

Ted
Toomer



Pure Magic!

Since November 7, 1991 when Magic Johnson announced his retirement from basketball, pro basketball has not been the same. At least that was the case before Johnson's *magical* performance in Sunday's Allstar game.

Magic proved he was still a champion scoring 25 points, five assists and four rebounds in 29 minutes of play. Thus earning him the Most Valuable Player award.

Magic has proved over and over that he likes challenges and always seems to rise to the occasion. Before Sunday's game, some players expressed concern of whether or not Magic should play. Charles Barkley was quoted as saying, "it wasn't fair for Magic to steal a moment away from players who had good first halves of the season and deserved to be in the game." I think Magic showed that although he hadn't played in the first half of the season, he also deserved to be there.

Even though Magic didn't have a lot of assists as he usually did before his retirement, he still dazzled fans with his no look passes and hook shots. With the game drawing to a close, Magic was guarding two of the NBA's best players back to back, and he was simply unbelievable.

First against Isaiah Thomas where for once, Thomas's outstanding dribbling skills didn't get him out of trouble. Then against Michael Jordan where Magic's defense caused Jordan to put up a bad shot. Then with an ending that the best Hollywood directors couldn't have come up with, Magic made a three pointer with time running out, pulling yet another trick out of his hat.

Magic left the door opened as to whether or not he will play in the Olympics and to whether he'll return to the game. Fortunately, there were no noticeable cuts or any need for concern, so everyone is left with a good last impression of Magic and what he meant to the game.

Personally, I'd like to see Magic keep it that way and go out like the champion he is.

Elon suffers rare loss at home

Terence Small
The Pendulum

The Men's basketball team's bid for their fourth win in a row fell short on Monday night as the Fightin' Christians fell to the South Atlantic Conference's first place team, Gardner-Webb Bulldogs, 82-73 at Alumni Gymnasium.

Gardner-Webb's bench proved to be the difference in the game, outscoring the Elon bench 36-20, even though the Fightin' Christian starters outscored the Bulldog starters 46-33.

"This year's Gardner-Webb team, is about ten players deep," said Elon Head Coach Bob Burton. "The difference in the game was the high number of turnovers their trapping defense produced. They played at an extremely high level and put together a great effort against our team."

The loss drops the Fightin' Christians conference record to 6-5, currently good for third place in the South Atlantic Conference behind Gardner-Webb and Lenoir-Rhyne.

This weekend, Elon goes on the road to play the Bears of Lenoir-Rhyne College.

Elon's basketball team was forced to make two trips to Lenoir-Rhyne last year because Elworth Smith broke the backboard while attempting to



Mark Wheeler/The Pendulum

Pat Caesar participates in the opening tip of Saturday's game against Presbyterian College.

dunk the ball. The game had to be suspended because Lenoir-Rhyne had no replacement backboard.

When the game was resumed, Elon won the game after overcoming one of their largest deficits of the season.

Extra points:

■ Head Coach Bob Burton currently has accumulated 98 victories in his head coaching career at Elon. The Fightin'

Christians have three regular season games remaining and at least one game in the South Atlantic Conference Tournament. Burton needs four victories to pass former Head Basketball Coach and current Head Golf Coach, Bill Morningstar for fourth place on Elon's all-time basketball coaching list.

■ February 22, will be the final home game of the 1991-92

season for the Fightin' Christians. It will also be Senior Night, as Pat Caesar, Vernon Thompson, Rob Hughes, Pat Recio, and Anthony Akers will be honored in pre-game ceremonies.

■ Congratulations to Jana Siler of the Lady Fightin' Christians who surpassed the 1200 career point mark in her final game at Alumni Gymnasium on Monday night.

Nee and Randolph prepare for next stage

Two Elon players prepare for NFL

Sean Farrelly
The Pendulum

"When I grow up, I want to be a football player!" To most people, actually becoming a professional athlete is just a dream and most likely will never crystallize. But for Elon's John Nee and Joe Randolph, this far fetched boyhood dream could become true.

Nee, a senior, played offensive tackle for Elon's football team this past fall. His 260 pound frame and 4.9 second 40 yard dash time, makes him quite marketable for professional football.

At the conclusion of Elon's football season, Nee received an invitation to an NFL scouting camp in Indianapolis.

Each team has 28 invitations they can give to any college athlete who is eligible for the draft.

Nee along with 65 other offensive linemen attended the camp. He took test in agility, the 40 yard dash and the bench press.

"I was very pleased with my performance," Nee said.

All 28 NFL teams were represented at the camp, however Nee felt that the New England Patriots and the Cleveland Browns showed the most interest in him

because they had him take additional test that concentrated on his background and personality.

"They wanted to find out what type of person I was," Nee explained.

The NFL draft is April 26. Until then, Nee said he will keep working out to stay in shape and wait and see exactly what type of impression he made at the tryout camp in Indianapolis.

Randolph was a wide receiver on last year's team. He was one of Elon's fastest players.

Randolph gave up his last year of college eligibility to make himself available for the NFL draft as a junior. He is the first ever

Fightin' Christian to give up his final year of eligibility

Nationwide, Randolph joins 34 other players who decided to forfeit their last year of eligibility.

Though Randolph has not been invited to any camps, about 8 to 10 NFL teams have requested information.

Of those teams, Randolph does not really have a preference. If he has a chance he'd like to play with Warren Moon and the Houston Oilers.

"I'd like to play for them because they pass a lot," Randolph said.

Randolph said he will attend tryout camps in March.