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Tolley, Jerry Russell

**THE HISTORY OF INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS FOR MEN AT ELON
COLLEGE**

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Ed.D. 1982

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THE HISTORY OF INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS
FOR MEN AT ELON COLLEGE

by

Jerry R. Tolley

A Dissertation Submitted to
the Faculty of the Graduate School at
The University of North Carolina at Greensboro
in Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Doctor of Education

Greensboro
1982

Approved by


Dissertation Adviser

APPROVAL PAGE

This dissertation has been approved by the following committee of the Faculty of the Graduate School at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

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The purpose of this study was to prepare an historical account of the intercollegiate athletic program for men at Elon College from 1889 through the 1980-1981 school year. In achieving this purpose, an attempt was made to reflect the spirit and philosophy of the campus through the years and not merely to present a series of records, list of coaches, participants, and scores. Thus the purpose of this research was to present an accurate, descriptive account of intercollegiate athletics for men at Elon College.

The historical method of investigation was used for the study. This study utilized both a topical and chronological order. Two principal sources were used in data collecting: interviews and printed materials. Appropriate photographs supplement the text. In preparation for the study standard resources in historical research, the history of sport, and other theses and dissertations dealing with the historical development of programs in other colleges were reviewed.

Persons interviewed included former and present coaches, former and present faculty members, former and present administrators, former students, and friends of Elon College. The printed material consisted of local newspaper accounts, collected documents, the histories of Elon College and the town of Elon College, and periodicals of the college (annuals, bulletins, newspapers, and athletic and alumni publications).

The intercollegiate program at Elon College was initiated by the students. Impetus was given to the developing athletic program as faculty

members became interested and gave their support. As the program continued to grow the college administration and faculty took over the control of the athletic program. Over the years the athletic program at Elon College changed as the attitude of the administration and faculty changed. The program reflected environmental conditions existing on the campus, in the state, and in the nation brought about by two world wars, and the great depression.

Although the intercollegiate program on the campus developed for the most part in a positive manner, some of the same problems that were prevalent at other institutions around the country (the question of amateurism and the criteria for the selection of coaches) were present at Elon College too.

What started at the college as an interest of a few students in a limited number of athletic activities has grown over the years into an athletic program which has encompassed as many as thirteen intercollegiate sports. Over the years all students have benefitted from this diverse selection of activities.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Why Athletics

Where did athletics originate? Where exactly do athletics fit into the American society? Are athletics really a reflection and predictor of the society? These questions and others have afforded the opportunity for researchers to take a new look at the sport-oriented environment in this country.

The spirit of play and competition is as old as culture itself and pervades all of life. Many rituals are products of man's desire to play. It should therefore be concluded that civilization in all of its dimensions is influenced by play (Huizinga, 1950, p. 73). Lipsyte (1979) relates that:

Sport is, has always been, and will always be a reflection of the mainstream culture of the society. Those that claim we could or should keep sport free of politics, or free of commercialism, or free of ideology are fools. If sport were not such a reflection, it would be nothing more than an isolated sanctuary, an irrelevant little circus, and hardly worth considering. But sport is as I firmly believe it should be, a critical part of the lives of every man, woman and child in the country and in the world.
(p. 22)

The twentieth century has been called the century of many things, but perhaps no other phenomenon deserves distinction more than sport. The pervasiveness of sport can be observed by the disproportional amount of involvement in it by people of all backgrounds and ages. Thus sports and athletics, the competitive arm of sport, have played and continue to play a paramount role in the cultures of mankind (Sage, 1979, p. 1).

Sport, and more specifically athletics, have over the years become an integral part of the American way of life. From the playgrounds of the elementary schools to the athletic fields on our university and college campuses, athletics are held in high esteem. Our country is recognized worldwide as a sport-loving nation. The athletes of our nation have been credited with unifying schools, colleges and universities, communities, and, yes, the nation as evidenced by the victory of the United States of America's ice hockey team over the team representing the Soviet Union in the 1980 Winter Olympics held at Lake Placid, New York.

Today much of our daily life is influenced by the world of athletics. Never before in our country's history has sport played such a significant part. Newspapers are filled with accounts of contests played and upcoming sport spectaculars. Prime time television is filled with the world series, college basketball, bowl games, super bowls, professional golf, international gymnastics, and all manner of athletic competition. There is truly a sport for all seasons and viewers for all sports. The game of the week has become as American as Thanksgiving and apple pie.

Intercollegiate athletics at Elon College have been a part of the American love affair with sports. Throughout its history, Elon has had a rich tradition in athletics. Over the years there has been considerable cause for celebration with many outstanding victories over rival institutions. Dr. Durward T. Stokes, in his unpublished history of Elon College, gives accounts of some of these victories. There is, however, a pressing need to research further into the rich athletic history of this small church-affiliated liberal arts institution. This need for a comprehensive

study of the athletic history of Elon College has been apparent for many years. It is only appropriate that outstanding coaches such as Horace J. Hendrickson, Graham L. "Doc" Mathis, James B. Mallory, S. S. "Red" Wilson, D. C. "Peahead" Walker, William "Bill" Miller, and others be recorded in the annals of the Elon College sports history.

There have also been many truly superior athletes who have been a credit both to themselves and to the college. These dedicated athletes have carried the Elon colors in local, state, regional, and national competition. Among these are L. J. "Hap" Perry, Robert L. "Jack" Boone, Delmer D. "Dee" Atkinson, William E. "Webb" Newsome, and Richard E. "Rich" McGeorge. These outstanding gentlemen are, also, deserving of their places in the Elon College athletic history.

Elon College is continuing its rich tradition in offering inter-collegiate athletics for the students who walk her majestic oak-shaded campus. With the on-set of a variety of women's sports, and the addition of new sports for men, Elon College continues to provide its students a comprehensive athletic program to go hand in hand with its pursuit of academic excellence. To these ends Elon College is steadfast.

Statement Of The Problem

The purpose of this study was to prepare an historical account of the intercollegiate athletic program at Elon College from 1889 through the 1980-1981 school year. In achieving this purpose, an attempt was made to reflect the spirit and philosophy of the campus through the years and not merely to present a series of records, list of coaches, participants, and scores. Elon has been and continues to be an alive campus with many

outstanding people contributing to its athletic history. Thus the purpose of this research was to present an accurate, descriptive account of the intercollegiate history of Elon College. The study gained direction from the following objectives:

1. To analyze the need for historical research.
2. To research and review the history of Elon College from its conception to the present.
3. To determine the origin and early development of the intercollegiate athletic program at Elon College.
4. To trace the history of the various intercollegiate sports at Elon College.
5. To determine the outstanding athletes, coaches, teams, faculty members, and administrators of Elon College.
6. To try to identify the various forces that impacted on the Elon College athletic program.

Definition Of Terms

1. Athletics: competitive sports which involve ". . . competitive-cooperative, playful activities of relative high organization in which success is partially determined by winning and effective by the action of two or more opponents" (Bookwalter & Vanderzwaag, 1979, p. 230).
2. Intercollegiate athletics: athletic competition between two or more colleges or universities.
3. Sports: according to Webster, a pastime or diversion which is synonymous with fun.

4. Athlete: "from the Greek, athlos, referring to a contest, and athlon, meaning a prize. Thus, an athlete was one who contended for a prize in a contest" (Bookwalter & Vanderzwaag, 1969, p. 65).
5. Elon College: chartered on March 11, 1889, by the Christian Church and located in the northern piedmont region of the state of North Carolina. The word Elon is derived from the Hebrew word meaning oak.

Assumptions Underlying The Study

1. The intercollegiate athletic program at Elon College was born in the minds of its students.
2. As the athletic program matured it began to gain some support from certain faculty and staff members. This additional interest gave impetus to the program.
3. Out of necessity the college administration and faculty took over the control of the athletic program.
4. The athletic program at Elon College has changed as the attitude of the administration and faculty changed.
5. The athletic program at Elon College has reflected the environmental conditions existing on the campus, in the state, and in the nation.
6. There was educational value in conducting the research in the history of intercollegiate athletics at Elon College.
7. There was sufficient data available to conduct such a study.

Significance Of Study

Progress in an endeavor can be measured in its history. Data can be used to compare the past with the present and to review where a program has been and the direction in which it is headed. The achievements in a program can also demonstrate the relationship between certain elements in the civilization and the role of the subjects in a particular society. Thus, through the study of history, a broad and appreciative view of a program can be obtained (Rice, Hutchinson & Lee, 1969, iii).

The study of history has always been and continues to be a topic of concern in the field of physical education. The significantly increased interest in sport over the past two decades has forced a much needed impetus for historical analysis and interpretation (Zeigler, 1979, p. x).

The athletic program at Elon College has made a significant contribution to the progress of the college. The successes of teams and athletes have brought local, state, regional, and national publicity to the college which in turn has attracted new students. The athletic program at Elon College has been and continues to be a source of pride to its student body and acts as a catalyst to unify the college community.

The study gained additional significance in that it allowed the history of the Elon College athletic program to become part of recorded history for future generations to review and study. It should also become a source of pride for all coaches, athletes, faculty, administration, students, alumni, and friends of the college.

Scope Of The Problem

The study was limited to the historical development of intercollegiate

athletics at Elon College. The time frame of the study began in 1889, the year the college was chartered, and continued through the 1980-1981 school year. The study had two specific limitations:

1. The study was limited to the athletic program at Elon College and did not include the programs of conferences and other National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics affiliated institutions.
2. The study did not include the physical education and intramural programs at Elon College, except as the author felt they benefitted the research.

A brief history of the college was presented in order to parallel the development of the college as it related to the athletic program.

Methods and Procedures

The historical method of investigation was used for the study. The study utilized both a topical and a chronological order. Two principal sources were used in collecting data--interviews and printed material. Appropriate photographs supplemented the text.

The interview method to be used was the one outlined in Researching, Writing, and Publishing Local History by Thomas E. Felt (1976). Those chosen for the interview sessions were drawn from the following population:

1. Former and present coaches of Elon College.
2. Former and present athletes of Elon College.
3. Former and present faculty members of Elon College.
4. Former and present administrators of Elon College.
5. Former and present students of Elon College.

6. Friends of Elon College.

The printed material consisted of newspaper accounts, college publications, collected documents, and the histories of Elon College and the Town of Elon College. Historical data significant to the research came from the review of the following newspapers:

1. The Alamance Gleaner (1875-1947). Published in Graham, North Carolina.
2. The Daily Times-News (1923-1981). Published in Burlington, North Carolina.
3. The Christian Sun (1844-1954). Published in Pittsboro, North Carolina and other locations.
4. The State Dispatch (1908-1913). Published in Burlington, North Carolina.

Historical data significant to the research came from review of the following campus publications:

1. The Bulletin of Elon College (1889-1981). College catalog.
2. Dimensions Today (1974). Campus newspaper.
3. Elon College Alumni News (1948-1974). Alumni magazine.
4. The Elon Alumni Voice (1928-1930). Alumni magazine.
5. Elon College Athletic Publications (1971-1981). Programs for various sports.
6. The Elon College Monthly (1891-1894). Student magazine.
7. Elon College Communicator (1970-1981). Campus newsletter.
8. The Elon College Weekly (1910-1913). Campus newspaper (file incomplete).
9. The Magazine of Elon (1974-1981). Alumni magazine.

10. Maroon and Gold Review (1971-1981). Program for various sports.
11. Maroon and Gold (1919-1970). Campus newspaper.
12. The Pendulum (1974-1981). Student newspaper.
13. Phi Psi Cli (1913-1981). College yearbook.
14. The Quest (1981). Commemorative magazine honoring the 1980
Elon College National Championship Football Team.
15. The Veritas (1968-1969). Campus newspaper.

Historical data significant to the research came from the review of the following collected documents:

1. Minutes, Board of Trustees, Elon College, Elon College, North Carolina (1912-1945).
2. Minutes, Faculty Meetings, Elon College, Elon College, North Carolina (1890-1981).
3. Christian Annual (1870-1964). Yearly publication of the proceedings of the Christian Church.

Historical data significant to the research came from the review of the following additional sources:

1. Elon College All-Sports Record Book by James M. Waggoner.
2. Elon College: Its History and Traditions by Durward T. Stokes.
3. The History of the Town of Elon College by Mary L. Mackintosh.
4. The History of the Christian Church in the South by Durward T. Stokes and William T. Scott.
5. The Guilfordian (1914-1981). Campus newspaper, Guilford College.

CHAPTER II

NEED FOR HISTORICAL RESEARCH

Every One An Historian

When a person looks into a mirror many things come into focus. First, immediate attention is drawn to the eyes and facial details. This is only natural. A closer analysis will reflect images pertaining to hair color, length, and style. Still a closer scrutiny will reveal details outlining dress patterns as to design and color. If the viewer wishes, he can observe the surroundings and focus on each item in the reflection perimeters of the environment. Add to this a vivid imagination and the mind's eye can paint a mental portrait of the entire universe.

Thus it is with history. As surely as images are reflected by the mirror, history has the capacity to reflect the past existence of man as he has lived and continues to live on this planet. Footprints in time are left by all creatures large and small, depicting and detailing the very nature of their existence.

The average person has written or read enough about history to have a working knowledge of its tenets. The average person, also, has a memory which can recall several years of past experiences. He has reviewed historical documents such as newspapers and letters or heard political speeches. There are few among us who have not written potential historical documents such as tax reports, school reports, and business letters. So each of us in different ways has become his own historian (Gottschalk, 1950, p. 26).

Early Recordings Of History

History has been a part of man's legacy since the conception of his communication skills. Whether verbally transcending generations or through paintings on the walls in caves, man has left his imprints for others to observe and study.

The oldest known records of man's existence on this planet were outlined on stone by the scribes of the Sumerian civilization in Mesopotamia. One such tablet which dates from around 2400 B.C. records a boundary line between two cities. The Egyptians like the Sumerians were concerned with recording history. Much of their recordings outlined the greatness of the different Pharaohs. The Babylonians were also history oriented. They developed curiosity about their origin and preserved a record of each new generation. The best known of their historical remains are lines of cuneiform proclaiming the law code of King Hammurabi who ruled about 2100 B.C. The advent of the writing of the Old Testament of the Bible brought the first historical writing of major significance. The Hebrews are acknowledged by the experts as being excellent historians (Broadman, 1965, pp. 18-19).

Thucydides is recognized as the forerunner of the modern historian. His writing, The History of The Peloponnesian War, is recognized as a classic. His depiction of the existing war between Athens and Sparta was based on both his personal observations and those of other eye witnesses (Hockett, 1955, p. 5).

Most of these earlier recorders of history tried to reflect literary accomplishments in their writings. By doing so they recorded beloved folk tales which were both enjoyable and inspirational to their readers.

Some few Greek historians, however, were somewhat more scientific and less imaginative. Thucydides was such an historian. Therefore, it has become the charge of the modern historical researcher, as in the mode presented by Thucydides, to recall man's past in a manner that does not distort the events which had taken place nor the spirit of the times (Van Dalen, 1966, pp. 176-177).

The Meaning Of History

Why do we use the word history? What is its origin? The good researcher should become familiar with the term itself as well as its meaning. The English word for history comes from the Greek word meaning "to learn." From this meaning the Greek philosopher Aristotle viewed history as a ". . . systematic account of natural phenomena." A review of the German language introduces the word Geschichte which comes from geschehen. Geschehen translated into English means "happen." As reflected in the German definition, most people today recognize that history is the ". . . past of mankind" (Gottschalk, 1950, p. 41).

Why Study History

Most historians recognize that the study of history itself is not a problem but it is the writing of such which causes the concern. The impulse to record a true account of man's past dates back to cave writings. Pictorial accounts painted on the walls of caves are evidence of this. But it should be remembered that things are not always as they seem. Trying to answer a simple question such as ". . . what happened?" may open up more complex issues concerning the background of the events, the

people involved, the dates in question, and the environmental conditions present (Lottinville, 1976, p. 3).

