

Early loss shocks Elon

Erick Gill
The Pendulum

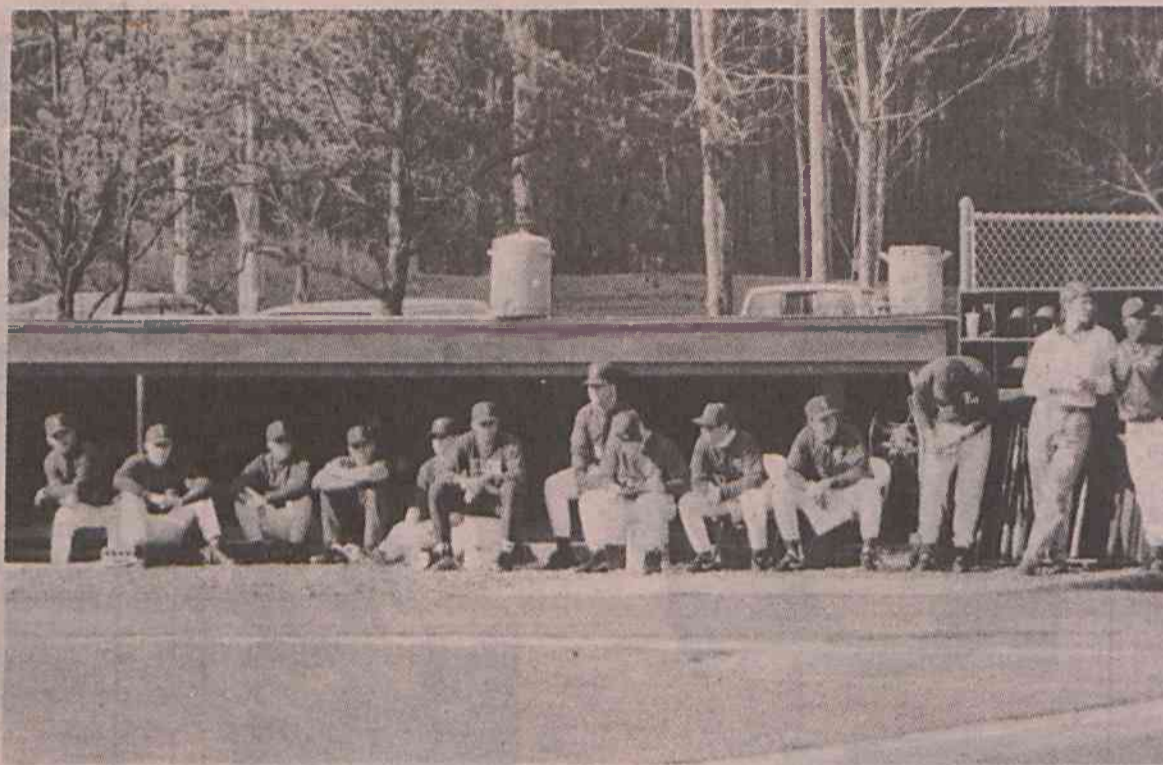
Elon's baseball team played their last game of the season Tuesday, April 20, against Presbyterian College.

The Blue Hose shocked the Christians 8-5 to eliminate Elon from going to the South Atlantic Conference tournament.

Elon started off well by leading 3-0 in the fifth inning. After compiling two outs, Presbyterian retaliated by scoring six runs in the sixth inning.

In the ninth, Elon was down 5-8 with bases loaded, but could not get a hit to keep the game alive and Presbyterian went on to the SAC tournament.

The qualifications to attend the tournament were altered from last year. In the past, the SAC tournament was made up of the top four teams from the regular season. This year to make it to the tournament, the top ranked team was matched up with the lowest and so on and the four



Baseball team watches the season slip away as Presbyterian rallies against Elon

winner battled it out in the tournament.

After the loss to Presbyterian, Head Coach Mike Harden expressed his feelings on the new system in the *Burlington Times-News* by saying, "It sucks." Harden was one of the coaches who voted against the new tournament system.

Todd Bechtold, who pitched the last inning against Presbyterian, said, "We had the ability to win. I just think we were worried about ourselves and not the team."

Elon opened up the season strong with a big win against Limestone College to give Coach Harden his 100th win. In just over three seasons, Harden has

collected a 129-56-1 record. The Fightin' Christians ended this season with an overall record of 30-15-1 and 14-7 in the SAC.

Next year's team looks just as strong. Even though Elon will lose pitcher Rob Hahne, who compiled a 7-0 pitching record, the rest of the pitching staff still looks strong.

Softball ends with SAC title

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Softball Head Coach Sue Leonard finished off the season earlier than expected. Elon suffered two losses in the district tournament to Coker College and St. Andrews to top off a 28-7-1 season.

Although the Fightin' Christians did not go as far as they expected, Leonard feels that they played a remarkable season.

