

## SPORTS BEAT

### This Week

The Elon College football team is home this weekend for homecoming to face the Gardner-Webb Bulldogs. The Christians are coming off a tough loss to Catawba last Saturday, 20-14. With the loss, Elon dropped to 4-4, 1-3 in the conference.

The Elon men's and women's soccer teams are both competing in the Food Lion South Atlantic Conference tournament this weekend, with the men traveling to Presbyterian College and the women going to Catawba College. The women are the number one seed for their tourney, going through the conference regular season 6-0.

The volleyball team also heads to Presbyterian for their conference tournament. The Lady Christian's are the number two seed.

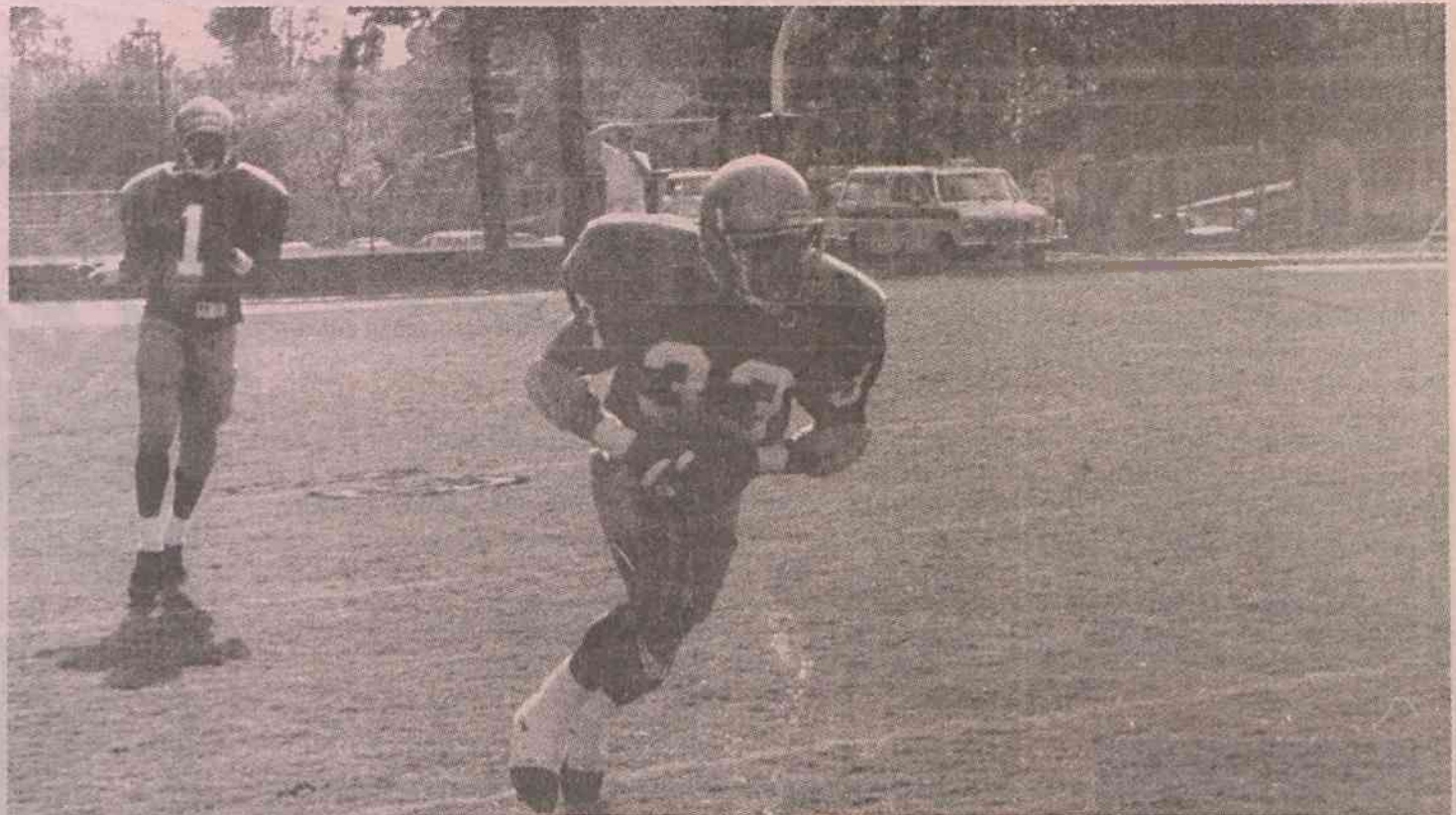
Also this weekend, the Fightin' Christian golf team goes to Kitty Hawk for the last match of the fall season.