Those who study history find themselves belonging to two orders. One order is called "descriptive" historians and the other "theoretical." The descriptive historian depicts an account of an event in its unique setting while the theoretical historian compares, classifies and makes generalizations in regard to his subject. Historians will generally find themselves in both groups at the same time (Gottschalk, 1963, p. v). Gottschalk indicated that the historian finds himself charged with a dual purpose. He believed the historian to be:

- (1) a guardian of the cultural heritage and (2) a narrator of the development of mankind. In the first capacity he is concerned with establishing an accurate, detailed, and impartial account of past persons, events, thoughts, institutions, and things as his knowledge and critique of source will permit. Here his motto may well be 'the past for the sake of the past'. . . . In the second capacity, however, he has to have some theory of how mankind develops as well. Hence he finds himself deeply enmeshed in philosophy and sociology (1950, p. 86).

The question also arises as to whether the study of history is a science or an art. History is viewed as a science in the sense that it uses the scientific approach in its investigative procedures. On the other hand history is looked on as an art in the manner of its presentation. The imaginative process is the interpretation and recording of the factual material as it becomes print on the pages of the manuscript (Good, 1963, p. 81).

Arnold Toynbee (1974) addressed the science-art relationship debated by Good:

I suppose in both physical science and in the study of human affairs the test of the difference between what is chance and what is law - regularity - is one's conception of the structure of non-human

nature and the structure of human nature. There must be some regularity in human nature as well as physical nature. I think the difference is one of degree. Obviously human nature is much subtler, there are many more catches in it (p. 5).

Broadman (1965) believed that history may very well be ". . . history about history." While it is impossible for history to encompass all knowledge, it can and does reflect what human beings have done. This statement must be qualified by understanding that history can not possibly deal with everything that has occurred since recorded time. It, therefore, must be confined to the studying and writing of significant events and people (p. 1).

Best (1977) believed history to be a recollection of what man has achieved. It attempts to detail the relationship between events, times, and places in a chronological fashion. The study of the past will not only elicit a fuller understanding of where man has been but will enable him to better understand the present. Best also believed it to be impossible to study past events as isolated entities. It is, therefore, not feasible to investigate the past without including the interaction of ideas, movements, and other environmental conditions impinging on the events observed (p. 340).

It should be noted that history is more than just the collecting of bits and pieces and arranging them into an orderly fashion. The true historian tries to find a meaning for the pieces that do not fit. There are always contradictions that exist in any sequence of events. These discrepancies can often help to integrate accounts of past events. Without them the study of history would not be in the true spirit of critical inquiry (Hill & Kerber, 1967, p. 125).

Rowse (1948) contended that ". . . history is the study of the human society." He believed that this reflection of man's past can lend understanding to current events and offer visions of the future. History can offer biographies of historic figures and give accounts of their contributions to mankind as well as offer pleasant and exciting reading material. History deals not only with the famous but also with the not so famous. While their names are not known they have made an impression in time. Thus, true history is drawn from the whole range of human experiences (pp. 16-17).

Carr (1961) referred to history as ". . . the long struggle of man, by the exercise of his reason, to understand his environment and to act upon it" (p. 178). He expounded further that understanding will open up a new era. The contention is that history is the interaction of the researcher and facts. The historical method becomes a communion between the present and the past--the historian and the facts. In the interpretation, selection, and ordering the facts undergo a subtle change as the historian's hands begin to mold the gathered materials into a printed form (p. 35).

There is also a contention that ". . . history embraces the entire field of the human past and is as broad as life itself." This spectrum, therefore, encompasses all human experiences. Contained in its embraces are law, religion, art, literature, medicine, science, philosophy, education, anthropology, psychology, and sociology (Good, 1963, p. 81).

Good (1966) solidified his contention for the need and purpose of historical research when he stated:

Historians of the twentieth century have commonly emphasized the immediate usefulness of history in dealing with contemporary problems. They have stressed the importance of a social consciousness for the historian, use of history to throw light on the present, inquiry into the past for solutions to contemporary problems, and avoidance of the charge of antiquarianism (p. 151).

Hill and Kerber (1967) agreed with Good when they wrote:

The ability of history to employ the past to predict the future and to use the present to explain the past gives it a dual and unique quality which makes it especially useful for all sorts of scholarly study and research (p. 125).

It is also apparent that historical research attempts to verbally reconstruct the past. Although this reconstruction can never be totally accomplished, the historian recognizes the task at hand and accepts the challenge. He works out a careful blueprint and sets a goal to assemble the fragmented pieces into a finished portrait. History is not merely a reconstruction of past experiences but must include a reflection of the spirit of critical inquiry which will truly represent the subject at hand (Travers, 1969, pp. 378-379).

Gay (1976) saw historical research as the tool which allows an opportunity to improve existing practices in education. Through the systematic collection and objective evaluation of data related to past educational occurrences a new knowledge of the history of education may offer insights into present programs and give direction for the evolution of future ones (p. 116).

As pertaining to the field of physical education, it is believed that a knowledge of the history of physical education will help the student of the discipline to better understand the present conditions of the field. A person's views of the past will help him interpret and clarify materials

which he deals with daily. This understanding will not only offer answers for today's problems but will also serve as a stimulus for future research (Zeigler, 1975, p. 380).

Zeigler (1979) suggested that it is not possible to be completely objective in historical research. We, therefore, must hope ". . . that someone with penetrating insight will have flashes of intuitive genius while writing and interpreting the history of mankind." If the researcher can incorporate a scientific base in his investigation, then and only then can he make a ". . . stout effort to define the future" (p. 231).

Barrow (1973) wrote that the study of history is ". . . a systematic account of man's past" (p. 4). Its purpose is to evaluate and interpret past occurrences and place them in a chronological sequence. An understanding of the past affords a perspective of observing the present which will aid in the understanding of contemporary problems. Also studies of the past will offer guidelines which can be used to predict and possibly shape a better future. With this in view it is imperative that today's student of physical education be versed in the historical background in the field as well as the historical methods used in historical research (p. 45).

Rice and Hutchinson (1952) agreed that ". . . the history of any subject may be taken as a means of measuring progress." Through historical research, data are collected and compared with similar data which are current in the field. This comparison can give forth valuable information which could be used as a measurement for progress (p. xxiii).

Van Dalen, Mitchell, and Bennett (1953) indicated that historical investigations in physical education bring ". . . distance, times, and conditions into focus" so we may better prepare for the future. It is the duty of all physical educators to reflect on the ". . . shifting patterns of life activities." Only those ardent students can comprehend the many social forces, conditions, ideas, and philosophies that have shaped the field (p. 1).

The one tenet behind historical research is the imperative motive that the search for truth is paramount. The researcher discovers and presents information which will pass the test of critical evaluation. With the knowledge of past dilemmas and through the use of generalizations the historical researcher can foresee problems and possibly make adjustments for the future (Singer, 1976, p. 304).

Four Paramount Purposes

In concluding, Hill and Kerber (1967) related that while historical research has many purposes its real value can be seen in four categories:

- (1) to inquire into the past for solutions to contemporary problems;
- (2) to shed light upon present and future trends;
- (3) to stress the relative importance and the effects of the various interactions that are to be found within all cultures; and
- (4) to re-evaluate data in the light of proving (or disproving) the hypotheses, theories, and/or generalizations that are presently held about the past (p. 125).

Becker (1935) stated it simply when he noted that history is the ". . . memory of things said and done" (p. 235).

Summary

Footprints in time are left by all creatures who walk the earth depicting and detailing the very nature of their existence. Therefore,

each of us in his unique ways has become his own historian. This is evidenced by the letters we write, the forms we fill out, and the school reports that we have given.

History has always been a part of man's legacy. From the early writing on the wall of caves, man has found a purpose to record events of his existence. The Sumerians, Egyptians, Babylonians, Hebrews, and the Greeks have all been writers and recorders of history. The Greek historian Thucydides is recognized as the forerunner of the modern historian. His writing of The History of The Peloponnesian War is a classic.

The English word for history is derived from the Greek word meaning "to learn," while the German language introduces the word Geshichte which originates from geschehen which translates into English as "happen." Today most people recognize that history is a record of mankind's past.

Most historians recognize that the study of history itself is not a problem but it is the recording of such which causes the concerns. Sometimes trying to answer the simplest of questions can open up an array of additional problems. The question also arises as to whether the study of history is a science or an art. Most authorities agree that it is a science as it relates to the use of scientific approach and an art in the manner of its presentation.

Historical research has been referred to as many things. Broadman called it the "history of History"; Best believed it to be the recollection of what man has achieved; Rowse contended that "history is the study of the human society" while Good believed that "history embraces the entire field of the human past and is as broad as life itself."

In the field of physical education it is believed that a knowledge of the history of physical education will help the student of the discipline to better understand the past. This understanding of the past will help him clarify the present. It will also offer guidelines which can be used to predict and possibly shape a better future.

CHAPTER III
A BRIEF HISTORY OF ELON COLLEGE

The Christian Church And The Pre-Elon Era

The aims of the Christian Church are like those of most religious groups, i.e., to spread the gospel and to convert the world to Christ. Its distinct purpose is to expel sectarianism from God's people and ". . . to promote the liberty of the human conscience in matters of religion, to cause minor theological and ecclesiastical doctrines to be renamed to the sphere of individual judgments, and to effect the final union of all true Christians, upon the basis of a common belief in the essential doctrines of Christianity" (Christian Annual, 1881, p. 4). To achieve the aims of the church the following Cardinal Principles have been adopted:

1. Jesus Christ is the only head of the church.
2. The name Christian is the only appellation needed or received by the church.
3. The Holy Bible is a sufficient rule of faith and practice.
4. Christian character is a just, and should be the only, test of fellowship or of church membership.
5. The right of private judgment and the liberty of conscience is a right and privilege that should be accorded to and exercised by all (Christian Annual, 1882, pp. 21-22).

The religious body known as "The Christians" had its birth as a separate and distinct organization near the close of the 1700's. On November 1, 1792, the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal

Church was meeting in the city of Baltimore in the state of Maryland. The Reverend James O'Kelly, ". . . a prominent and leading minister in that church, with about twenty other ministers" withdrew from the body because of irreconcilable differences as to the respecting of the autocratic powers of the Bishop. They left determined to reform the church through independent actions (Christian Annual, 1870, p. iii).

The departure soon brought about a new organization and a new name. Assembled in conference in 1793, a church was founded and the name "Republican Methodist" was chosen. Meeting again in 1794 at Lebanon Church in Surry County, Virginia, and at the suggestion of the Reverend Rice Haggard, the new church adopted the name "Christian." It was believed that this more fully expressed that Christ was ". . . the great head of the church and [the name] by which the disciples were first called at Antioch." The new church would soon be recognized for its ". . . piety and zeal and the love of religious freedom." Thus the organization had its origin. The Christians could now go forth to wage war under the "Banner of the Cross" with the inscription ". . . Liberty to Man: Loyalty to Christ" (Christian Annual, 1882, pp. 19-20).

The Reverend James O'Kelly died in Chatham County, North Carolina, on October 6, 1825, at the age of 92. Upon his death the brethren pulled together and continued the work of their departed leader. The Southern Christian Association was organized in April 1847 by combining the Eastern Virginia Conference and the North Carolina and Virginia Conference. In 1856 the name Southern Christian Association was changed to the Southern Christian Convention. With the onset of the War Between the

States, the work of the church was brought to a standstill, virtually paralyzing all church-related activities. From the evils of war came a new emergence of the church. In 1864 the Deep River Conference was founded. The Georgia and Alabama Conference had been organized earlier (Christian Annual, 1881, p. 3).

In May 1866, out of the ashes of the war, the Southern Christian Convention met at Mt. Auburn, Warren County, North Carolina, to lay plans for the future work of the church. The proceedings of this meeting brought forth a Declaration of Principles, a Form of Government, and a Directory for Worship. The name of the organization was changed once more to "The General Convention of the Christian Church" (Christian Annual, 1881, pp. 3-4).

It should be noted that many of the early leaders of the Christian Church in the South did not recognize the value of an education. Not being educated in classical learning themselves, they felt that education should be left to gentlemen. They believed the divine hand of the Lord would deliver the spoken word from their tongue. With this being the thought of the day, young ministers were not encouraged to obtain a liberal education (Christian Sun, October 12, 1939, p. 5).

This attitude toward education changed during the post-Civil War era. In May 1870, The Third Quadrennial Session of the General Convention of the Christian Church was meeting in Suffolk, Virginia, when the following report was given by the Committee on Schools and Colleges:

Your Committee on Schools and Colleges beg leave to report: ———
 the Christian Church is fully impressed with the necessity of a thorough training not only among the clergy but also among the laity. The prosperity and influence of every organization depend very much upon its intelligence and its facilities for acquiring knowledge.

. . .

It is probable that the present pressing demands of our denomination may be met by the erection in the several Conferences of what may be termed normal and theological schools, at which all our young men may receive thorough business education and where those desiring to follow the profession of teaching may be amply qualified, while the necessary facilities may also be afforded to those young men about to enter the Gospel Ministry. . . . We recommend that the Conference make efforts immediately for the erection of high schools of character here described and that the means for that purpose above referred to, be employed when thought expedient (Christian Annual, 1870, pp. 8-9).

Forerunners Of Elon College

Out of the preceding committee report presented by the Reverend John N. Manning, the Suffolk Collegiate Institute was born. This school opened its doors in January, 1872, with more than one hundred pupils in attendance. The Reverend W. B. Wellons served as its first principal. The 1880's found the school to be greatly enlarged with ". . . hope for a bright future." The Suffolk Collegiate Institute was maintained as a high school until it was destroyed by fire in 1892 (Morrill, 1912, pp. 275-276).

The question of education first came before the North Carolina and Virginia Conference in 1849. It was decided in a conference meeting held that year, that the said conference would take over the private school of the Reverend J. R. Holt and bring it under the charge of the church. Graham Institute officially opened its doors in July 1852, with the Reverend J. R. Holt being retained as principal (Morrill, 1912, p. 207).

In 1859, Graham Institute became Graham College. It prospered for only two years before it was forced to close because of the Civil War. The property was sold because of debts and soon thereafter was used as a tobacco warehouse. In 1865, the Reverend W. S. Long opened a school in

another location in Graham and in 1871 he purchased the old Graham College property for his expanding school. Four years later, with his brother, Dr. D. A. Long, they obtained a charter for what was to be called Graham Normal College. The new school continued until 1887 when it came under the charge of the Christian Church. The Reverend W. S. Long was retained as its President. The new institution, called Graham College, was the forerunner to Elon College (Christian Sun, June 5, 1890, p. 3).

The General Convention of the Christian Church again met in Quadrennial Session in Lebanon in Caswell County, North Carolina, in 1878. The Committee on Schools and Colleges reported that during the past four years there had not been an attempt to start a college. It was the feeling of the Committee that to start such a venture at this time would not be in the best interest of the church. The following was contained in the Committee's report:

In several of the Conferences, high schools have been established, which are under the patronage of our people. We are glad to say that these schools, especially the Suffolk Collegiate School and Graham High School, have heretofore had an encouraging support, though our people have not as yet come up to their duty in sustaining them.

. . .

We do not think it expedient to attempt the establishment of any college among our people for some time to come. Our numbers are small and our finances too weak to set on foot a college which might compare favorably with the better institutions of the country which are open to our youth. We do not think it best for any special enterprise of this character to be undertaken at present (Christian Annual, 1878, pp. 16-17).

The Birth Of The College

Over the next four years there was a change in attitude as to the views of the General Convention concerning the establishment of a college.