"We had hoped to make it pass the districts, but we were not hitting well," said Leonard. "It's hard to win games when you don't hit well."

Elon finished second in the South Atlantic Conference during regular season. However, Leonard said the highlight of the season was winning the SAC tournament.

The Fightin' Christians beat Carson-Newman to make it the first SAC tournament win in Elon's four years in the conference.

A large part of the season's success can be credited to seniors Donna Leigh and Laura Case and junior Velma Degree. All three players were named All Conference as well as All District.

Freshman Hope Rehman was named to the All Conference Team and won Freshman of the Year for the South Atlantic Conference.

The absence of centerfielder Cheryl Spivey may have been the catalyst that brought the team down in the districts.

According to Leonard, Spivey, a key senior player was ineligible to play this season due to a complication with her schedule.

Without Spivey's experience in the outfield, Elon's freshmen were forced to adapt. "I think we would have done better in the districts (with Spivey)," Leonard said.

Next season will be a rebuilding stage for the Fightin' Christians. Without power hitter Laura Case or strike out pitcher Donna Leigh or third base standout Tracy Shuford, Elon will have some major holes to fill.

Track team finishes in last place in Pembroke meet

Rogers Harrison
The Pendulum

The Elon College track team ended its season Saturday by finishing last in the Carolina Track and Field Championship held at Pembroke State University.

Usually the Fightin' Christians finish third in the eight team competition, but this year was just different.

"I thought maybe I should just get out of track and start coaching swimming or rowing," said Head Coach Chris Worst.

Earlier this season, an indoor meet at Virginia Tech was cancelled because of snow. The roads were so bad, teams could not get to the meet.

However, it was 80 degree weather with blue skies on Saturday at Pembroke. Some of the highlights included: Elon basketball star David Wyrick getting third in the high jump, Corey Thompson placing second in the shot put, Jason Haftl in third and Doug Rayot finishing

in fourth in the javelin.

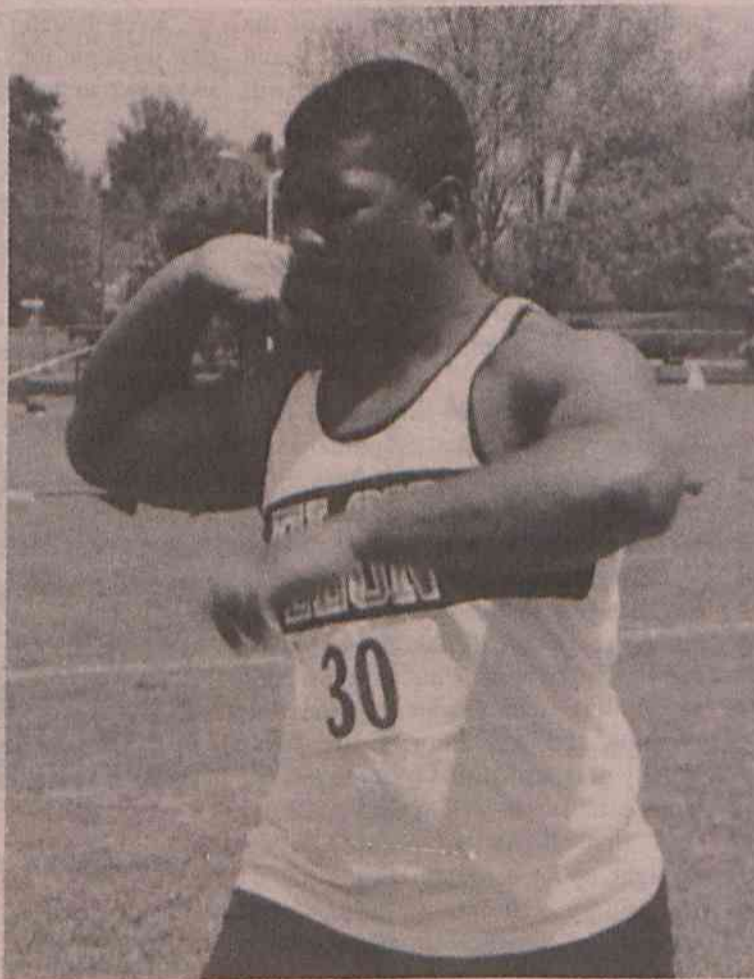
"You've got to use all your energy, so you can plant your foot and go up," said Wyrick, explaining his third place performance. "A lot of guys don't believe in speed, but speed is essential."

High Point University came in first place in the meet with 178 points, followed by Pembroke State, and a surprise third place finish went to Anderson College. Fellow South Atlantic Conference member Presbyterian College also finished ahead of Elon. Elon

ended up with only 30 points.

Senior Dan Ridley, who has been with the program since his freshman year, thinks the track program is coming along very well despite their disappointing finish.

"We use our resources to the best of our ability," Ridley said. "The team is starting to become more than just a bunch of football players."



Corey Thompson prepares to launch a second place shot