

Elon keeps rolling with 40-7 win over A&T

Travis Suber
The Pendulum

With a beautiful blue sky day as the backdrop, the Fightin' Christian football team continued its quest for a I-AA playoff berth with a dominating 40-7 victory over the North Carolina A&T Aggies Saturday, Sept. 25 at Burlington Memorial Stadium.

Everything seem to play out like a plot from a movie as Elon improved to a staggering 4-0 record and the Aggies fall to 2-1. Elon is now the 25th ranked team in I-AA in the nation according to the ESPN/USA Today Coaches Poll.

Lead by its stellar cast of characters, the Fightin' Christians dominated right from the start of the game with an incredible 15 play, 80 yard drive that feasted on almost seven minutes of the clock.

To cap off the drive, senior running back Steven Ferguson—

the team's leader in rushing yards, touchdowns and points scored—broke through the defensive line with a 4 yard run for a touchdown.

Ferguson had 109 yards on 22 carries and one touchdown. This marks the second time in Ferguson's career he has scored a touchdown in four consecutive games.

Elon's march down the field was one that even Sherman would be proud of. Fortunately, Burlington Memorial Stadium was not burned in the Aggie scorching.

The first half was an on-field "ElonFest", with the Fightin' Christians scoring 34 unanswered points.

Those points included an interception returned 38 yards for a touchdown by Elon's own Shanard Smith, a junior who is among the team leaders in tackles and now tied for the lead in interceptions.

Junior quarterback Derrick Moore also scored on two short yardage runs. Moore is the team's

fourth leading rusher with 198 yards on 33 carries for the season.

Moore is rapidly approaching the 2,000 yard career rushing mark, with less than 100 yards to go.

To say that Elon dominated the first half is one thing. But to actually read the the statistics is quite another.

The Fightin' Christians controlled the ball with a 17-4 edge in first downs, as well as converting seven straight third downs into the second half.

The Aggies did not help themselves however, racking up nine penalties in the first half, including two illegal substitution calls.

Elon held the Aggies scoreless through the first three quarters of the game. A&T's only score came with 2:00 left in the game when Maurice Smith scored on an 80-yard run to the endzone.

This brought mixed emotions from the visitor's side of the stadium.

In the week preceding the game, comments about the showdown between the two participating teams began flying around various news sources.

Apparently, the Aggies head coach Bill Hayes made some statements to the effect of Elon being beaten very badly by his team. It should also be noted that as the head

coach at A&T, Hayes is the winningest coach in the history of the program.

Hayes has had only a few embarrassing defeats in his tenure. Elon's smacking is the worst one the Aggies have received in over two and a half seasons, and ranks as fifth all-time worst.

When asked about his comments and how they possibly may have affected the outcome of the game during a post-game interview, Hayes simply trotted off the field.

Elon once again dominated the ground attack with 346 yards on 72 total carries. The Fightin' Christians also had 76 return yards.

The one key statistic that possibly sums up the game entirely is the difference between the amount of rushing plays for Elon to the number of total plays made by A&T.

Elon carried the ball 72 times while the Aggies performed 45 total plays.

The 25th ranked Fightin' Christians will take on University of New Haven on Oct. 2 at Burlington Memorial Stadium to finish Elon's three game home stand to a Family Weekend crowd.

New Haven brings a squad that began the season ranked in the top ten of Division II polls, and is now ranked 17th.

Kickoff is scheduled for 2 p.m.

Men's soccer falters to Stetson U.

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The Fightin' Christian men's soccer team couldn't stop Kjell Aasheim of Stetson University as the junior forward netted two goals in the first half to defeat Elon 2-0 Sunday at Bakatsias Field.

Aasheim used a little showtime trickery as he booted the first shot off of his heel into the net while keeping his back to the ball. Elon goalkeeper Scott Wahl was screened by defenders and completely missed the shot as it rolled into the net for the first score of the game.

Aasheim scored once again with an assist by Mark Poole at the 40:00 mark of the first half to pad the Mad Hatter lead.

Elon (2-5), came back in the second half with a vengeance as the Fightin' Christians took five of their eight shots on goal in the second half. However, Stetson goalkeeper Tim Riek made four saves to ensure the victory.

The Fightin' Christians will attempt to improve their record this week with contests against Campbell and UNC-Asheville. Both games will be played at Elon's Bakatsias field.



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