On May 8, 1882, the General Convention was again meeting in Quadrennial Session in The Christian Church in Morrisville, Wake County, North Carolina. The Committee on Schools and Colleges composed of W. S. Long, W. W. Staley, and J. Pressley Barrett tendered the following statement:

That this Convention proceed at once to establish a College at some suitable point within our borders, at which our boys and girls and our young men seeking to enter the ministry may be educated (Christian Annual, 1883, p. 28).

Finally after many years of labor, there appeared to be sufficient support in the convention to start a quest for the establishment of a college within the borders of the Conference. It was obvious that the schools in Suffolk and Graham were no longer meeting the needs of the church. The General Convention meeting in Extraordinary Session at New Providence Church in Graham, Alamance County, North Carolina, on September 13, 1888, was given a report by the Committee on Schools and Colleges which was adopted without dissenting vote. The following statements were contained within the report:

We held our first meeting March 28, 1887, in the Town of Graham. The propriety and importance of our establishing a denominational college was introduced and discussed, and at subsequent meetings held in Graham, May 23, 1887, and June 10, 1887, we leased the Graham Normal College property on terms we deemed very reasonable.

We then elected Rev. W. S. Long, President, with Rev. J. U. Newman, Capt. S. A. Hollman, Prof. H. J. Stockard, with such other teachers as they may deem necessary, to do the work of the College, giving the faculty the responsibility of the discipline of the school, reserving the right to advise with them on questions demanding our cooperation.

. . . .

At a meeting held July 3, 1888, we authorized the chairman to visit various points to investigate the advantages and ascertain inducements offered for the location of the College. . . .

. . . .

1. We therefore ask the Convention to determine upon the place of permanent location, and to take such other steps as may be deemed proper in order to establish upon a permanent base an institution of high grade for the purpose of promoting education, morality and religion.

2. We recommend that this Convention elect fifteen Trustees to take charge of the enterprise, and that the entire control and management of the College, property it may acquire, and its business affairs, shall be entrusted to and exercised by said Board of Trustees (Christian Annual, 1889, p. 17).

On the morning of September 14, 1888, the Board of Trustees were elected. Among those chosen were W. W. Staley, Suffolk, Virginia; E. A. Moffitt, Asheboro, North Carolina; F. L. Moring, Raleigh, North Carolina; and W. S. Long, Graham, North Carolina. That same September morning saw the organization of a Provisional Board for the college work. The persons chosen were W. S. Long, President; J. P. Barrett, Secretary; F. O. Moring, Treasurer; J. H. Harden; and G. S. Watson. After limited debate concerning the five locations offered, these being Greensboro, Graham, Burlington, Mill Point, and Gibsonville, it was agreed that the Provisional Board should visit each site in question and be given the ". . . full power to choose and select" (Christian Annual, 1889, pp. 22-23).

With the blessings of the General Convention, the Provisional Board pursued its quest. On Friday, October 26, 1888, it was decided to locate the college on a lot between the residence of Captain E. S. Parker and the Providence Church in Graham, North Carolina. The location was found to be the most beautiful and was within one hundred yards of the Graham

Depot. The Board was also able to secure a tract of land for residential use. Construction was to begin in the late Spring of 1889 so as to be ready for the opening of classes on September 1, 1889. The Reverend W. S. Long, the President of the College, was to oversee the construction (Christian Sun, November 1, 1888, p. 2).

A problem developed with securing a clear title for the property selected in Graham. With all hope lost for locating in that town, a new site had to be selected. More determined than ever, the Provisional Board started its search anew. After careful consideration, Mill Point, an underdeveloped railroad depot, was selected (Christian Sun, January 3, 1889, p. 2). It should be noted that in 1851 the North Carolina Railroad Company started building a railroad between Goldsboro and Charlotte. It was completed in 1856. A freight depot was erected outside the villages of Ossipee and Altamahaw to serve as a shipping facility for their growing textile plants. Nearby mills also used the depot for the shipping of their goods. Thus the location assumed the name Mill Point (Mackintosh, 1968, pages unnumbered). Mill Point was located four and one-half miles west of Burlington. In addition to the depot, there was also a large warehouse located there. The depot manager, Mr. Walter L. Smith, was said to be an experienced railroad agent (Alamance Gleaner, April 19, 1888, p. 3).

In January 1889, J. Pressley Barrett, the editor of The Christian Sun, visited Mill Point and stayed the night with President Long. He made the following observations:

The place is already changed; it presents a busy scene. We judge there are about twenty men at work, cutting and surveying.

Reverend A. F. Isley is also on the spot superintending the cutting out of the grove.

So far they have found thirty-three kinds of trees growing. They are as follows: White, Red, Black, Spanish, Pin and Post Oaks, Hickory, Dogwood, Pine (two kinds), Cedar, Holly, Black Gum, Sweet Gum, Black Jack, Chinquipin, Poplar, Silver Maple, Elm, Hackberry, Wild Grapes, Muscadine, Persimmon, Haw (two kinds), Sarvis, Sassafras, Mulberry, Walnut, Willow, Iron Wood, Ash, and Locust. We name these only to indicate to our readers the character of the forest and to show its great variety.

The College will be situated on an eminence in a beautiful grove, in full view of the railroad for half a mile or more with a campus and lawns of between twenty and twenty-five acres, making altogether one of the finest locations, naturally, to be found in the South (Christian Sun, January 24, 1889, p. 2).

It was felt that the new location was ideal. The climate in the Piedmont section of the state was excellent. The railroad allowed access to both Greensboro and Raleigh. All who viewed the place were impressed with the ". . . beauty and charm of the location" (Phi Psi Cli, 1915, p. 15).

The progress being made at the school far surpassed all expectations. Dr. W. S. Long reported to the editor of the Christian Sun in January 1889, that:

We expect to complete the survey of the ground this week . . . I want a first class college equipped and endowed, doing work for the Christian Church and the world. When this is accomplished I shall be ready to close my life work. Until that is done, I shall devote all the energy I have to it, and work and pray for it (Christian Sun, January 17, 1889, p. 2).

This same Dr. Long was the first president of the college. He was born near Graham in Alamance County, North Carolina, on October 22, 1839, the son of Jacob and Jane Long. After his graduation from Graham College he became a dedicated teacher and was soon recognized as a devoted preacher.

His talents led to his election to the Board of Trustees of the University of North Carolina. He was truly a great educator (Christian Annual, 1890, p. 4).

Even though plans were being formulated for a fall 1890 opening of the college, a charter had not yet been secured. It was reported that the Reverend Long spent about ten days in Raleigh before he succeeded in getting a charter. With charter in hand, President Long set out to canvass the North Carolina Conference for funds. The canvass was expected to last through April at which time he hoped to be able to begin work on the college buildings (Christian Sun, March 4, 1889, p. 1).

On May 7, 1889, President Long broke ground for the first building to be erected on the new campus. The time was noted as twenty-five minutes to three o'clock. It was reported that Miss Lizzie Jane Long, daughter of President Long, would lay the first brick of the Administration Building on Monday, May 20th, at ten o'clock. Even while this ground-breaking ceremony was taking place, the Provisional Board of Elon College was already planning for the construction of a second building. This facility would be used exclusively as a girls' boarding hall and dormitory (Christian Sun, May 16, 1889, p. 2).

Now the work will move right on - let everyone do his part and soon we will have one of the handsomest college buildings in the state. May the Lord incline us to do our part and so hasten the day (Christian Sun, May 16, 1889, p. 2).

The new administration building was to be a very impressive structure. It measured one hundred and sixty-four feet across the front and fifty-four feet deep. The building would reach to a height of forty-five feet. An octagon would embrace the front and would ascend one story higher than

the roof line. The tower would measure twenty-five feet by twenty-five feet. Upon completion the building would ". . . be an imposing structure and an honor to the Christian Church under the blessing of Almighty God" (Christian Sun, April 11, 1889, p. 2).

The charter had been obtained, and the construction had already begun, yet a name fitting the institution had not been chosen. In and around Elon College most people have attributed this honor to J. U. Newman, a member of the original faculty. It was reported that he emerged from a committee room and addressed President Long saying, ". . . Save all the oak trees, as we have named the college Elon for a Hebrew village noted for its massive oaks and pretty women" (Christian Sun, May 25, 1965, p. 1).

July 18, 1889, was a grand day at Elon College:

At eleven o'clock the Masons formed with Hon. J. A. Turrentine as Marshall for the day, and under the direction of Mr. Walter G. Adams, the Master of the Beulah Lodge, marched to the building and proceeded after the manner of that order to lay the corner-stone (Christian Sun, July 25, 1889, p. 2).

The following were a few of the many items deposited in the corner-stone: The Holy Bible, "The Principles and Government of the Christian Church," a copy of The Christian Sun, a copy of the Elon College Charter, and a copy of The Alamance Gleaner (Christian Sun, July 25, 1889, p. 2).

These ceremonies having been executed, the two thousand who had gathered for the auspicious occasion retired to the viewing stands. The Honorable John M. Moring, a direct descendant of the Reverend James O'Kelly, gave the address for the day. He reviewed the history from the founding of the Graham Institute to the laying of the cornerstone. Other

remarks were made by President Long, Mr. C. W. Hunt, the editor of the Christian Sun, and W. T. Herndon. There were also many young people in attendance that day.

We have rarely seen so many gathered at any public place.

. . . .

Ice cream, lemonade, milk shakes, melons, etc., were plentiful and added to the pleasure of the day. The order was excellent, everybody behaving admirably, even the dogs were not troublesome (Christian Sun, July 25, 1889, p. 2).

Elon College Opens Her Doors

Finally the great day arrived. On September 2, 1890, the doors of Elon College were opened. There was rejoicing in the hearts of all "Christians" everywhere. The fruits of the Extraordinary Session of the General Convention held at New Providence, Alamance County, North Carolina, in September of 1888, had ripened. It was surely a grand day at Elon College.

The ceremonies began promptly at twelve noon with music. The Reverend J. W. Wellons led everyone in prayer, Professor J. U. Newman read verses from the Bible, and the Missionary Anthem was sung by a choir. Addresses followed and among those making remarks were President Long, Capt. E. S. Parker, and Professor P. J. Kernodle. The song "Rock of Ages" was sung and after announcements, all joined together in singing the "Doxology." The Reverend R. G. Tunnin pronounced the benediction which was followed by dinner. At four o'clock the enrollment of students was started under the direction of Professor Newman. When the tally was taken, a grand total of 76 students had enrolled. It was a good beginning (Christian Sun, September 4, 1890, p. 2).

When the students arrived on campus that first year, they found an unfinished East Dormitory only four feet high, a campus that had only been partially cleared, and a half-finished chapel which was used as a carpenter's shop and for the storage of lumber. The administration building, although in the final stages of construction, served many purposes. The first floor contained the chapel which had a seating capacity of five hundred. There were also dormitory rooms on that floor. The top floor contained the Clio and Philologian Society halls. All the rooms had fireplaces. While the boys stayed on the second and third floors of this building, the girls were housed either at Professor Holleman's or the Reverend J. L. Foster's. East Dormitory would be finished in December (Maroon and Gold, November 17, 1927, p. 2).

Dr. Will Long, the son of President Long, remembered that opening day. The doors of the college opened in September 1890 with the construction incomplete. Carpenters were frantically at work putting in windows and hanging doors. There was an air of disappointment on the faces of many of the students. Having a love of music, Will organized a small band with the help of the carpenters, the depot agent, and a village merchant. They took this opportunity to serenade the girls. "I believe that our music was enjoyed by everyone" (Christian Sun, October 5, 1939, pp. 5-6).

True the buildings are not complete, but sufficient room has been provided to make all comfortable. The work so far has been grandly done, the buildings are magnificent and at once bespeaks a grand work for our people (Christian Sun, September 4, 1890, p. 2).

As the days passed students were still arriving on campus. Many were from Virginia. The hope was that the school would soon have an

enrollment of a hundred or more. It was thought that the students brought with them a grand appearance as well as a well-mannered rearing. All who saw them remarked ". . . they can't be beaten" (Christian Sun, September 18, 1890, p. 2).

S. M. Smith was a freshman at Elon College in the 1890's. His perception of that first quarter is quite interesting.

There were three literary societies: one for the girls, The Psiphelian, and the Philologian and Clio for boys. The faculty and student body was like one large family. There was no class distinction (Christian Sun, July 24, 1941, p. 5).

There were, however, certain rules which had to be honored. The girls stayed on East Campus and the boys on the West. The East, of course, was considered "sacred ground" and the boys dared not venture there without permission. Everyone knew the faculty held meetings every Monday night and a portion of the session was given to disciplinary actions. Social life consisted of monthly get-togethers in the College Chapel.

These affairs came to be known later in colleges as 'proms,' meaning of course, that the participants promenaded around the room, arm in arm. At Elon, however, they soon took on the name of 'Cold Water Walk Arounds'--more or less in derision (Christian Sun, December 11, 1941, pp. 13-14).

Lila Clare Newman was the first child born of the faculty at Elon College. Her first recollections of the college were waking up in the auditorium after an evening of entertainment. When an event was held on campus, it was a must for everyone to attend. People would come from miles around to hear debates between the Philologian and Clio literary societies or to enjoy an evening of music (Lila C. Newman, n.d.).

Opportunities for the gentlemen to call on the ladies in the early days at Elon were few and far between. When these social occasions did occur the term "suspending the rules" was used. The suspension of the rules usually occurred on the opening of school, the celebration of the Literary Societies, and the annual debate between the Philologists and Clio, and of course Thanksgiving and Easter. On these special occasions it was commonplace for the faculty to act as chaperones. At all other times, gentlemen and ladies were not allowed to socialize (Elon Alumni Voice, November 1929, pp. 4-5).

In January of 1894, Dr. Long tendered his resignation as President of Elon College. His work had been done in grand fashion. It appeared that the soliciting of funds, equipping, organizing, and managing the affairs of the college had taken its toll on his health. He stated:

After five years of almost constant thought and unremitting attention to this enterprise, I want relief that I may recuperate and enter some other field of usefulness.

The College is firmly established in the hearts of the people. It has good patronage, and a strong and devoted faculty of ten members. God will bless and prosper the work now and forever (Christian Sun, January 18, 1894, p. 2).

Dr. W. W. Staley, The Non-Resident President

Upon the resignation of Dr. Long, Dr. W. W. Staley was selected the new President of Elon College. His selection was unanimous. He was viewed by all who knew him as a person who commanded a keen mind for business and a great capacity for leadership. His courage and religious spirit were a blessing for Elon College.

With such a leader as this, Elon College will go on from victory to victory until within a few years there will be no cry of 'debt.'

and two or three hundred noble men and women will be gathered there in the great work of fitting themselves for life (Christian Sun, July 12, 1894, p. 2).

While serving as President of Elon College, Dr. Staley retained his position as pastor in his church in Suffolk, Virginia. He served the college until 1905 as a non-resident president without pay. During his tenure he developed an annual giving program whereby all churches donated funds to the college on a regular basis. Before he left office, he had cleared the college of all debts (Daily Times-News, March 11, 1958, p. 7B).

Dr. Staley will always be remembered for his great leadership ability and for establishing Elon College as the envy of the state.

The buildings are large, elegant and substantial. The faculty consists of ten members who are able to do the best work. . . . There is a well selected library and reading room of choice current literature. The moral and religious tone of the student body is of high order and impresses all who visit the College (Christian Annual, 1895, p. 9).

E. L. Moffitt Becomes Elon's Third President

The third President of Elon College was Dr. E. L. Moffitt (Christian Sun, January 7, 1905, p. 4). Under his leadership there was significant improvement in the quality of the programs as well as the physical appearance of the college. Under his tutelage the student enrollment increased to two hundred and twenty-four. The rapidly improving Music Department claimed eighty-eight of these. A brick powerhouse was constructed as well as a beautiful three-story brick dormitory with all the furnishings. A complete heating system was also installed and electric lights and running water were provided to all buildings on campus (Christian Annual, 1909, p. 22).

