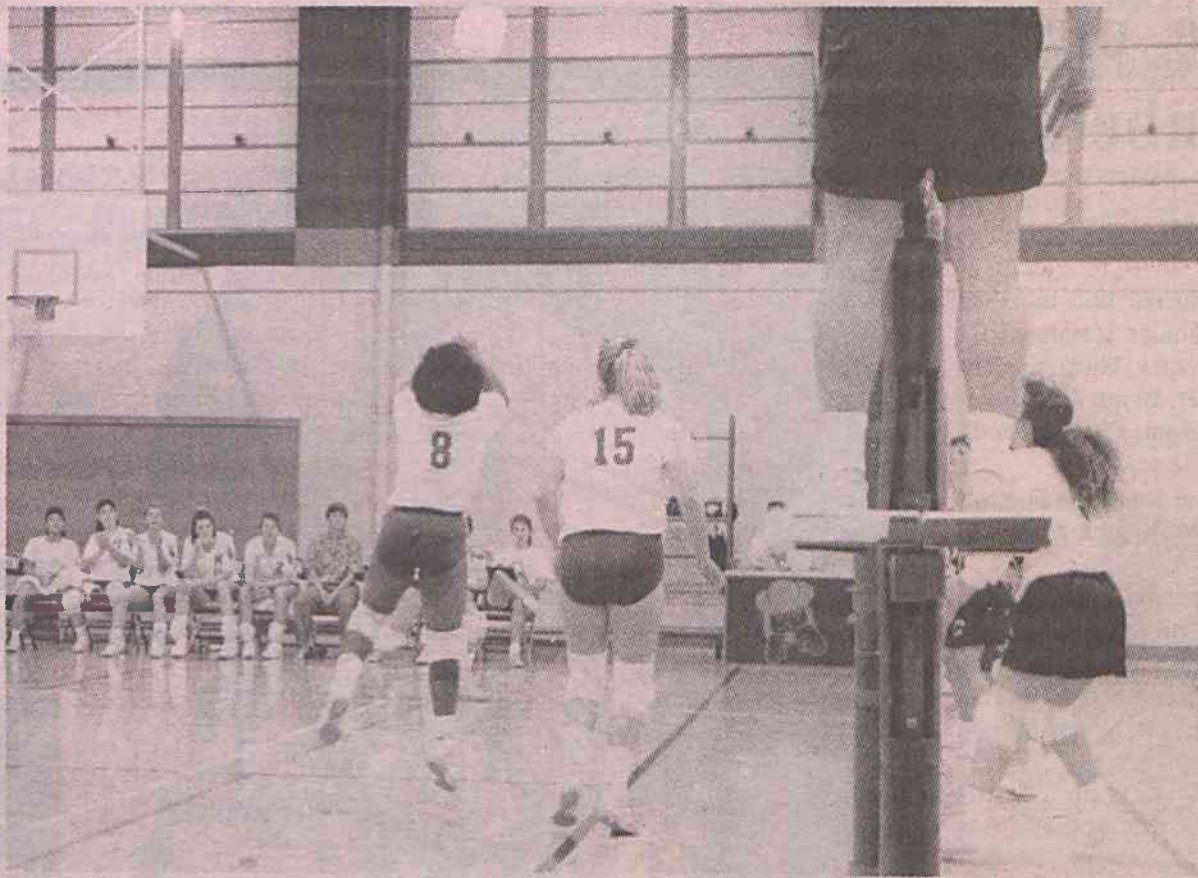
Ara Parseghian, former Notre Dame coach, faced the same question in the 1965-1966 football season. With the game on the line, Parseghian decided to go for the tie in a key game against Michigan State. Notre Dame tied the game and went on to win the National Championship. So it turned out that Parseghian made the right call. Even though he is still second guessed by critics for his decision to tie.

On the other hand, Jimmy Johnson, former Miami University coach was once quoted as saying that he would never go for the tie.

The two point option sets college football apart from the NFL. What makes the two point conversion so difficult is that a head coach always stands as a point of criticism. All sports fans seem to have a secret desire to be a coach and here is the perfect opportunity to second guess the coach.

Now let's think for a moment. The SAC 8 conference has overtime. So if Elon had made the extra point the game would have gone into overtime. Elon was definitely on a roll and would have won the game. There is no question that Elon had the momentum the entire fourth quarter.

However, you'll always wonder what might've happened if the Christians had gone for two.



The Elon volleyball team is now 10-2

Winning ways Elon defeats Belmont-Abbey in straight sets

**Keith Parsons
The Pendulum**

Using their height advantage and superior defense, the Elon College Lady Fightin' Christian volleyball team easily defeated Belmont-Abbey 15-6, 15-4, and 15-11 Tuesday night in East Gym.

With the non-conference victory, Elon raised their record to 10-2. Belmont-Abbey falls to 5-13 with the loss.

"I thought we really played well, although we served poorly in the first game," said Elon head coach Sue Leonard. "We missed eight serves in the first game. The girls said the ball was floating out on them."

Elon had control virtually the entire match, and never gave the Lady Crusaders a chance in the first two games. In the third game, with reserves filling out much of the Elon line-up, Belmont-Abbey stayed close, but the Fightin' Christians held them off to took the sweep.

"(Elon) has really good ball control," said Crusader coach Tim Leary. "We stayed in several points, then just got out-athleted by a girl with a 40-inch vertical leap."

That girl was Velma Degree. She consistently pounded the ball over the shorter Belmont-Abbey team, and finished the game with an Elon team-high 12 kills.

"Velma is really fun to watch," Leonard said. "She has been playing well the past week, and she seemed ready tonight."

Leonard also cited the play of Cheryl Spivey and Tracy Herring, who led the Elon defense.

"Cheryl and Tracy are probably two of the best defensive players in the district," Leonard said.

Herring was not satisfied with her performance.

"I don't think I played up to par," said the 5'8 sophomore. "I try to take pride in my defense

because that's all I do."

Jill Taylor led the Fightin' Christians with three aces. Priscilla Awkard finished the game with an Elon-high 19 assists, while Spivey had two blocks. Sue Taylor, no relation to Jill, led the team with 10 digs.

Elon has the weekend off from conference play because they will travel to Milligan College for the Fall Classic. The Lady Christians jump back into conference play next week, and hope to catch the undefeated Presbyterian Lady Blue Hose. Leary thinks they have a chance to do just that.

"If they play like this all of the time, no one will beat them," he said.

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SPORTS LETTERS

To the Sport's Editor:

In response to the article entitled "JGUTS continue to dominate flag football" written by Keith Parsons, there were many facts left out. Everybody has the right to express their own opinions. But with comments like "they're ripping through Elon intramurals like Sherman went through Atlanta", maybe Mr. Parsons should spend more time at the intramural field instead of history class.

Maybe the JGUTS are ripping up *their* own respective division (which isn't that strong). Have they played a team with a winning record yet? Have they played any of the five pre-season top ranked teams?

Maybe this article did some good though. We hoped it gives the JGUTS enough confidence to make it far enough in the playoffs to play us or any of the strong not in *their* division. Then we'll see how good they "really" are.

If we're not mistaken JGUTS stands for "Just Give Us The Shirts." Since we've won the shirts the last three years, if the JGUTS want a shirt so bad, I'm sure we could spare one; we've got enough of them. We're waiting.

The Righteous Brothers:

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Jon Slaunwhite
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