### Around The Nation

The Charlotte Hornets are close to signing their number one draft choice, Nevada-Las Vegas' Larry Johnson. Johnson sat out the entire preseason, trying to come to an agreement with the NBA club. Hornet Team President Spencer Stolpen told The Charlotte Observer and WSOC-TV that the deal was nearly signed. A source close to negotiations told the Observer that the deal was for six years, with an escape clause after four years for Johnson and an escape after five years for the Hornets. If Johnson stays with Charlotte for the six years of the contract, he will average about \$3.3 million a year.

Speaking of Nevada-Las Vegas, there is more trouble for head basketball coach Jerry Tarkanian. Apparently, campus police at the university taped an illegal practice by the men's basketball team. The taping was done over a six week period, and was ordered by school counsel Brad Booke. The taping came after many requests by the NCAA to monitor a basketball conditioning class taught by UNLV assistant coaches. All 13 Vegas basketball players are in the class.

- Compiled by Keith Parsons



Erick Gill/The Pendulum

Neil Mays returns kickoff as Joe Randolph looks on.

## Former high school teammates carry over friendship to Elon soccer

Keith Parsons  
The Pendulum

The Elon College women's soccer team is in the midst of an impressive season. The Lady Christians are 12-3 heading into this weekend's conference tournament.

Two key players on this year's squad are Katie McGrath and Shannon Currin, both from New Hampshire. Sharing this state is not all they have in common however. McGrath and Currin played at the same high school, Pinkerton Academy in Derry, New Hampshire.

"It's really good having someone from home here," said McGrath, a sophomore stopper from Auburn. "I'm used to how she plays, and she is used to me. It helps us out."

Currin, a freshman, already had a link to Elon in McGrath. But McGrath's story is a bit different.

"(Sports Information Director) Bill Grubbs' wife, Kristin, went to my high school, and she played soccer here," McGrath said. "I had played some club soccer with her, so that's how I heard of the school."

As is the case with many Elon students, McGrath's decision to attend the college was helped by the beauty of the campus. The positive, friendly attitudes of the people she met on her visit also helped her make her choice. A little common sense was also beneficial.



Katie McGrath



Shannon Currin

"Of the six or seven schools that recruited me, Elon offered me the most (scholarship) money," McGrath said. "The University of Virginia was my number one choice, but with an older brother already in college, my family just couldn't afford it."

Currin did not immediately share McGrath's enthusiasm for Elon's campus.

"When I came to Elon on my first visit, I really didn't like it that much," said the forward from Hampstead. "But on my second visit, I started to like it a little more. I had visited three other schools, big universities, and didn't like them either."

The condition of the Christian's women's soccer program also helped

Currin put Elon at the top of her list.

"The other schools recruiting me were really just starting women's soccer programs," Currin said. "Elon has a strong program, so that also helped me decide."

Elon men's and women's soccer coach Rob Brewer thinks the two compliment each other very well.

"I think there is a closeness between them, although they play different roles," Brewer said. "They were not that close off the field in high school, but here I think they support each other mentally, on and off the field."

Elon, which finished the conference regular season at 6-0, is the number one seed for this weekend's tournament, held at Catawba College in Salisbury.