The rules continued to be very strict at the college and were enforced by the faculty at their regular faculty meetings. All correspondence directed to and from the female students continued to be under the direct supervision of the President. Females were allowed to correspond with gentlemen only with parental permission. All students who entered the college were required to sign a pledge giving their allegiance to the rules and regulations of the college. Upon entering the institution ". . . students report promptly to the President for registration, classification, and assignment to a course of study" (Bulletin of Elon College, 1906, p. 19).

Under Dr. Moffitt's guidance the church continued to play a dominant role in the life of the college. Chapel was held every Sunday and everyone was expected to be present. The Young People's Society of Christian Endeavors met in the evening on that same day. Other organizations which were popular were the Young Men's Christian Association, the Young Women's Christian Association, The Young Women's Christian Temperance Union, Anti-Cigarette League, and Bible Training Classes. All of these organizations were seen to foster the moral and religious development of the students (Bulletin of Elon College, 1906, p. 10).

The three literary societies, the Philologian, the Clio, and the Psiphelian, continued to be powerful forces in the first decade of the 1900's. All three societies were furnished rooms for their Saturday morning meetings. The annual debate between the Clios and the Philologians continued to be the high point of the school year (Bulletin of Elon College, 1906, pp. 11-12).

During the latter part of the decade, Dr. Walton Crump Wicker, a member of the mathematics faculty, designed the college seal. It was approved by the Board of Trustees at its annual meeting in September of 1908. The following description of the seal was published in the May 24, 1911, issue of The Elon College Weekly:

Numen, Lumen, the former meaning spiritual light and vigor, and the latter, intellectual light and intellectual resources, stand in the rim of the seal as the motto of the college. Within the seal are two pillars representing strength and power. The Holy Bible is also represented and this indicates that upon which the institution is built. Above the Bible are represented some books which stand for knowledge and culture. The candlestick with the flaming torch represent the light the college spreads abroad over the earth. Above all is the All Seeing eye that has for more than twenty years kept watch over the college, its faculty, its student body, the homes represented in the College, and those who are interested in the progress and advancement of the College. The date of the founding of the college, 1889, is also included in the seal (p. 4).

Dr. E. L. Moffitt served the college as its third president for only six years. After a lengthy illness he was forced to resign. His resignation was accepted by the Board of Trustees with deep regret. Dr. Moffitt had proven to be a superb guardian of the institution and all its holdings (Christian Sun, June 14, 1911, p. 2).

W. A. Harper Ascends To The Presidency

In selecting a successor, the Board of Trustees chose Professor W. A. Harper, who had served as Dean of the Faculty of Elon College and during the last year of Dr. Moffitt's critical illness, had served as his right hand. In accepting the Presidency of Elon College, Dr. Harper included the following statement in his address:

The Presidency of Elon College, founded in love, nourished in sacrifice and devotion, is a public trust and I shall hope so to administer it (Christian Sun, June 14, 1911, p. 7).

Dr. Harper's first four years in office saw a vast improvement in the physical assets of the college as well as an increase in student enrollment. The total assets were estimated at three hundred thousand dollars. Seven buildings now comprised the campus: the Administration Building (1890); the East Dormitory (1890); the West Dormitory (1907); the Central Power Station (1907); the Young Men's Cooperative Hall (1912); the Alumni Building (1913); and the Young Ladies Cooperative Hall (1913). Much of the financial success the college was now experiencing was attributed to a special fund of fifty-thousand dollars which was completed in 1911 (Phi Psi Cli, 1915, p. 16).

In the second decade of the 1900's Elon College was recognized as a quality institution. Her old and new buildings were elegant and were equipped with steam heat, electric lights, baths, and indoor plumbing. Her faculty consisted of 17 members. The college maintained excellent music, art education, normal, and preparatory departments. She advertised her campus as having all the conveniences of the city but none of the disadvantages. Her location in the hill country of North Carolina was noted for its ". . . healthfulness, pure water and high moral tone" (Christian Sun, May 12, 1915, p. 8).

World War I brought many changes to the country; its effects were also felt on the Elon College campus.

Of course, Elon College has suffered because of the war. In April and May of 1917, the Call of the Colors took away many noble sons. For the first time in her history men were graduated from her platform clad in Khaki, and the first time also men in distant training camps were graduates in absentia. This year the College was to have graduated forty-six. Because of the War, only thirty will receive their degrees. The first College man of the National Army to give his life in freedom's cause was Charles N. Whitlock,

Elon '18. More than 300 of Elon's alumni and students, to be exact 349 men and two ladies, are now in the various arms of the services. While our hearts bleed that their going is necessary, we can only rejoice that Elon men and women in the hour of national danger have not forgotten the noble altruism that their Alma Mater has ever sought to inculcate in her sons and daughters (Christian Annual, 1919, p. 11).

After the war normalcy returned both to the nation and the college. Things were never brighter for the institution. September 19, 1918, saw the greatest influx of students ever witnessed at Elon College. Every available space in the dormitories was filled and the people in the village were asked to help with the overflow. Even so, seventy-five men and twelve women were declined admission, and their names placed on a waiting list. Although much of the increase in the male population was expected because of the educational benefit offered by the government due to military necessity, the increase in the number of females, although well received, was not expected. An annex was built on one of the girls' dormitories to accommodate this overflow (Christian Sun, September 25, 1918, p. 10).

During the Harper administration two more catastrophes beset the oak-shaded campus. The first of these was the world-wide influenza epidemic of 1918. The so-called Spanish Influenza hit hard on the Elon College campus. Two students quickly succumbed to the disease: Miss Ann Floyd from Abanda, Alabama, and Mr. Clarence E. Sechriest, from Thomasville, North Carolina. Officials at the college did everything possible, and the personal needs of the students during these critical weeks always took top priority. President Harper personally took the most seriously ill to his home to insure their care (Christian Sun, October 9, 1918, p. 5). By

mid-October the situation had improved remarkably. Most of the sick had returned to good health with the exception of one more young man who died on the campus (Christian Sun, October 16, 1918, p. 5). On May 20, 1919, Dr. W. A. Harper gave the following report concerning the influenza epidemic to the Board of Trustees:

The sorest affliction we have ever sustained came to us in this epidemic. We opened first of the North Carolina Colleges and it developed here first. We did not know what it was, till we were all sick. . . . The toll on life here was small, therefore, considering the general prevalence of the epidemic, only three students dying here and one at home out of more than three hundred cases (Board of Trustees Minutes, May 20, 1919, p. 2).

In the fall of 1923 all who visited Elon College were impressed with what was called the "Elon Spirit." It was impossible to walk among her oaks without being captured by the unique experience. It was felt that the environment at Elon was surely the most ideal for the unfolding of her students into productive adults. What was this spirit of Elon?

It is the spirit of fair play, of decency in all things, of moderation and temperance, of mutual helpfulness and human brotherliness, of equality and fraternity, of manliness and womanly gracefulness, of emulation in right doing, of respect for the rights and attention to the obligations of College mates, of deep and vital piety, of consecrated religious and Christian character (Bulletin of Elon College, 1923, p. 33).

The Great Fire

Fully recovered from the war and caught up in the spirit of Elon, the entire college community was totally unprepared for the next calamity which was to engulf the college. On January 18, 1923, The Daily Times-News reported the following:

Elon College early today suffered a fire loss estimated at more than \$125,000 when a conflagration of undetermined origin gutted the three-story Administration Building, reducing it to a heap of

smoldering ashes, above which the ragged walls rose ghostlike to greet the dawn.

. . . .

According to President W. A. Harper it is possible that the loss includes most of the records of the institution which were in the building in safes (January 18, 1923, p. 1).

During the fire the campus was a picture of frenzied activity. Luggage was being carted from both the male and female dormitories. Students on the upper floors were throwing their belongings to the ground so they could be carried a safe distance from the flames.

The campus was literally congested with everything to be found in the College room, but the pennant of Elon, the 'Maroon and Gold' fluttered defiance amid the smoke and ruins as if to broadcast to the world: 'You may burn me to the ground but I am indestructible. I will rise again to greater and greater heights' (Daily Times-News, January 18, 1923, p. 1).

On the morning of January 24, 1923, at 10:00, the Board of Trustees of Elon College met in the office of President W. A. Harper. Few meetings ever held on the campus have had as much urgency and meaning. Out of the session a new college emerged. A motion was made and passed that the college embark on a campaign to raise six hundred thousand dollars, half of which would be used for new buildings and equipment and the other half to be put in a permanent endowment fund. W. A. Harper, D. R. Fonville, and R. M. Morrow were selected to the building committee to oversee the construction. The committee was petitioned to take immediate steps to construct an administration building and as funds became available to construct both a science hall and library building. It was also moved and seconded to try and raise one hundred thousand dollars in Burlington and Alamance County for the construction of the Administration Building which then would be named Alamance Building (Board of Trustees Minutes, January 24, 1923, pp. 1-3).

On May 1, 1924, the Southern Christian Convention meeting in Norfolk, Virginia, heard the following progress report on the building at Elon College:

Elon College is enjoying the crisis of her heroic history. Born in poverty, nurtured in sacrifice, threatened with destruction by a disastrous fire, hedged about with standardizing tests, she must meet or lose her prestige. Elon faces the future battered but undismayed. No college ever arose more triumphant from ashes than our Elon. And while the problems which confront her have sent many institutions tottering to her [sic] demise, Elon has all the vigor of youth and resiliency in her spirit.

The rebuilding program swings steadily forward toward completion. The cost of this program is estimated as follows: five buildings, \$425,000; furniture, \$75,000; campus fence and improvements to grounds, \$52,000--total \$552,000.

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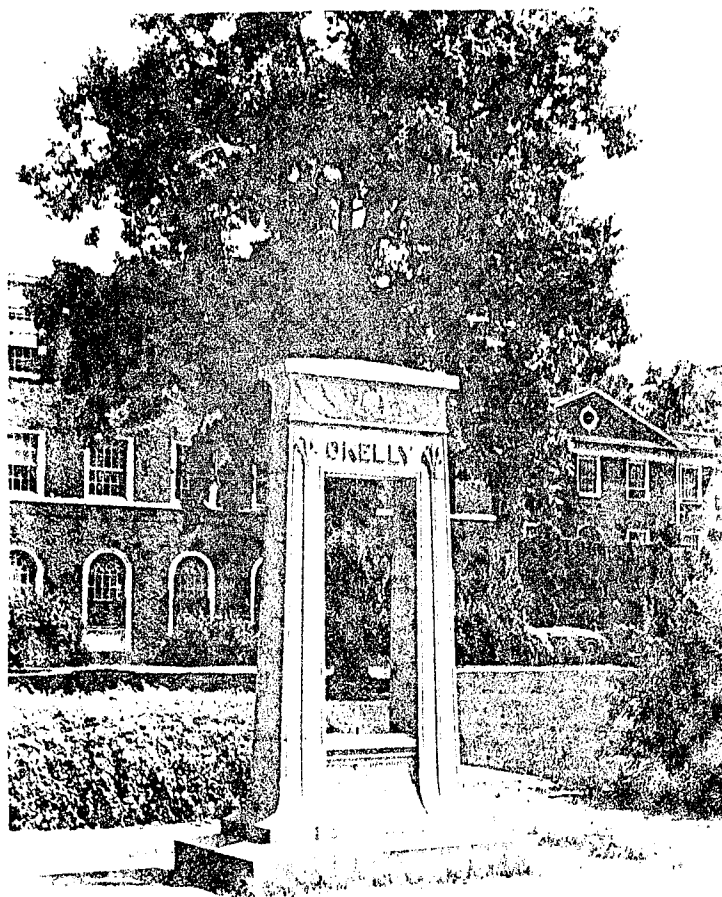
The plans for the future include an enlargement and strengthening of the faculty in keeping with the development of the physical plant. Our Christian Education Building is something unique in the college life of the country. We are expecting it to be a decisive factor in the bigger, better Elon toward which we confidently look (Christian Annual, 1924, pp. 28-29).

Out of the ruins of the great fire was born a new college. It was recognized as one of the most beautiful in the South. Her twenty-five acres were covered with majestic oak and hickory trees. Other plantings of smaller shrubs added to this beauty. It was recognized far and wide as ". . . a quiet sequestered place, suited to the development of manhood and scholarship" (Bulletin of Elon College, 1929, p. 21).

As always the campus was alive with various activities which the students enjoyed as a supplement to their academic pursuits. The three literary societies were popular along with the Young Women's and Young Men's Christian Associations. The College Board, the College Orchestra, and the Men's Glee Club were enjoyed by all. The eight social clubs,

although newly instituted, were gaining popularity with each new year: Kappa Psi Nu, Iota Tau Kappa, Alpha Pi Delta, Sigma Phi for men, and Beta Omicron Beta, Delta Upsilon Kappa, Tau Zeta Phi and Pi Kappa Tau for women (Bulletin of Elon College, 1929, pp. 28-31).

October 16, 1929, was a special day at Elon College. Classes were dismissed at ten o'clock to honor the occasion. Dr. L. E. Smith, President of the Southern Christian Convention, was on campus for the unveiling of the Reverend James O'Kelly Memorial Monument. Miss Dorothy Ann Howard of



The O'Kelly Monument

Henderson, North Carolina, and a great-great-great-granddaughter of James O'Kelly performed the honors (Maroon and Gold, October 17, 1929, p. 1).

Dr. L. E. Smith in his address to all those assembled presented the following remarks:

"It is only fitting that this marker signaling the memories of the distinguished founder of the Christian Church in the South should be placed upon the campus of this College."

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"It is fitting also that this marker should be placed on the Campus of Elon College because that religious liberty, that right and duty of the individual to interpret the Scriptures for himself as the Holy Spirit gives light, that open-mindedness toward spiritual values which characterized the great O'Kelly in all his efforts and labors is the outstanding characteristic of the College, dedicated to Christian character first and always" (Christian Sun, October 24, 1929, pp. 4-5).

Dr. Harper resigned as president of Elon College on April 27, 1931, after a tenure that had spanned two decades. His resignation was to become effective at the close of the academic year. The suddenness of his announcement caught everyone off guard. Under his guidance the college had strengthened its position as one of the truly great institutions in the South. The student body had grown from one hundred and seventy-seven to an enrollment that was now counted as four hundred. The faculty had increased from a 1911 total of twelve to thirty-one in 1929. The physical plant consisted of thirteen buildings with an endowment of over \$500,000 which had been cultivated from the ashes of the 1923 great fire by his extraordinary leadership abilities. The college had also attained a membership in the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools (Christian Sun, April 30, 1931, p. 7).

The Great Depression

The next school year would open as usual at Elon College except that there had not yet been a successor named to fill the presidency vacated by Dr. Harper; moreover, the financial condition at the college was the most critical of her thirty-year history. Rumors circulated concerning the thought of closing the institution, but were, of course, unfounded (Christian Sun, July 23, 1931, pp. 4-5).

In October of 1931 the Southern Christian Convention was meeting in Extraordinary Session in Burlington, North Carolina. The topic of concern centered around these two grave issues: the financial crisis at Elon College brought about by the depression and the selection of a new president for the institution.

In his report to the assembly, the business manager of Elon College, S. C. Heindel, presented a grim report on the financial status of the institution. The college had accrued a total indebtedness of \$500,000 which was claimed by some two hundred and fifty creditors. Furthermore, during the past fiscal year the college had had an operational deficit of nearly \$33,000 and the prospects of this amount decreasing for the coming year were faint considering the drop in enrollment and the smaller income expected from investments. If the college was to be saved, there would have to be a marked increase in the number of financial gifts from both concerned individuals and the church (Christian Annual, 1931, pp. 3-8).

