Experience key to success for **Excited about** men's and women's soccer **Elon Athletics?** progress. By 1999, we'll be ready." **Trov Adams** 2 Public Address

Assistant Sports Ediotr

Experience will be the key factor for both men's and women's soccer teams heading into the 1998-99 season.

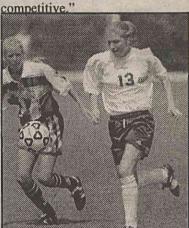
As for the women's team, they will be returning 19 players, including three seniors and six starters.

One of those players is Tricia Clark, who was out the entire season all but one game with a knee injury. She was the team's leading I games, including all the Big South teams. In the 1998-99 season, the team will play 16 Division I games and only one Division II team.

"Now we've got a full Division I and conference schedule," Webster said. "It will give us a good idea of how we'll stack up."

The women's strengths are its unity and commitment to what they need to do better. They are more experienced too. Their biggest weakness is scoring, but new recruits were brought in to fill that

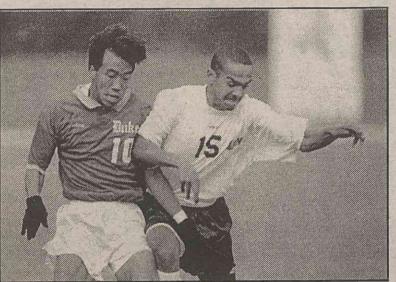
"We'll be pretty good next year in everything," Webster said. "Looking ahead to our first full year in Division I, we should be pretty



Elizabeth Jones and a defender chase down the ball at Bakatsias Field.

Looking to the 1998-99 season, both the men's and women's teams bring in strong recruits to blend with strong returnees.

Andrew Brickey/ The Pendulum



Elon player Breon Byrd will return for 1998-99 season. Andrew Brickey/ The Pendulum

The men's team finished the 1997-98 season with a 2-14-1 record but is looking to improve in the fall.

"We lost no seniors this season," men's coach Mike Reilly said. "We'll have some leadership and veteran players. Our bright spot is recruiting. It's the best class I've seen so far."

The team will bring in seven new players, adding to an already young team consisting mainly of freshman and sophomores.

"They're so young. They had a lot of experience this year," Reilly said. "It was a learning experience for them. This is the year we make

"Getting her back is a key to how dangerous we can be," women's coach Paul Webster said.

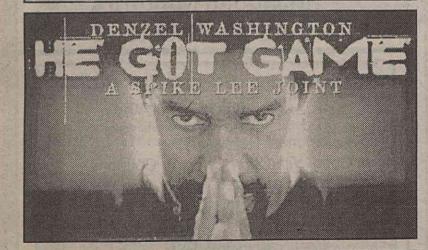
The team will bring in eight new players to blend in with current members.

"They're (recruits) all great players and we're hoping they're going to help us," Webster said.

The Lady Christians finished the 1997-98 season 4-11-1 but was never really out of a game. "We were competitive,"

Webster said. "No one really outplayed us."

The team played 11 Division



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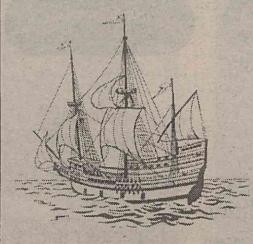
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