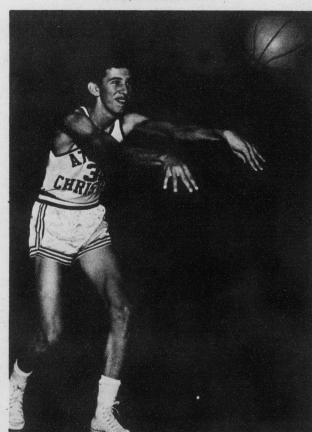
*** Wide Open Race For C



ED CARRAWAY Atlantic Christian Guard



TOM McGEE Elon Guard



BOB GILMORE Bulldog forward



GARLAND DAVIS Catawba Forward

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By BOB MILAN

A well-balanced league should be the most striking characteristic of the Carolinas Conference this year. No one team appears to have the superiority over the rest of the field which Guilford had last year. No less than six teams are capable of taking away that number one spot from the Quakers this season—Atlantic Christian, Catawba, Elon, High Point, Lenoir-Rhyne and Western Carolina. It is close to impossible to predict a conference champ at this stage, but a run-down of each team may help you to decide for yourself who the favorite should be.

Atlantic Christian opens its season by entertaining Lenoir-Rhyne on November 30. In that game, four of last year's top five scorers will be returning for the Bulldogs. Included in this foursome is Ed Carraway, high scorer last year with a 21.2 average, and considered by many to be one of the finest guards in the conference. Other lettermen returning with Carraway are Robert Covington, Bill Gallagher, Robert Gilmore, George Owens, Clyde Stallsmith, and Larry Schwab, who sat out last season with an injury. Coach Ira Norfolk says, "Our squad is stronger than last year and is capable of providing one of the best won-lost records in our school's history."

Although Catawba lost 6-8 center Dave Snyder and 6-7

Although Catawba lost 6-8 center Dave Snyder and 6-7 forward John Harwood, they have a fine nucleus of returning lettermen from last year's team which posted a 22-9 record. Pacing the Indians this year will diminuitive Dwight Durante, who averaged 28.3 points per game last year. At 5-8 he is a strong candidate for All-America honors. All-conference selection Garland Davis will be leading the Indians up front. The 6-5 leaper grabbed nearly 15 rebounds a game last year, as well as averaging 12.6 points. Others figured to be a vital part of the Indian attack include 6-4 senior Larry Bullock, 5-8 guard Mike Garrison, and 6-0 sophomore Neil Hamilton. Coach Sam Moir says that Hamilton has the potential to be the best outside shooter in the league. However, Coach Moir does not appear really optimistic about the coming season. "All I can say is that we will be short and slow,"

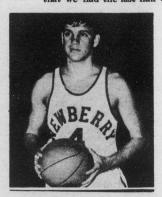
Moir says.

With only five returning lettermen, Elon will have to depend on youth and relatively inexperienced players this season. Henry Goedeck, the 6-6 scoring and rebounding leader for Elon last year has decided to pass up his final year of eligibility. Also missing from last year's squad is guard Bobby Atkins, who averaged 13.1 points a game. Elon's strength this year will be centered around 6-8 Bill Bowes and 6-5 Richard McGeorge, both of whom averaged double figures in both scoring and rebounding last season. Other standouts for the Fighting Christians include guards Tom McGee and Noble Marshall, forward Steve Caddell, and 6-3 Tommy Cole, a



Catawba's All-America against Guilford last se

freshman from Burlington,
"We embark on the 19
basketball season with
hopes," says High Point
Bob Vaughan. "If we ge
same kind of determined
that we had the last half of



TOMMY MARTIN Newberry guard



JIM BURKHART Pfeiffer forward