As has been its duty from the conception of the college, the general convention of the Christian Church once again made the supreme effort to aid the institution in her hour of need. The report of the Business

Administration Committee of the Southern Conference Convention outlined the following steps:

First, we must carry the College in its needs to the hearts of the people individually and collectively; Second, we must have extensions from our creditors sufficient to allow us time to organize, solicit, and secure funds with which to pay. We, therefore, submit the following resolutions:

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That we recognize the support of the College as our privilege and responsibility and will call upon every individual in the Southern Christian Convention to share in financing the College.

That we recommend the selection of a President of Elon College, who, in addition to his many other duties and responsibilities shall be charged with the task of carrying the cause of the College to the hearts of the church and to securing as many individual subscribers to its financial demands as possible.

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That we appeal to the Convention in its combined wisdom to suggest a plan to show us the way out (Christian Annual, 1931, pp. 10-11).

The Smith Era

With a plan drawn to secure the financial stability of the college, the next step would be the hiring of a president to lend leadership and purpose to the plan. It was reported that Dr. L. E. Smith, president of the Southern Christian Convention, a pastor of the Christian Temple in Norfolk, Virginia, had been offered the position. It was believed that three qualities made Dr. Smith an ideal candidate for the Elon presidency: First, he possessed the quality of enthusiasm with the ability to gain the support of those he came in contact with; second, he had a keen mind for business and the insight for directing financial matters; and third, he was both a great preacher and educator (Christian Sun, October 29, 1931, p. 4).

On November 23, 1931, the Daily Times-News announced that Dr. Leon Edgar Smith had resigned as pastor of the Christian Temple of Norfolk, Virginia, to accept the office of President of Elon College. The announcement included the following:

Dr. Smith will assume the presidency of Elon College next week but will hold office only until January 15, 1932, unless 'the effort, energy, and gifts on the part of the church and friends of the College warrant' his continuing in office (November 23, 1931, p. 1).

Following the announcement of his selection as president, the faculty and students of the college joined together in approving the choice. Dr. Smith thus became the fifth president to direct the affairs of the institution in its forty-two year history (Christian Sun, November 26, 1931, p. 4).

During the next few years, Dr. Smith made modest strides to improve the financial condition of the college. Generous donations from the various churches through their annual offering program provided much needed revenue. The two main sources of the churches' financial gifts to the college were received from a "Fifth Sunday Offering" program and a "Dollar-A-Month Club" donations. Both of these gift programs grew out of the efforts of the General Convention of the Christian Church. Those contributors to the college insisted that it was ". . . a pleasure to give support to a program that is economically thorough and successful" (Christian Sun, January 10, 1935, p. 2).

Along with this newly enjoyed financial assistance from the church, the college community took some stringent economic measures of its own in efforts to further secure financial stability. These measures had produced a fifty percent reduction in operating costs. By securing a moratorium on

paying interest on the indebtedness with the hope of a favorable adjustment for the college on these debts, the yearly expenses of the college had been reduced by over \$30,000. There had also been countless other money-saving actions initiated by Dr. Smith and the Board of Trustees to insure the financial stability of the college. Among these were centralized purchasing, a student-workers' program, combined cafeterias, and supplies accepted for payment of tuition. These programs while permitting more students to attend and stay in school also allowed Elon to maintain an enrollment which was economically efficient for operating the college (Christian Sun, January 10, 1935, pp. 9, 14).

Although beset with the financial crisis of the depression, Elon was able to maintain a varied and high quality academic program. The institution offered a wide range of courses under sixteen different departments. These included Economics and Business Administration, Christian Education, Education, English Language and Literature, Ancient Language, History and Sociology, Modern Language, Mathematics, Psychology and Philosophy, Natural Science, Art, Expression, Home Economics, Music, Physical Education, and Physical Training. The diversity of the curriculum was recognized and applauded by all those who knew the name Elon College (Bulletin of Elon College, 1935-1936, pp. 68-109).

The fact that there was a large indebtedness over the institution was not reflected on the campus. All classes and routine campus activities as well as extra-curricular activities were carried on as usual (Dr. A. L. Hook, May 18, 1981).

In his annual report to the Board of Trustees in May of 1934, Dr. Smith describes the administrative affairs of the college as "painful and

interesting." He related that there were many problems at the college but ". . . we pray for relief, always full of expectancy, and are striving desperately to turn the tide that will bring 'our ship' into harbor."

In the same report, Dr. Smith reminded the Trustees of the purposes of the college in these remarks:

The original purpose of our institution, the developing of life for higher ends, continues to be our supreme challenge. To teach every young man and young woman who comes to our campus to think clearly, to judge fairly, to add to his fund of information, to multiply his sense of justice, to recognize merit regardless of section, class, or color, to encourage honor, to put a premium upon purity, to reward achievement, to dedicate his all to the highest, to love God, and to keep himself unspotted from the world: to these worthy ends, the College dedicates itself anew and devoutly covets your cooperation and prayers that we may achieve (Board of Trustees Minutes, May 30, 1934, p. 3).

The mid-thirties saw a steady climb in the enrollment of the college. The following chart was contained in Professor A. L. Hook's Registrar's Report to the Board of Trustees on May 27, 1936:

<u>CLASS</u>	<u>1934-1935</u>	<u>1935-1936</u>
Senior	32	38
Junior	41	49
Sophomore	65	107
Freshman	169	204
Commercial	29	28
Special	31	57
Summer Session	(1934) 47	(1935) 32
Total for Regular Session	367	483

(Board of Trustees Minutes, May 27, 1936, p. 1)

The 1935-1936 school year also saw the college once again gain a solid financial base. Dr. Smith in his address to the Board of Trustees made the following remarks:

Four years ago it looked as if Elon College would be compelled to withdraw from the field of higher education. Her debts were so enormous that they had become forbidding. With the fine cooperation of the creditors of the college and a beneficent bequest by the late P. J. Carlton, our financial obligations have been drastically reduced. The complete cancellation of all claims against the college seems to be not only a possibility but a probability. However, the cooperation of every earnest heart and interested soul will be required if the job hopeful to the present is to be finally completed. To reduce our debts from more than \$700,000 to \$160,700 is no small achievement and certainly is greatly encouraged. . . .

. . . .

We are now in the midst of the campaign to raise \$250,000 for Elon College. This campaign was authorized by the Southern Convention, endorsed and promoted by this Board (Board of Trustees Minutes, May 27, 1936, pp. 4-5).

The "Spirit of Elon" had once again returned to the campus. With the shackles of the depression broken and the enrollment showing definite signs for a healthy future, students were once again caught up in the wonderful atmosphere that reigns within the walls of the Elon College campus. There was a true love for the college, which was expressed in an article in the campus paper. A summary of the article mentioned the freshness of the morning air, the scramble for books and pens for early classes, the special feeling during chapel, the study hours in the library, the mad rush to the dining hall, the relaxing with friends at the close of the day, and the stillness of the night when all prayed to God for His guidance were the things students loved about Elon College (Maroon and Gold, May 21, 1938, p. 2).

On Thursday evening, July 20, 1939, another storm fell on the Elon College campus. This one, however, was from Mother Nature. During a violent thunderstorm, a hundred-foot section of the brick wall that surrounded the main campus was washed out by the heavy rain. It was reported that the drainage system could not carry the great volume of water and the overflow pushed against the wall on the South side of the campus with such great force that the wall broke, scattering bricks over a wide area (Daily Times-News, July 21, 1939, p. 2).

The decade of the thirties had been the most critical era in the forty-year history of the college. The onset of the depression with the collapse of the stockmarket in 1929 saw the institution heavily mortgaged and the prospects of a decline in enrollment. It was only through the strong leadership and courage of Dr. Smith that the indebtedness was reduced and the enrollment was increased. And through it all, the college was able to work toward ". . . a modern curriculum for education at the college level, a curriculum which will best serve youth in our complex world" (Bulletin of Elon College, 1939, p. 21).

The 1940's saw the end of the financial crisis that had been such a burden to the college. It also marked an era of prosperity for the institution. But as always there would be calamities to try her senses and test her spirit.

World War II And A Period Of Prosperity

A wave of violence was once again parading across the planet. World War II was upon the nation. The Germans were advancing both east and west of her borders. The army of the Japanese empire was carrying her

flag to the four corners in the south Pacific. With the eventual attack by Japanese war planes on Pearl Harbor on the morning of December 7, 1941, the United States once again found herself in a world conflict.

Not only were the effects of World War II sorely felt and seen on the Elon College campus, but the institution once again felt the sting of major fire. On January 17, 1942, a fire was discovered in the college kitchen. When the smoke cleared, the facility and all of its contents were completely destroyed. This left the college without a dining hall. Mr. W. B. Terrell, the principal of the local public school, offered his cafeteria. Elon accepted graciously on a temporary basis (Christian Sun, January 22, 1942, p. 2).

On March 1, 1943, President Smith announced the arrival of the Army Air Corps Aviation Student Detachment under the command of Lieutenant Dewitt D. Vickery (Faculty Minutes, March 1, 1943, p. 1). On that same day the Maroon and Gold reported that First Lieutenants Vickery and Denton and three sergeants were already on campus preparing for the arrival of three hundred and fifty Army Air Corps enlisted men. During their stay on the campus, the army personnel were to be housed in North and East dormitories and would eat in the college cafeteria. Elon would also provide an instructional staff. Because of the demands on math and physics, staff in these departments had to be increased. Probably the greatest problem facing the arrival of the cadets centered around the dining hall. To accommodate this greater demand, all classes had to start at 8:00 a.m. and run straight through until noon. After classes, chapel was held while the cadets ate. After chapel the regular students would dine (Maroon and Gold, March 20, 1943, p. 1).

On April 1, 1943, the Army Air Corps Aviation Student Detachment arrived on the campus in full force:

At Elon College the old campus 'ain't what she used to be.' Army officials all decked out in uniform with offices in the Christian Education Building are darting about in all directions getting ready for the Big Day: They command everybody from the President of the College down to the last freshman. Everybody obeys. They say, 'this is the army' (Christian Sun, April 1, 1943, p. 7).

After the war, the Army Air Corps Aviation Student Detachment departed from the campus. With their departure the college was expecting the influx of new students which naturally comes after a war. This addition in student enrollment meant the implementation of a broader curriculum and the hiring of new faculty. As a result of the broader curriculum ". . . Spanish is returning to our curriculum and two courses in Religious Education are being added" (Board of Trustees Minutes, February 13, 1945, p. 7).

In an effort to secure a broader base of financial support, The Elon College Foundation, Incorporated, was founded by the Board of Trustees in 1944. Its purpose was to assist ". . . the College in its program to attract and train young people of our church and of our generation." The Foundation was concerned with the finances of the school only. The idea of the Foundation was believed to be unique in that it operated apart from the college while being set up to benefit the college. The Foundation was to make every effort to provide facilities for the college to accommodate the postwar era (Christian Sun, November 23, 1944, p. 9).

With the arrival of the new students, many of whom were veterans, the United States Government erected seventeen housing units on the

campus to house the married veterans and their families. These units contained sixty-six apartments completely furnished, including sheets, blankets, towels, and the like. A fee of fifteen dollars was charged for a one-bedroom apartment, twenty dollars for a two-bedroom apartment, and twenty-five dollars for a three-bedroom apartment (Alumni News, October 1948, p. 3).

The veterans brought a new maturity with them when they came to the campus. Those who predicted that they would be a problem were badly mistaken. They adjusted extremely well. "[They] . . . take their studies seriously and bring to it a maturity of purpose which is comparatively rare in the new high school student. Our enrollment of veterans is increasing appreciably and we find them to be a wholesome influence on the campus" (Board of Trustees Minutes, February 12, 1946, p. 8).

The mid-forties saw a new interest in the reorganization of the men's social clubs. The four male fraternities had been discontinued in the spring of 1943 due to a lack of active members on the campus. Some of the veterans who were members before they left for the war now gave the impetus for the reorganization program. All four of the fraternities were expected to ask for the reinstatement of their charters before late fall (Board of Trustees Minutes, February 12, 1946, p. 7). There was also a keen interest in student publications. The Maroon and Gold, a bi-weekly newspaper; the Elon Colonnades, the annual literary magazine; and, of course, the college yearbook, Phi Psi Cli, were all very popular extracurricular activities (Board of Trustees Minutes, May 28, 1945, p. 11).

The new student involvement was welcomed on the Elon College campus. In the summer of 1948 a constitution was drawn up which would allow for

the formation of a student government based on the honor system. It was felt that the existing student government on the campus did not allow the students the right to govern themselves. During the fall, in one of the largest election turnouts ever held on the campus, the student body adopted the new constitution. It was then presented to the faculty for their consideration (Alumni News, May 1949, p. 10).

The new constitution was approved by the faculty. A section of the constitution follows:

Elon College as a chartered corporation organized under the laws of the State of North Carolina places final authority in the Board of Trustees which, in turn, delegates such authority as it sees fit to administration and faculty. The legal authority of the student government holds the same relationship to the administration and faculty as the authority of faculty and administration holds to that of the Trustees; therefore, it must be expected that the faculty and administration must retain the right to delegate or to withhold authority with due regard for their own comprehensive responsibility (Alumni News, May 1949, p. 10).

January 14, 1950, was a day in which all Elon College alumni could take pride. It was on this date that Alumni Memorial Gymnasium opened its doors. The gymnasium was dedicated as a memorial to all the men and women of Elon College who had given their lives in the two World Wars. The facility was initiated by the Elon College Alumni Association and paid for by the generous contributions of former students who had graduated under the Elon banner (Alumni News, January 1950, pp. 2-3).

An estimated crowd of over two thousand fans was watching when the opening whistle blew for the game between Elon and Catawba College. Elon, a 20-point underdog, battled the "Indians" in a close and hard-fought game that saw the lead exchange 18 times before the final whistle blew. The Catawba team came out victorious, but the "Christians" won a moral victory and gave the fans their money's worth in thrills and excitement (Alumni News, January 1950, p. 2).

Graduations at Elon College have always been a time for celebration and the graduation ceremony on May 29, 1950, was one of the most memorable. On that day Dr. Leon E. Smith conferred the A.B. degree upon 152 students in Whitley Auditorium. It was Elon's largest graduating class. The Commencement address was given by the Honorable Ralph Bradford, Executive Vice President of the United States Chamber of Commerce. The Honorable Thad Eure, Secretary of State for North Carolina, introduced the speaker. Again, as had been the custom at Elon College, a Bible was presented to each member of the graduating class (Alumni News, August 1950, p. 2).

On May 30, 1955, Dr. Leon Edgar Smith announced his plans to retire from the presidency of Elon College. The announcement was brought forward by a mandatory retirement age of 72 which was set by the Board of Trustees. Dr. Smith, in making the announcement, requested that he choose a date sometime during the following year (Alumni News, October 1955, p. 3). In a meeting in January 1956, the Board voted to extend the retirement deadline on Dr. Smith's behalf until July 1, 1957, feeling that this additional interim would allow sufficient time to select the right candidate (Alumni News, January 1956, p. 16):

The fall season on the Elon College campus is always a wonderful time. This was especially true in the fall of 1956. When the students returned for classes they found three new buildings completed on the campus. The three new facilities had been planned for several years and the ground-breaking ceremonies had been held at the 1955 Commencement exercises. The new buildings included ". . . the stately McEwen Memorial Dining Hall, which also includes facilities for campus social events; Virginia Hall, a

new dormitory for girls; and Carolina Hall, a new dormitory for boys" (Alumni News, October 1956, p. 4).

