



SPORTS



Baseball Crowned Co-Champions of SAC

Chrissy Taylor
Pendulum Reporter

The rain never let up in the Food Lion South Atlantic Conference Tournament, so on Sunday Elon and Carson-Newman were named co-champions of the tournament.

"We are very proud of our guys," Head Coach Mike Kennedy said. "We accomplished all our goals for the season (to win SAC title and 30 games) and we are co-champions of the tournament."

The Fightin' Christians started the tournament with a 13-4 win over Mars Hill. Six Elon players had homeruns in this game, including Kevin Bedard's grand slam.

In the second game the team defeated Catawba 4-2, who had home field advantage.

After this game, Elon had to

face the No. 2 seeded Carson-Newman. The Fightin' Christians suffered a tough 7-8 loss in a 10-inning game, but they came back to defeat Presbyterian 8-5 to make it through the losers bracket into the championship game.

The game was rained out and Elon was crowned co-champions with Carson-Newman.

"Our goal for the tournament was to go out and play the best possible," Kennedy said. "Whoever is hot usually wins the in a tournament."

Six Elon players were named to the All-Tournament Team including Scott Clark, Scott Brendle, Mike Dieke, Kevin Bedard, Jeff Wilson and T.J. Donovan.

The Fightin' Christians finished off their season 32-14. They were 16-4 in the SAC.

Mike Dieke had an outstanding season for the team. He had three

homeruns in the tournament, which added to his other 12 for the regular season.

Dieke hit .380 with 52 RBIs and he went 19-for-21 in stolen bases.

T.J. Donovan completed the season with an 8-2 pitching record, 58 strikeouts and an ERA of 2.86.

Jeff Wilson, who threw a solid eight innings in the Mars Hill game of the tournament, finished with a 7-3 record, 77 strikeouts and an ERA of 2.82.

Now that the tournament is over, Elon has to wait until May 11 to find out if it will get one of the 24 bids into the national tournament.

The teams to look out for in Elon's region are Delta State, Texas A&M at Kingsville, North Alabama and Central Oklahoma.

The first step for the team is getting in.

"This part is out of our control," Kennedy said. "We have done everything that we can."

"Because of our pitching I think we have a good chance," Kennedy said. The team

doesn't have a particular strategy to follow.

"You make decisions throughout games," Kennedy said. "If you pitch well and play good defense you always have a chance."



Andrew Brickey/ *The Pendulum*

Mike Kennedy was named Coach of the Year for his first year as head coach. He led the team to a 32-14 overall record and a co-championship of the SAC tournament.

Golf Loses Lead on Back Nine of SAC Tournament

Bob Grimmie
Asst. Sports Editor

With nine holes remaining on the final day of competition, the men's golf team was carrying a four stroke lead.

However, after a rash of poor shots it became apparent that the South Atlantic Conference tournament would not be Elon's time to shine.

Elon finished behind Presbyterian and Catawba in the eight team tournament.

"We just blew up on the back side," said Head Coach Bill Morningstar. "Nobody played well for us on the back nine, we just couldn't hold on."

"There's nothing we can do about it now except learn from our mistakes," said sophomore Jeff Ennis.

Three Elon players received individual honors for their play this season.

Junior Knox Milligan was

named First Team All-SAC, while senior Brad Lawrence and Ennis were both named Second Team All-SAC.

Following their tournament performance, the men were given the fourth seed in the District Three North bracket of the regional tournament.

Elon is hosting the tournament this year which will begin with a practice round and reception on Sunday and concludes with Wednesday's final round. Stoney Creek golf course in Stoney Creek will be the host sight.

"This is a big one coming up," Morningstar said. "This is the region, this gets you to the national tournament."

The top seven teams in the regional tournament are given bids to play in the Division II national tournament in Scottsdale, Ariz.

The Fightin' Christians fell two strokes shy of qualifying for last year's national tournament. This year, playing on a course in which

the team has a great deal of experience, Elon is looking to avenge last year's narrow loss.

"I think it helps our confidence," Morningstar said. "They have a much better lay out of the course."

"I think it'll be a big factor," Ennis said.

"The greens at Stoney Creek are a lot more undulating and tough than the greens down there (in the South Bracket). I think the teams from the south will struggle the most. They've got good players on those teams, it's just a different style course," he said.

Despite the breakdown in the conference tournament, the men are confident going into the regionals.

"We got our eyes set on nationals," Ennis said. "We want to get there. We just gotta get it together at one time."

"I think they really is a golden opportunity," Morningstar said.

THIS WEEK IN ELON ATHLETICS



May 2-3 W. Div. II Tennis Regional Tournament- Powell Center

Free Admission to both Events

May 5-7 Golf Regional Tournament
Stoney Creek, NC

Support the Fightin' Christians

139 TP NR 1177
6/04/97 33700 SELF