



William Washington looks for running room. PHOTO: HAYWOOD

3-0 is now 4-1

by Eric Garner

After losing a close football game, a coach will sit back and run over and over in his mind the one or two plays that could have changed the outcome of the game. Last Saturday night was one of those nights for Lion Head Coach Claude "Hoot" Gibson. Incomplete passes, only 64-yards rushing, a missed field goal, or thoughts of three lost fumbles were heavy on Gibson's mind as Elon ended the Lions' eight-game winning streak by a mere score of 9-7.

Offense was a rare word for both teams. Elon scored only six points the week before in a loss to Guilford while the Lions had defeated Gardner-Webb 40-12. Mars Hill scored first with 9:46 left in the first half as sophomore runningback William Washington exploded into the end zone on a 14-yard run. Defensive Captain Dan Johnson set up the single Lion score when he recovered an Elon fumble on the 29-yard line.

Elon then retaliated and tied the score for halftime as QB Martin Page ran three yards for the Christian TD. The Elon score was set up when Ricky Locklear recovered a Mars Hill fumble on the Lion 48. The tie-breaking score came in the

third period as Elon defensive end, Jerry Alford forced Mars Hill's Washington out of bounds in the end zone for a safety.

The remainder of the game was a defensive battle with Mars Hill gaining one chance for a win as Stan Curry attempted a 37-yard field goal. Curry missed the kick and it was determined that a defective shoe was the probable cause.

The loss left the Lions 2-1 in the South Atlantic Conference and 4-1 overall. Elon evened their season record at 2-2, and their conference record now rests at 1-0.

Elsewhere around the conference, Lenoir Rhyne defeated Newberry 31-6. Newberry had been tied with Mars Hill last week for first place in the SAC-8. Lenoir Rhyne holds down first place with a 2-0-1 conference mark. Elon holds second with a 1-0 mark, and last week's leaders (Mars Hill and Newberry) dropped to a tie for third place with 2-1 records. Catawba defeated Emory and Henry, but the Indians remain without any wins in the conference after losing to Mars Hill. Last week's Lion victim (Gardner-Webb), upset the Lion's Homecoming fore, Georgetown 21-20. It was G-W's first victory of the season and the

first loss delt to Georgetown.

This week's encounter with Georgetown should be a highly offensive dual. Tiger

QB Ron Pinchback passed for two TD's last week, and his passing arm will stimulate a lot of ac-

tion in the Mars Hill defensive backfield. Stan Curry will have a new kicking shoe so he should be back up to par for the Lions. The pressure will be on the Lion offense which only generated 130 total yards against Elon. Elon gained 205 yards ru-

shing against Mars Hill's defense. Stopping the powerful Georgetown offense,

(last season ranked fifth in the nation), will be a demanding job for the Lion defenders and should create an interesting Homecoming contest.

GO! LIONS!! WIN!!!

Trigger Racks Up 1600 yds. at Gardner-Webb Game

by Scotty Miller

Mars Hill fans got what they were looking for, and perhaps a little more, in the first home game of the season for the Lions. Fortunately, Trigger, the mascot horse who gallops down the sideline after every Lion score, will get a two-week break before returning for action at the Homecoming game. Trigger made the trip down and back a total of seven times during the game, racking up a massive total of over 1600 yards, leading both teams in that category. Not too far behind was the Mars Hill offense, which scored a season's high of forty points in producing a 40-12 win over Gardner-Webb College.

It turned out to be a bad omen after all when a Gardner-Webb coach slipped and fell on the turf while running onto the field from the dressing room and was nearly trampled by the Bulldog players. He escaped untouched, but the Gardner-Webb team could not escape their mistakes this day, making eight costly turnovers. A record-breaking crowd of 5500 at Meares Stadium watched the Lions win their eighth game in a row, with four of them coming this season. Mars Hill's first score came in the first quarter on a 64-yard drive resulting after Richard Bagwell

recovered a Bulldog fumble on the Lion 36-yard line. The scoring drive was completed in nine plays, with the touchdown coming on a four-yard pass from Mark Dickerson to Scott Ferguson. It did not take the Lions very long to get on the move again, as defensive end Jeff Stapleton recovered a Gardner-Webb fumble in the next series. Sophomore Don Hickman burst in from eight yards out, and after the conversion, Mars Hill was leading 13-0.

The second quarter opened up badly for the Bulldogs as Spike Anderson recovered another fumble deep in Gardner-Webb territory. On a freak play, wide receiver Ronnie Capps took a lateral from Dickerson, ran at a backwards slant for about 20 yards, pulled up and fired a 23-yard pass to Scott Ferguson, who drug himself and two defenders into the endzone for a touchdown. Pro prospect Stan Curry put three more points on the board, with a 46-yard field goal right before halftime, following Scotty Bubash's interception.

In the third quarter, Gardner-Webb tallied twice, cutting the Lion lead to 23-12. Mars Hill got

rolling once again in the fourth quarter, spearheaded by Holtzclaw's recovery of a punt on the Bulldog six-yard line. William Washington, who ran for 142 yards in only 18 carries, rammed the ball in from the one-yard line for the score. Moments later, John Mitchell recovered yet another fumble, and dependable Stan Curry kicked his second field goal of the night, this one from the 42-yard line. An interception by Barry Jacks led to the final Lion score, a four-yard jaunt by Roger Cruell. Curry converted the extra point, completing a convincing 40-12 win for the Lions.

Mars Hill's defense again was too tough for the opposition, stopping drives at the Lion 6-, 13-, and 11-yard lines and at the same time forcing eight costly turnovers. An opportunistic Lion offense turned seven of these into scores. The victory sent Mars Hill into a tie for first place in the SAC-8 conference with Newberry. The most important part of the season is upcoming, and the Lions appear to be ready to meet head on.

FOOTBALL SCORES

Sept. 6	Emory & Henry	9 - 0
Sept. 13	Guilford	10 - 7
Sept. 20	Catawba	31 - 28
Sept. 27	Gardner - Webb	40 - 12
Oct. 4	Elon	7 - 9



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