On February 26, 1957, Dr. Smith again announced his retirement in a letter published in the February edition of the Alumni News. This time it was definite. Portions of his letter of resignation appear below:

My dear Friends and College Representatives:

For more than twenty-five years I have endeavored to serve Elon College as President. I have served honestly, fully and to the best of my ability. I have made mistakes as anyone laboring under such pressure will. I should say, modestly, that the college has succeeded beyond expectations during this term of years. If you have been in touch with the college, I am sure that you are aware of certain definite improvements. The campus has an entirely different appearance and the equipment is modern and more satisfactory. Even so, it is impossible for any of us to realize the extent to which Elon College has grown along all lines. A new power house, a new gymnasium, a group of faculty houses and student apartments, two new dormitories, a dining hall, and a student body of more than 1600, not including summer school, a salutary and satisfactory financial condition attained, all of which is indicative of progress and prophetic of a greater institution in the years that lie ahead.

It is now definitely decided that I shall terminate my services as President of the college, July 1, 1957, which means, of course, that the approaching commencement will be my last commencement as President. During my term of office we have matriculated thousands of young men and young women and we have awarded certificates and graduated hundreds of young men and young women. It certainly would be wonderful if all who have attended Elon College during my administration would return to the campus for commencement on May 24-26. . . . (February 1957, frontispiece).

Dr. Smith had accepted the office of president of Elon College in 1931 when it appeared the college was on the edge of a financial disaster. During the next twenty-six years he committed himself totally to his duties. It was only through his devotion to the college and his wise leadership abilities that Elon survived.

When in 1957, Dr. Smith retired from the presidency of the College, he left a much improved physical plant, a sizable endowment and a substantial amount in invested funds. He had seen the student body increase to more than 1600, eight times larger than he found in 1931 (William Tate Scott, Sr., n.d., p. 3).

Dr. J. Earl Danieleley Becomes Elon's Sixth President

In March 1957, Dr. J. Earl Danieleley was selected to succeed Dr. Smith as President of Elon College. Dr. Danieleley ascended to the presidency a proven leader. A graduate of the college, he had served his Alma Mater as a professor and as Dean of the College.

It is with joy that our people will welcome him to the presidency of our college July 1, 1957. Congratulations, Dr. Danieleley, on a fine opportunity for Christian service, which lies ahead (Christian Sun, March 12, 1957, p. 4).

On the morning of July 1, 1957, Dr. J. Earl Danieleley was proclaimed the sixth President of Elon College. The services were conducted by the Reverend W. J. Andes in Whitley Auditorium. The Honorable Thad Eure, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, commended the college to Dr. Danieleley's charge. The new president was then led to his office in Alamance Building by college officials. Represented among these were Professor A. L. Hook, Dean of the Elon College Faculty; Jerry Loy, President of the Elon College Student Government; and W. B. Terrell, Secretary of the Alumni Association. In assuming the presidency, Dr. Danieleley, a 32-year-old 1946 graduate of the institution, became one of the youngest college presidents in America (Daily Times-News, July 1, 1957, pp. 1B, 10B).

In the early sixties the college was described as a ". . . four-year coeducational liberal arts college supported by the Congregational Christian Church to give young men and women the opportunity to obtain a

college education in a moral and religious atmosphere." It was the belief of the college that students learned ". . . through experiences and these experiences should be emotional, religious, and social as well as intellectual" (Bulletin of Elon College, 1963-1964, p. 5).

Elon College celebrated her Diamond Anniversary on March 11, 1964. It was on this date in 1889 that Dr. William E. Long had secured the Elon College charter. The occasion was one of rejoicing on the campus. President Danieleley proclaimed the Diamond Anniversary motto, "Seventy-Five Years of Unselfish Devotion." The featured speaker of the day was Dr. Franklin H. Littell, Professor of Church History at Chicago Theological Seminary. His address, presented in Whitley Auditorium, contained remarks pertaining to the role of the Christian college. Other featured events of the day included music by the Elon College Choir, the invocation and benediction by the college chaplain, the Reverend John S. Graves, and a special prayer by Dr. Ferris Reynolds, Chairman of the Department of Religion and Philosophy (Daily Times-News, March 11, 1964, pp. 1B-2B).

Now completing seventy-five years of unselfish devotion to students, churches, and community, Elon College is looking to the future and its role in educating young men and women to assume positions of responsibility in their respective chosen vocations.

The story of Elon College has been the story of the Christian Churches of the Southern Convention. Few educational institutions have been more closely or meaningfully related to their sponsoring people than has Elon (Christian Sun, April 7, 1964, p. 3).

During the first ten years of the Danieleley administration the college took great strides to improve her posture on all fronts. The full-time day student enrollment increased from 924 to 1,348. The annual income increased from \$659,000 to \$1,700,000. In 1957 the endowment was \$525,000.

Now it had increased to \$1,300,000. When Dr. Danieley became president, the total assets of the college were \$3,600,000. This total was now \$6,800,000. New buildings on the campus included Smith Dormitory for men, New Dormitory for women, Barney, Brannock, and Hook Dormitories, also for men, the William S. Long Student Center, and a new library under construction. There had also been expenditures of over one million dollars for renovations, repairs, and other capital improvements. Federal grants for two additional buildings had already been approved. These included a new gymnasium and a new classroom-office building (Alumni News, April 1967, p. 2).

One of the major accomplishments of the Danieley administration was the acceptance of the college by the academic community in North Carolina and beyond. Danieley's predecessor had been more of a preacher than an educator. Dr. Danieley, being prepared as an educator, felt a keen desire that the name Elon be respected for its academic program by all those who knew the institution. This conviction led to his being selected for the presidency of the North Carolina Foundation of Church-Related Colleges, the Piedmont University Center, and the North Carolina Colleges and Universities (Danieley, May 29, 1981).

The academic environment on the Elon College campus had always been one committed to liberal arts. The Danieley administration held steadfast to this commitment.

The purpose of a liberal education is not to help people to adjust to the world as it is. It is to prepare them to remake it.

.

Although we are a church-related college, it is our goal, it is our determination, to be a Christian institution; to establish here a

genuine community of faith and learning. . . . We are dedicated to the idea that in this college community there shall continue to be, as there has been in the past, a genuine concern for the individual person, for his dignity and for his growth and development; and that there shall be a concern for the life of faith and morality (Alumni News, April 1967, p. 3).

The late sixties and early seventies were trying times in colleges across the land. The Kent State shooting, the conflict in Southeast Asia, and the generally rebellious attitude of many students became a dominant theme on many campuses. This era of student activism and protest was also seen at Elon College. A new student newspaper, the Veritas, was circulated on the campus. It served as a beacon for those who chose to protest.

In mid-April 1969, Elon College, for probably the first time in her 80-year history, experienced student demonstrations on her campus. On Saturday evening, April 12, 1969, a total of 40 students signed a petition containing the following demands, ". . . (1) an end to Saturday dress regulations, (2) an end to involuntary chapel, (3) revision of drinking regulations and (4) revision of women's rules" (Veritas, April 25, 1969, p. 1).

The unrest on the campus came to a climax on March 20, 1970. A special supplement of the Maroon and Gold printed the following:

Four members of the Veritas staff who were charged with ungentlemen-like conduct with regard to the writing and/or publishing of material containing obscene words were found guilty by the Honor Court Wednesday night (March 20, 1970, p. 1).

With the Kent State shooting waning in the minds of the students and the war in Vietnam wearing down, the wave of protest which was dominant on the campus subsided, and thoughts now returned to studies, ball games,

pizza-eating contests, parties, and graduation; or as the students on the campus proclaimed, ". . . Glancing - Dancing - Romancing . . . and eating" (Phi Psi Cli, 1973, p. 29).

In October 1972, Dr. J. Earl Danieleley announced his retirement as President of Elon College to become effective on June 30, 1973. In making the announcement he committed his future plans.

I am 48 years old and in reasonably good health; I am a committed teacher and wish to return to teaching; I have the necessary vigor and enthusiasm to study to prepare to do a good job; and I strongly desire more free time for study, writing, hobbies and my family (Alumni News, November 1972, p. 1).

In accepting his resignation with regrets, the Honorable Thad Eure, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, made these remarks:

"Dr. Danieleley has performed as president for 16 years in a magnificent and highly acceptable manner . . . and for this reason the College has made more significant advancement than during any other period in its history bringing the College to an enviable position among private institutions of higher learning" (Alumni News, November 1972, p. 1).

Dr. J. Fred Young Is Elon's Seventh President

On October 17, 1973, Dr. James Fred Young was officially installed as the seventh President of Elon College. The Chairman of the Board of Trustees, the Honorable Thad Eure, performed the swearing-in ceremony. Dr. Young, who had been carrying out the duties of the presidency since early August, repeated the pledge to hold fast the ideals of the college. In addressing the two hundred and fifty people attending the installation ceremony, the new president made the following appeal:

"I challenge each of you . . . to join me in dedication of our fullest individual and collective efforts to the preservation and extension of the ideals and concepts that are the foundations of

Elon College. We must be worthy of our noble heritage and our great responsibility" (Alumni News, November 1973, p. 1).

In the early years of the Young administration, the college took great strides to improve the physical plant in order to accommodate the vastly increased student enrollment. Facilities were refurbished to enrich and strengthen the total program. Steps were taken to give new emphasis and new meaning to the role of the college as a Christian institution. It was the hope of the new administration to ". . . give even greater opportunities and render greater service to the young men and women who seek to further their education at the College" (Bulletin of Elon College, 1974-1975, p. 2).

There seemed to be a commitment by the new president to hold fast to the aims of the college.

In accordance with the provision of the charter, it is the aim of Elon College to give each student the opportunity to acquire:

1. A philosophy of life which is founded upon and motivated by the beliefs and spiritual values of the historic Christian Church, and which will be reflected throughout his life in terms of high ethical standards, wholesome attitudes, and significant religious insights and devotion.
2. An understanding of his responsibilities and rights as a citizen in a democratic culture, a recognition of the intrinsic worth of other individuals, and an intelligent awareness of world cultures, conditions, events, and issues.
3. A love of learning sufficient to promote his continued intellectual and cultural growth which comes out of sharing in an invigorating intellectual and cultural climate during his college career.
4. A basic knowledge in the humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences, and an appreciation of the mutual relationships existing among these areas.
5. An understanding of the content and an achievement of competence in the procedures of at least one field of

knowledge as preparation sufficient for graduate or professional study.

6. The ability to think critically, logically, and creatively, and to communicate effectively by means of the written and spoken language.
7. A sensibility to aesthetic values through experience and study in the fine arts and through opportunity to develop competence and excellence in the performing arts.
8. A knowledge of the principles of health and physical fitness, and skills useful for participation in wholesome recreational activities.
9. A recognition of his abilities and aptitudes through counseling and guidance in the choice of an appropriate vocation (Bulletin of Elon College, 1974-1975, p. 1).

The decade of the seventies saw the cultural and social life on the campus become one of diversity. The Lyceum Series brought distinguished artists and performers to the campus; the Liberal Arts Forum sponsored a lecture series and Spring Symposium. Fraternities and sororities gained in popularity. There were now five fraternities and three sororities each of which was furnished college-owned housing. The fraternities included Tau Kappa Epsilon, Iota Tau Kappa, Kappa Psi Nu, Kappa Sigma, and Sigma Phi Epsilon. The three sororities included Zeta Tau Alpha, Sigma Sigma Sigma, and Phi Mu. The Athletic Department expanded its program to include thirteen sports, nine for men and four for women. The Elon Band, the Elon Choir, the Mathatians, and the Elon College Orchestra were also popular. And of course, Elon still celebrated such traditions as Alumni Day, Founders Day, Greek Weekend, Homecoming, Parents Weekend, and Spring Weekend, events that were so much a part of her heritage (Bulletin of Elon College, 1976, pp. 19-23).

Under Dr. J. Fred Young's guidance, the college continued to make significant progress. The enrollment at the institution was increased from a total of 1,700 in 1970 to 2,500 in 1980. The physical plant was expanded and now included over thirty buildings. New buildings constructed or purchased in the late seventies were East Building, which contains all facilities for the physical plant, a gymnasium, and dance studio; the Oaks, a modern dormitory complex; and Koury Field House, a self-contained athletic dressing facility complete with training room. There were also many renovation projects in the late seventies which greatly improved existing dormitories. One such renovation project included the development of a Learning Resources Center which greatly enhanced the academic life of the campus. The curriculum was diversified and strengthened and now included an Honors Program (Faculty Minutes, February 6, 1981, pp. 1-4).

Elon has always been and will continue to be a progressive Christian institution which serves the local community, state, and nation. Her quest will always be one of improvement and progress. Even now the college prepares for the future. Construction will begin in the summer of 1981 on a new dormitory facility which will house an additional 300 students. Renovation projects for Alamance Building and other campus structures are already in progress. Scott Plaza provided through funds donated by Senator Ralph Scott, a long-time friend and trustee of Elon, in memory of his wife will add beauty to the North entrance to the college (Pendulum, March 12, 1981, p. 1; April 16, 1981, p. 1).

Through the years Elon College has been fortunate to have great educators and administrators to serve her as presidents. Dr. W. S. Long

(1889-1894), Dr. W. W. Staley (1894-1905), Dr. E. L. Moffitt (1905-1911), Dr. W. A. Harper (1911-1931), Dr. L. E. Smith (1931-1957), Dr. J. Earl Danieley (1957-1973), and Dr. J. Fred Young (1973-) have all served as devoted guardians of this great institution of higher learning. Their commitment has been one which was exemplified by Elon's first president Dr. W. S. Long when he stated:

I want to see a first class college equipped and endowed, doing work for the Christian Church and the world. When that is accomplished, I shall be ready to close my life work. Until that is done, I shall devote all the energy I have to it, and work and pray for it (Christian Sun, January 17, 1889, p. 2).

The college which had its beginning at Mill Point now flourishes as one of the most respected small private institutions in the state and South. As Elon College enters the decade of the eighties she continues to honor the Christian Church under the blessings of God Almighty.

Summary

The religious body known as "The Christians" was born on November 1, 1792, when the Reverend James O'Kelly along with twenty other ministers withdrew from the Methodist Episcopal Church because of irreconcilable differences as to the respecting of the autocratic powers of the Bishop. A new denomination was formed which adopted the motto, "Liberty to Man: Loyalty to Christ."

After O'Kelly's death in 1825, the brethren pulled together under the banner of the General Convention of the Christian Church and joined the different church conferences located in Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama.

The early leaders of the church did not believe in a formal education for their clergy and laity. However, this attitude changed after the War

Between the States. In the 1870's and 1880's the church began to think about establishing a college of high grade within her borders. The Suffolk Collegiate Institute and the Graham Institute were products of the General Convention. Both of these schools were forerunners of Elon College.

The General Convention meeting in Extraordinary Session in Graham, North Carolina, outlined a plan for the erection of a college to serve the church. A Provisional Board was elected to choose a site for the new college. The board, after an earlier failure, selected a place called Mill Point, an underdeveloped railroad depot located four and one half miles west of Burlington. The college was called Elon.

The first president of the college was the Reverend W. S. Long, a graduate of Graham College, a dedicated teacher and preacher. He served the college faithfully during her formative years. Under his charge the college received its charter on March 11, 1889. President Long supervised the construction of the Administration Building and the East Dormitory.

On September 2, 1890, Elon College opened its doors for the first time. A festive ceremony marked the occasion. That first day saw an enrollment of seventy-six students. In those early days on the Elon campus the faculty and student body were like a large family. The Saturday evenings were filled with music, proms, and debates between the two male literary societies, the Clios and the Philologists.

When Dr. W. S. Long retired from the Elon Presidency in 1894, Dr. W. W. Staley was selected as a non-resident president. Under his leadership the college removed all of its indebtedness and truly established itself as the envy of the state. As always, the moral and religious atmosphere was

impeccable. Dr. Staley retired as president in 1905 after a tenure of eleven years.

