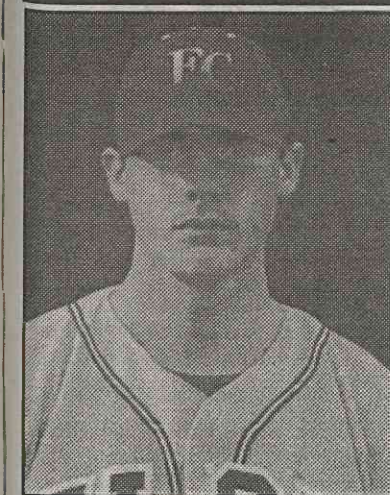


Athletes of  
the Week

Scott Clark

*The Lowdown:* Clark, a junior, went 8-11 against Catawba last weekend, has reached base in nine consecutive times and is hitting .481 through eight games.



Loretta Lawson

*The Lowdown:* Lawson, a soph., scored a career-high 28 points in a loss to CSU, and 13 points in the home-finales win vs. High Point.

Unsung  
Hero

Julianne Treme

*The Lowdown:* Treme, a soph., rallied from behind in her No. 4 singles match to win and give Elon a 5-4 victory over Campbell (2/16). She won 1-6, 6-4, 6-4.

## Thomas Time

## Troy Adams

*The Pendulum*

It was a career night for Mike Thomas on Wednesday, Feb. 17, when Elon faced Charleston Southern.

It was the end of one career, the beginning of another.

How did Thomas handle it?

Fittingly, he gave a career-best performance.

"I was excited," Thomas said. "I have a lot of great memories. I wasn't sad it was over. I was ready for it."

But Charleston Southern wasn't ready for him. Thomas, playing in his 100th game as a Fightin' Christian, scored a career-high 22 points in his final game in Alumni Gym. He also posted a career-best six steals.

Thomas finished the season as Elon's leading rebounder, averaging 5.4 boards a game, while contributing 9.3 points per game, also.

**"I was blessed. All the praise is due to God."**

—Mike Thomas

"I was blessed," Thomas said. "All the praise is due to God."

Thomas is thankful for his basketball experience at Elon, but is ready to move on, he said. He doesn't see basketball in his future and wants to pursue his teacher's certificate.

"I really want to be led spiritually in what I want to do," Thomas said.

Thomas leaves behind a very successful Elon basketball career. In his sophomore year, he led the team in rebounding on 14 occasions. He had a double-double with 16 points and 13 rebounds against Wingate on Jan. 4, 1998.

But he only got better.

In his junior year, Thomas started all 27 games for the Fightin' Christians. He finished fourth in scoring (7.8 ppg) and second in rebounding (6.1 rpg). He tied a career high with 14 rebounds in an 84-70 win against Mississippi Valley on Dec. 6, 1998. He also added another 12 points in that game for a double-double. He scored 18 points against Coastal Carolina, 17 vs. Charleston Southern and 16 vs. Presbyterian.

And he just got better.

Not only did Thomas lead Elon in rebounding this season, but he filled a big leadership role. With the loss of fellow seniors Clint Walker and Deva Lee to injury, Thomas had to step everything up.

He scored 17 points at Colorado, 21 at Radford. He grabbed 11 boards in that same game, another 10 vs. UNC-Asheville, 10 at Coastal Carolina, and seven at Stanford and William & Mary.

In his four years of Elon bas-

ketball, Thomas has won a South Atlantic Conference championship, played in the NCAA Division II Regionals (vs. Elizabeth City State, 3/6/97), and faced some of the nation's top teams in both Div. I and Div. II.

"It's a blessing from God,"

Thomas said. "I got a chance to play both. I got the best of both of them."

Thomas came to Elon as a McDonald's All-American nominee in high school. He earned All-District honors as well. He had chance to go elsewhere, but luckily Elon is where he landed.

"I was led to come here," Thomas said. "I'm glad I came. It was meant to be."

## Admirable exits

Basketball season is over. To many, that simply means it's time to start cheering for another sport.

But what about those that made their living on the court?

What does it feel like to those who have lived their entire life on the hardwood? What does it mean to those that have to say goodbye to something that has been an everyday part of their college experience, to something that has become a facet of life?

"All good things come to an end," senior basketball player Kim Johnson said.

## Troy Adams

*The Pendulum*

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"I've learned a lot from it."

Johnson, along with teammates Jodie Hallet and Mary Parker Coleman will be playing in their final game today.

Mike Thomas and Deva Lea from the men's team already have.

"(Basketball) gave me a lot of discipline," Thomas said. "I had to learn to manage my time. And it brought excitement and competition."

Thomas and Johnson capped their careers with prize performances. Hallet and Parker went out strong as well.

Thomas had career-highs in points (22) and steals (6) in his final home game as a Fightin' Christian. Johnson made a clutch steal and nailed four free throws down the stretch to give the women a 79-71 win over High Point and end a 10-game losing skid in their final home game.

Hallet had a season-best 17

points in the game, and Coleman netted six points herself.

Lea could not play in his final game, sidelined by an injury early in the season.

These seniors will take basketball for what it was and apply what they learned to life.

"There's lessons to be learned in losing and winning," Thomas said.

"It shows you how to work as a team. Hard work equals success."

And all five of these seniors have been successful—on and off the court.

Saying goodbye will be tough, but they know it's not the end, but

rather a new beginning.

"Your team is your family," Johnson said. "My team feels that way. There is nothing we wouldn't do for each other."

"I'm OK with (being finished). I've got a lot out of basketball, a lot more than just plays and having a good time."

These players will take everything they've done and accomplished and apply it to life. Loyalty, trust, discipline and social skills.

It's even more a testament to these seniors, knowing that they realized it would all come to an end, what role basketball played in their lives, but yet they still gave it their all.

That is the sign of true champions and well-rounded players, people and graduates.



## This Week in Campus Recreation

*Athlete of the Week*Justin Sardi -H.R. H.S.

Sardi won the Hardee's Hot Shot contest and will represent Elon at the Big South Conference tournament this weekend.

*Team of the Week*Charlie's Angels

Charlie's Angles cruised to an opening week victory and established themselves as the team to beat in women's intramural basketball.

*Game of the Week*Down South Riders vs. WhiteShadow

Sunday Feb. 28 @ 7 p.m.

Two of the top intramural basketball teams battle for playoff seedings and bragging rights in this showdown. Both teams feature quick guards and strong interior play. There is not truth to the rumor that Coolidge will be starting for White Shadow.

Compiled by: Peter Tulchinsky, Dir. of Campus Rec. & Troy Adams, Sports Editor