Elon's third president was Dr. E. L. Moffitt. Under his direction there was a significant improvement in both the quality of the program as well as the physical appearance of the college. A complete heating system was installed and electric lights and running water were provided to all the buildings on campus. As always the college was alive with student involvement in both academic and social pursuits. The three literary societies, the Philologists, the Clio, and the Psiphelian were powerful forces in the early 1900's. The annual debate between the Clios and the Philologists continued to be the high point of the school year. Dr. Moffitt served the college as its third president for only six years and after a lengthy illness was forced to take an early retirement. He had proved to be a superb guardian of the college.

In selecting his successor, the Board of Trustees chose Professor W. A. Harper. Professor Harper had served as Dean of the Faculty of the college and during the last year of Dr. Moffitt's illness had served as his right hand. The first years of the Harper administration were ones of prosperity. Buildings now comprising the campus were: the Administration Building (1890); the East Building (1890); the West Dormitory (1907); the Central Power Station (1907); the Young Men's Cooperative Hall (1912); the Alumni Building (1913); and the Young Ladies' Cooperative Hall (1913).

Elon was truly a quality institution. Her old and new buildings were elegant and well equipped. Its faculty consisted of 17 members. The college maintained excellent music, art, education, normal, and preparatory

departments. It advertised its campus as having all the conveniences of the city but none of the disadvantages.

World War I brought changes not only in our country but its effects were also felt on the Elon College campus when many of Elon's sons were called for duty. To be exact, 349 men and two ladies were in various branches of the armed services. In 1918 the college was to have graduated forty-six. Because of the war, only thirty walked across her platform. Besides the great war, there were two more catastrophes to beset the oak-shaded campus during the Harper years. The first of these calamities was the world-wide Spanish Influenza epidemic of 1918. Although the campus was hit hard, there were only four deaths in over three hundred cases. The next great calamity to engulf the college was the great fire of 1923. Losses were estimated at over \$125,000.00. This fire of undetermined origin completely gutted the three-story Administration Building, reducing it to ashes. Out of the crisis a new college grew which was soon recognized as one of the most beautiful in the South. Her twenty-five acres were covered with majestic oak and hickory trees. It was a quiet sequestered place, suited to the development of manhood and scholarship.

Dr. W. A. Harper resigned as President of Elon College on April 27 , 1931, after a tenure that had spanned two decades. Under his guidance the college had strengthened its position as one of the truly great institutions in the South.

In October of 1931 the Southern Christian Convention met in Extraordinary Session. The topic of concern centered around two grave issues, these being the financial crisis at Elon College brought about by the

depression and the selection of a new president for the institution. The fruits of this session secured both. The leader selected to carry out the financial plans of the convention was Dr. Leon Edgar Smith. He was welcomed into the presidency of Elon College by the entire college community. His keen mind for business and insight for directing financial matters led the college out of its financial straits.

The decade of the forties brought a second world war to the nation and the Army Air Corps Aviation Student Detachment to the college. During those trying years the college and the United States Army walked arm in arm on the campus. After the war Elon gained a significant increase in enrollment. Many of these new students were veterans who brought a greater maturity toward their academic life than younger students had.

In February of 1957, Dr. Smith announced his retirement from the presidency. His successor was Dr. J. Earl Danieley, who ascended to the president's office as a proven leader. A graduate of the college, he had served his Alma Mater as a professor and as Dean of the College.

In the early sixties the college was described as a four-year coeducational liberal arts institution offering young men and women the opportunity to obtain a college education in a moral and religious atmosphere. In 1964 Elon College celebrated her Diamond Anniversary. Dr. Danieley proclaimed the motto, "Seventy-Five Years of Unselfish Devotion."

Being a trained educator, Dr. Danieley felt it was his duty to establish Elon College as a respected academic institution. Along with serving as president of various state organizations, he committed his administration to honoring the tenets of a liberal arts college.

On June 30, 1973, Dr. J. E. Danieley retired as President of Elon College to return to the classroom as a chemistry teacher. The Board of Trustees selected Dr. J. Fred Young to become the seventh President of Elon College. The new administration dedicated itself to hold fast to the rich tradition and aims of the college. With vision and purpose, the new president set out to improve the college on three fronts--the academic, the social, and the physical plant. A successful fund-raising campaign led to the construction of new facilities and to the renovation of old ones. Elon, as always, marches forward.

CHAPTER IV
THE EARLY YEARS (1889-1927)

The Beginning

Elon College in those early days of the 1890's was a village of four homes, a couple of farms, a small post office, and a campus not fully cleared of trees. There were the Old Administration Building with fireplaces and kerosene lamps and the Old East Dormitory which contained twenty-five rooms for female students. In those glorious days Elon had no heating system and no electric lights. Water was drawn in an "old oaken bucket" from an open well. There were ". . . no football, no basketball, no intercollegiate baseball, no fraternities or social clubs, and social functions far between and governed by the rigid 'canons' of the early day" (Alumni Voice, November 1929, p. 18).

Although the college did not have intercollegiate athletic teams, it did conduct exercise sessions and all students attending the institution were privileged to participate. This calisthenics program was, of course, for the promotion of good health.

All are required to attend these exercises. They are not only exhilarating and healthful, developing and strengthening to all the bodily powers, but impart grace of motion and ease of carriage (Bulletin of Elon College, 1890-1891, p. 12).

These exercise sessions proved useful for most of the students on campus but for the more ardent athlete they served little purpose. B. F. Long, Jr., the son of President W. S. Long, made this very clear when he editorialized in The Elon College Monthly:

Too many of our students fail to take the proper exercise, and in fact all here at Elon, I am sorry to say, neglect it. It is time that someone should try to arouse a spirit within them, for without exercise, their bodies must necessarily be weak and underdeveloped.

.

And now I appeal to the boys at Elon to try to see if they cannot do better in the future in this respect. The faculty has kindly given us a ground and we can, by some work, make it one of the most beautiful in the state; and why not go to work and show our appreciation by putting it in condition for use? (December 1891, p. 53)

In his chastisement of the male student, he also offered a challenge in the hope that it would spark a fire in some of his classmates.

Why can't we have a football team? We have as good material as any other college in the State--good active men, and a big center-rush.

.

There is a pressing need now of a well equipped gymnasium at Elon. It would not cost a great deal and it would surely be a most benefitting thing to the students. Our health would be better, and we would be more capable of doing the work that lies before us. Let some friends of the institution who want to do something that will be of untold benefit to hundreds of boys and girls that will come here, equip a good gymnasium, and thus add a most important feature to our college (Elon College Monthly, December 1891, p. 54).

Two male students, Ben Black and S. M. Smith, accepted the challenge presented by their fellow student. They also felt it was imperative for health's sake to allow students to "break loose" every now and then. Ben, therefore, came up with the idea for a gymnasium. The college's first football team had been organized and Smith was captain and Black was "centre-rush." This gave a more dignified reason to have some place for "systematic exercise training" (Elon Alumni Voice, May 1928, p. 30).

A committee of Messrs. Black and Rawls visited the faculty in interest of a gymnasium hall. On motion - with consent of the President of the College, the young men are allowed to arrange a room on 3rd floor of

College building for the gymnasium provided the young men remove the lumber to a place designated by the custodian (Faculty Minutes, October 1, 1894).

Ben Black was a rather ingenious sort of fellow and arranged with the local blacksmith to make a couple of "swinging rings." He also obtained the services of a shoemaker to cover these with leather. A "skin-the-cat" pole and a cannonball were also secured. The gymnasium was at last complete. Now Captain Smith and that big centre-rush, with all the other football hopefuls had a place to train for their gridiron sport (Elon Alumni Voice, 1928, p. 31).

And, yes, they did have football. The squad was composed of twenty-two young men ranging in weight from 125 to 215 lbs. Under the guidance of Professor Moffitt, it was hoped that the team would "be able to rush the ball to the goal" (Elon College Monthly, November 1893, p. 22). This first team was remembered some thirty-five years later by S. M. Smith when he wrote in The Alumni Voice:

Every man on the team was supposed to wear long hair - about six inches at least. The game in those days was a sort of 'knock-down-drag-out' affair, and it was necessary that the head be protected. Football harness such as the players of today wear had not been invented. The ball field was the southwest corner of the campus. I do not remember that we had any rules especially. The idea was to get the ball over the goal--just how we did it, didn't matter so much (May 1928, p. 31).

There was also much interest in baseball and tennis on the campus in 1893. B. F. Long and T. L. Crawford were captains of the long ball team and with their leadership "good playing" was certain. The baseballers at Elon were said to be as good as the players at other colleges in the state. Elon could also boast of five excellent tennis courts (Elon College Monthly, April 1893, pp. 23-24).

The mid-1890's saw an even greater emphasis on athletic activities on the Elon campus. The December 1894, issue of The Elon College Monthly contained the following:

Never before in the history of the College has the student body taken more interest in athletics than at present. This spirit of physical culture is to be commended and appreciated. Certainly it is as much essential as our training in text books. Without a sound body we need not hope for a sound mind (p. 39).

With the added interest in athletics at the college an Athletic Association was formed in 1894. Its first slate of officers included S. M. Smith, President; C. C. Ellis, Vice President; W. T. Sears, Secretary; and W. L. Cuthin, Treasurer. The new association hoped that all phases of athletic competition could be sponsored by the new group (Elon College Monthly, April 1894, p. 23).

On Saturday, November 24, 1894, a field day was sponsored by the newly formed Athletic Association. The events of the day were witnessed by a large crowd. The competition opened at 2:30 p.m. with play in tennis. In the opening match, J. E. Rawls defeated Professor Holleman and in the second match, A. D. Wilkins bettered F. A. Holladay. The results of the other events follow:

From 3:30 to 4:30 - Field games

- 1 - Running high jump - B. F. Black, J. E. Rawls, S. M. Smith - Rawls winning.
- 2 - Standing high jump - Rawls and Smith tie.
- 3 - Broad jump - Rawls, Black, Smith - Smith winning.
- 4 - 100 yard dash - Black, Long, Lee, Smith, Wadford, Rawls - Rawls winning.

From 4:30 to 5:30 - Foot-ball

Long and Holleman Houses vs. School - Long and Holleman Houses winning, score 12:0 (Elon College Monthly, December 1894, pp. 39-40).

That 1894 football team was "something else." It was not recorded whether they did in fact play a game, although they had every intention of doing so. The committee on football in making its report to the Athletic Association put forth a motion that they field a team that season. The motion carried with a unanimous vote. The committee chairman stated:

We have some very good material this fall, and there is no reason why we should not have a team that would be an honor to any college. So let every one who feels an interest in our college and who wants her to stand on an equal with her sister colleges of the State, stand by us, work with us, encourage us, and lend us a helping hand. We cannot, and do not, expect to win many games, but we can win some (Elon College Monthly, October 1894, p. 20).

That 1894 football team was composed of the following squad members, by position: B. F. Black, Centre; S. M. Smith, Left Guard; G. C. Wadford, Right Guard; C. C. Ellis, Left Tackle; A. Brothers, Right Tackle; J. E. Rawls, Left End; J. C. Holladay, Right End; F. A. Holladay, Quarter-back; J. P. Lee, Right Half-back; T. L. Moore, Left Half-back; and W. H. Young, Full-back (Elon College Monthly, December 1894, p. 40).

As always at Elon, the dictates of the faculty were felt in all aspects of campus activities. This surely held true in the athletic pursuits of the newly formed Athletic Association. The following entries were found in the minutes of the faculty in the 1890's:

Moved that young ladies not be allowed to attend public games of the Athletic Association unless accompanied by a member of the faculty. Motion adopted (Faculty Minutes, September 21, 1894).

The petition of the Athletic Association was presented and the faculty declined to endorse the same asking for intercollegiate games of baseball (Faculty Minutes, April 24, 1899).

In the latter part of the decade of the 1890's, the college watched as a vigorous athletic spirit was developed on the campus under the direction of the Athletic Association. Even though the male students were not allowed to leave the college grounds to participate in athletic contests, it was felt that "Match games of ball, tennis tournaments and field contests on the college grounds have done a great deal in solving the question of proper exercise among students" (Bulletin of Elon College, 1897-1898, pp. 12-13).

Faculty Approves Intercollegiate Athletics Contest

At the turn of the century the faculty reconsidered the request of the Athletic Association to participate in intercollegiate contests. On February 26, 1900, two students, G. L. Clendenin and J. M. Roberts, petitioned the faculty on behalf of the Elon College Athletic Association for an intercollegiate baseball game with Guilford College on their "ground." They also requested that Mr. Ferrell be granted his tuition so his "advantage" could be secured by the Association. These requests were granted as follows:

1st A failure to make a grade of 70 on any subject or being demerited by the faculty shall prevent any student playing on any inter-collegiate game.

2nd Any student under 21 years of age must have written permission from parent or guardian to the Chairman before being allowed on an intercollegiate game.

3rd All parties must be bona fide students for two weeks previous to the inter-collegiate game that play in the match game.

4th None but those who are placed on the match team are allowed to go to any contest if on school day and if on holiday, rules for visiting away from College will apply. The faculty agrees to guarantee the payment of Mr. Ferrell's tuition this spring (Faculty Minutes, February 26, 1900).

Meeting in regular session on March 26, 1900, the faculty voted to allow the intercollegiate baseball team to play Guilford College on March 31 on their ground and with a return match on the Elon College campus on April 14. The following players were approved for play: McCauley, Beasley, Clendenin, Boone, Gay, R. Jones, Parrish, Norfleet, Nelms, and Fonville. They also "adjudged" H. C. Herndon ". . . not eligible to play or act as manager for not being attentive in class duty and smoking cigarette" (Faculty Minutes, March 26, 1900). One week later Clendenin, R. Jones, Norfleet and Helms were ". . . declared off intercollegiate team of B. B. for not making 70 on all work" (Faculty Minutes, May 1, 1900).

The results of those first two intercollegiate games were disastrous. Guilford won both by the unthinkable margins of 38-3 and 32-3. Although this initial entry into intercollegiate athletics was a blow to the students at Elon, they were not disheartened, and looked forward to other contests in the future (Elon Record Book, p. D-37).

In the early 1900's baseball was the only intercollegiate sport sponsored by the college. The seasons were always short, usually lasting only two months. The team, of course, played without the services of a coach. Games usually started around three o'clock and continued until nightfall. Mr. W. E. Lowe, the ticket agent at the local railroad depot, was always the umpire. He would sometimes have to stop the game to attend

to the trains. Match games were played with Guilford, Bingham, Oak Ridge, and Whitsett. Chamness Davidson and DeRoy Fonville were usually the Elon stalwarts in these contests. The faculty would always entertain the visiting players after each game (Lila Newman, n.d.)

In 1904 the Elon College baseball team played a grand total of five games, winning four and losing only one, this to a good Guilford College nine by a close score (Elon Record Book, D-37). The team closed out the season with a great win over Trinity Park High School on Saturday, April 16 ". . . by a score of 6-2. A good game that" (Alamance Gleaner, April 21, 1904, p. 3).

In that same year A. J. Lincoln and Long Holleman presented a petition from the Elon College tennis club ". . . to accept the invitation of Bingham Tennis Club to play a Match Game on November 23" (Faculty Minutes, November 11, 1904). This request was probably granted.

Athletic Guidelines Are Set

With the emergence of the Athletic Association as a prominent force on the Elon College campus, it was felt that stronger guidelines were needed to monitor the governance of all intercollegiate contests. The Elon student body, therefore, presented the following petition to the faculty for their endorsement. The petition was approved as follows:

- I. That intercollegiate games be allowed, except football, under strong faculty supervision.
- II. That the Association not be allowed to contract any debts.
- III. That no young man be allowed to take part in these games unless he be a registered student one month, taking full work, and making a grade of at least 80%.

- IV. That no student who has as many as 10 demerits be allowed to take part in these games.
- V. That no student who has, at any time, received money for playing shall participate in these intercollegiate contests.
- VI. That this institution join the Southern Intercollegiate Association.
- VII. That a member of the faculty accompany the team whenever it leaves the college.
- VIII. That all misconduct shall be reported and dealt with as if on the hill, and those students who receive demerits for such misconduct shall be debarred from further participation in intercollegiate contests for the year.
- IX. That a committee of the faculty supervise all games. (Faculty Minutes, June 5, 1906).

After the success of the previous season, the president of the college, W. W. Staley, at the request of the Athletic Association, decided that tuition grants would be offered to two men who were not now enrolled in the college. These men would not only play for the Elon nine, but would also have charge of training the members of the Athletic Association in baseball. The tuition grants were to be awarded with the following provisions: The students must be of the Christian faith and ". . . the said student shall make grades of the average of 80%" (Faculty Minutes, February 13, 1905).

One month later, it was reported that ". . . Mr. Harvey Holt of Oak Ridge, North Carolina, will take advantage of the inducement offered by the faculty and probably Mr. Bobias Caviness of Burlington" (Faculty Minutes, March 6, 1905).

Prospects for athletics were improving all the time on the Elon campus. In 1906, the college built its first gymnasium. This new

facility was in the annex of the new West Dormitory. It had been fifteen years since Ben Black and J. E. Rawls had petitioned the faculty for the use of the room on the third floor of the Administration Building. With the new facility, Elon had taken a big step in establishing herself as a force to be reckoned with in her pursuit of athletic excellence (Bulletin of Elon College, 1906, p. 8).

Now things were really beginning to accelerate in athletics at the college. On May 10, 1907, the Athletic Association presented the following petition to the faculty. The same was approved with the provision that the trustees of the college would have the final say in the matter:

To the Trustees of Elon College, —— We the undersigned, in behalf of the Athletic Association, do hereby request you, the faculty agreeing and approving, to provide an Athletic Coach and Baseball Park for the next scholastic year.

Committee: Sylvester G. Rollings,
Chairman
R. J. Kernodle
J. A. Vaughn

(Faculty Minutes, May 10, 1907.)

President E. L. Moffitt went right to work on the students' request. He arranged for the purchase of a lot which was already joined to the college. This gave Elon four acres to be used as an athletic park. It was hoped a donor could be found to finance the cost of the lot. Dr. Moffitt announced that the purchase of this property meant ". . . a great deal to the young men of the institution by encouraging them to more systematic exercise, and thus to better health and brighter minds" (Christian Sun, July 31, 1907, p. 5).

In addition to the new athletic park, Dr. Moffitt secured the services of an Athletic Director, Mr. V. C. Pritchett (Faculty Minutes, June 7, 1907). The following spring the college also hired a baseball coach, Mr. M. B. Murrow (Faculty Minutes, March 13, 1908).

With the new coach directing the teams, and the prospects of playing in a real ball park for the first time ever, enthusiasm was running high as the baseball season approached. The faculty had approved an unbelievable twenty-five game schedule which included such teams as Trinity College, Bingham, Guilford, Davidson, and A. & M. (Faculty Minutes, March 6, 1908). Only ten of those games were played, however, with Elon winning six. The big wins that year came against Bingham, Old Dominion and A. & M. (Elon Record Book, D-37).

In the fall of that same year the first recorded tennis match was played on the Elon campus. The team that year was represented by J. W. Barney, A. Liggett Lincoln, C. C. Howell and Jennings Lincoln (Maroon and Gold, March 20, 1957, p. 2). On Thanksgiving Day the Elon team entertained the local fans in an outstanding tennis match against Bingham School. The results of that first recorded intercollegiate tennis match follow:

Mr. J. W. Barney, representing the Elon team defeated Mr. Joseph Long, representing the Bingham team in singles, the score being 6-4, 5-7, 7-5, Messrs. A. L. Lincoln and J. S. Lincoln representing Elon College, defeated Messrs. W. Douglas Bell and Mr. Ginn representing Bingham, in doubles. The score was 6-3, 9-7 (Alamance Gleaner, December 3, 1908, p. 2).

A Stormy Year For Athletics

The hope for a successful season was running high on the Elon College campus as the baseball team prepared for its 1909 campaign. In its first

game against Greensboro League, the locals won by a 2-0 margin. There was some "excellent playing" by both teams ". . . but the League failed to get hits at the right time" (State Dispatch, April 7, 1909, p. 5). In approving the roster for the spring term, the faculty included names of three who were not students at Elon College (Faculty Minutes, March 12, 1909). The use of these three non-students led to cancellation of a scheduled contest with Trinity College. Professor Flowers, the chairman of Trinity Athletic Association, related in a letter addressed to the Elon faculty that they would not be able to participate in the scheduled game because Elon used players who were not "bona fide" students. "It was moved and carried that the Athletic Committee is authorized to send a message to Mr. Flowers on behalf of the faculty of Elon College to withdraw the game" (Faculty Minutes, March 23, 1909).

On March 26 a special committee on the status of baseball reported that they had talked with the baseball coach and he was willing to play the remaining contests with at least six regular students playing "throughout" each game. The only professional man to be used would be himself, Mr. Rowe, and Mr. Brandon (Faculty Minutes, March 26, 1909). Under the conditions approved by the faculty, the team completed its schedule. For the year the controversial team won only three games while losing seven; the three wins were against Greensboro League, Orange Grove, and St. Mary's (Elon Record Book, D-38).

That was not the first incident in which an Elon baseball team had been questioned about the use of professional players. Two years earlier, in May of 1907, there came a charge of professionalism against an Elon

baseball team. The following account of that charge was reported in The Alamance Gleaner: "The baseball game between Elon College and Chapel Hill here Friday fell through, the latter refusing to play on account of the former having a professional pitcher" (April 18, 1907, p. 3).

In the fall of that same year, the college for the first time in her history, fielded an intercollegiate football team. The team was coached by W. H. "Reddi" Rowe (State Dispatch, October 20, 1909, p. 5). After a practice game with Greensboro High School in that city, the Elon eleven prepared for its first regular season game against Bingham (State Dispatch, November 10, 1909, p. 7). The Elon faculty, as was their charge, prepared the participation roster. The following names were contained therein: Campbell, Pointer, J. S. Fleming, W. H. Fleming, Earp, Mann, Foushee, Farmer, Purcell, McPherson, Elder, Barney, Luwellen, Lincoln, Moffitt, Parsons, Holt, Anderson, Rand, Johnson, Baynes, and Rowland (Faculty Minutes, October 22, 1909).

The Elon College gridiron team met the football eleven from Bingham at the Fair Grounds in Burlington on October 23, 1909. In its first intercollegiate football contest Elon came home victorious. The score was eleven to six (Christian Sun, October 27, 1909, p. 5). The win against Bingham was followed by another victory over High Point High School. The score in this contest was five to zero (Elon Record Book, A-41).

After the High Point victory a series of unusual events occurred which led to the decision by the faculty to drop this popular sport. The scenario follows. Reports circulated on campus that a Mr. Privett, an Elon student, had written an "uncomplimentary" article about both the

players and the game played against the Bingham squad on October 23. This article aroused the concerns of the faculty. In exercising its authority this body reached the following decision on November 5:

It was decided to grant a game of football at Mebane on Saturday, November 6th between Bingham School and Elon College, provided Mr. Privett apologized to the satisfaction of the Athletic Committee of Elon College before 9 o'clock a.m. Saturday, November 6 for an uncomplimentary article he wrote about the Elon players and the game which was played at Burlington on October 23 between Bingham School and Elon College teams, Mr. Privett having knowledge that he was the author of said article (Faculty Minutes, November 5, 1909 - the date of this meeting was incorrectly entered by the secretary of the faculty as October 5).

Apparently the apology was never given which meant the scheduled game with Bingham should have been cancelled. The game, however, was played with the Elon team the loser, 17-0 (Elon Record Book, p. A-41). In defending this action in front of a called meeting of the faculty, Coach Rowe stated ". . . that all were to blame for going, that each one went upon his own responsibility." In view of these circumstances the faculty determined that ". . . all games of football shall be played upon the home ground until the matter shall be disposed of" (Faculty Minutes, November 1, 1909). On November 13, Elon entertained the Reidsville Seminary and won handily by a score of 40-0. The Elon squad was supposed to play the eleven from Bingham again on November 15th at Elon (Faculty Minutes, November 12, 1909). For reasons not known this game was never played (Elon Record Book, p. A-41).

Finally the faculty ruled on the unsanctioned game played in Mebane on November 6. The decision was as follows:

On November 19th it was decided that in view of the insubordination and disobedience of the football team in going to Mebane

contrary to the instructions of the faculty - that no more football be allowed this season (Faculty Minutes, November 9, 1909). (This entry was written after the fact on November 19 as part of the November 9 minutes.)

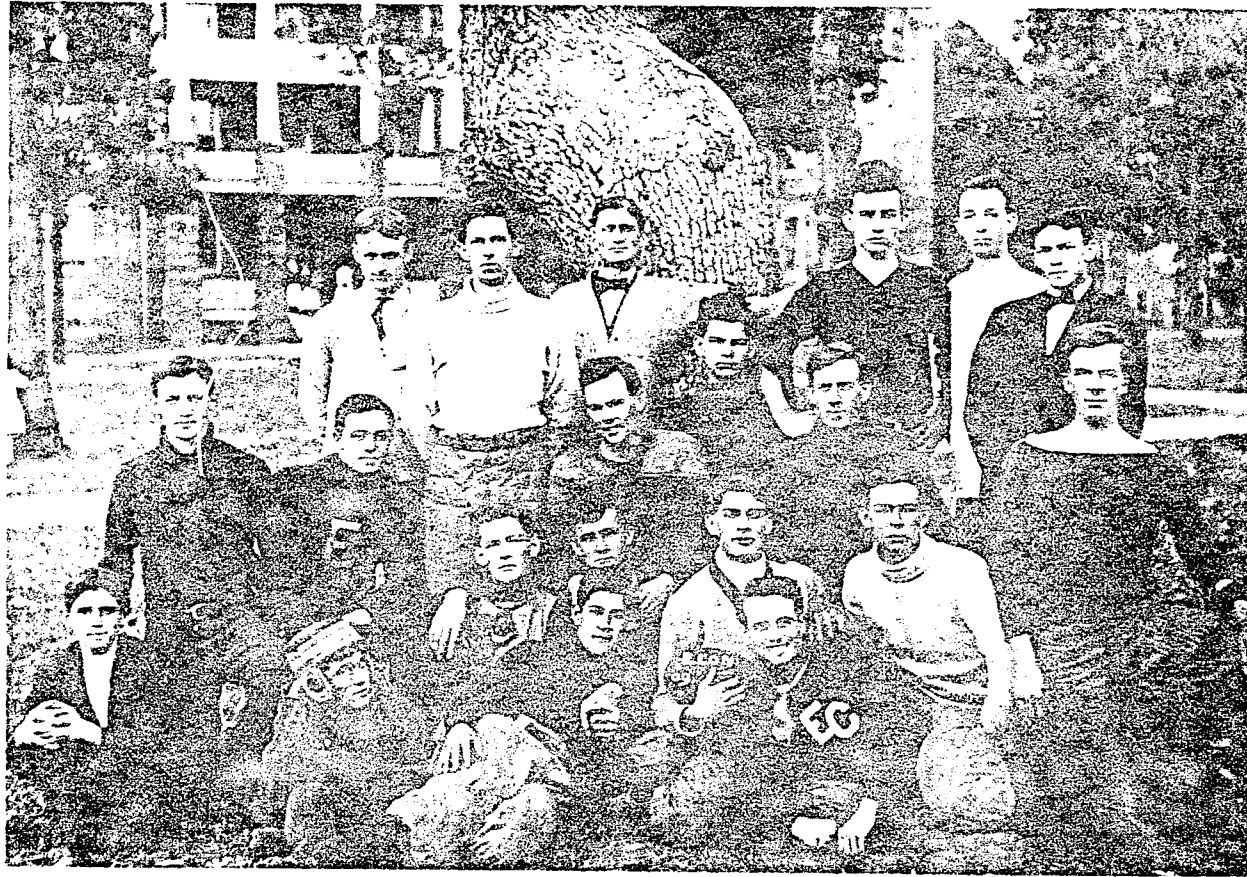
In direct defiance of the ruling of the faculty, Coach Rowe and the Elon College football team played the Durham High School on Thanksgiving Day in Burlington. Elon won the game by a score of 6-0, finishing its first intercollegiate football season with an excellent 4-2 record (Elon Record Book, p. A-41). The enthusiasm was shattered by the following report of the faculty:

In view of the fact that the football team went to Burlington and played Durham High School on Thanksgiving, after the faculty and [sic] forbidden any more games - It was moved and carried that Mr. W. H. Rowe be not allowed to act longer as athletic coach for Elon College students, on the grounds that he has failed to work in harmony with the faculty, and has led students to disregard its authority.

It was decided to give to each of the young men who played the Thanksgiving game football at Burlington 40 demerits - and all special privileges to Juniors and Seniors who participated are withdrawn (Faculty Minutes, November 26, 1909).

With this final statement from the faculty, the football program at the college was dropped. This gridiron sport would not be played again on the Elon campus until a decree from the Board of Trustees would come a full decade later.

That 1909 athletic year was the most controversial in the short intercollegiate history of the college. First, the accusations of professionalism toward the baseball team and second, the defiance of the football team toward the ruling of the faculty left the athletic future at the college in doubt. One thing was clear, however, and that was that if any progress was to be made in the athletic program at the school, it would have to carry the endorsement of the faculty.



Elon's First Football Team

The disaster of the 1909 athletic year also brought the concern of the Christian Church to the Elon campus. In the meeting of the North Carolina and Virginia Conference in November of that year, the committee on moral reform ". . . memorialized the Board of Trustees of Elon College to discourage all match games of athletics by the students of the College, and commended the habit of prayer and of daily reading of the Scriptures" (Christian Annual, 1910, p. 117).

Meeting two years later in Alamance County, the same committee tempered its stand on athletics at Elon and included the word "professional" in its recommendation:

We would ask the trustees of Elon College to be leaders in discouraging all professional match games in college athletics as not keeping with the spirit of a thorough Christian college, and hurtful in the development of Christian character (Christian Annual, 1912, p. 102).

The Athletic Association Sets New Standards

Although knocked down, the Athletic Association was not out. Its members set out to convince the faculty that they would never again take it upon their own volition to overrule the authority of the faculty. There arose a feeling on campus that, when properly regulated, athletics could become a beneficial force on campus. This new feeling toward athletics created a healthful college spirit, serving as a catalyst to unify the student body. It was believed that athletics exerted ". . . a tremendous influence, and any move to purify and uplift athletics must be greeted with approval by all who have at heart the welfare of our educational institutions (Elon College Weekly, February 15, 1910, p. 1).

In opening the new decade The Bulletin of Elon College reflected the attitudes of the college toward athletics.

Care is taken to promote a high degree of physical culture, and each year a healthful and vigorous athletic spirit is being developed. The vigor and harmony of the various athletic sports is controlled principally by the Athletic Association.

. . . .

Match games of baseball, basketball, lawn tennis, track meets with other institutions are allowed, under the rigid restrictions and supervision of the faculty.

. . . .

The physical training of the young ladies is under the strict supervision of the head of the department of Expression and Physical Culture (1910, p. 21).

In 1910 a new baseball coach, L. L. Hobbs, was directing the team. He had arranged one of the best schedules ever for the Maroon and Gold. With teams like North Carolina, Richmond, Delaware, Oak Ridge Institute, and Guilford on the schedule, the new head mentor felt that this year's club would ". . . make it interesting for her strongest foes" (Elon College Weekly, March 22, 1910, p. 3). The team set out to prove to everyone on the Elon campus that the events of the previous year would not happen again. In winning a practice game from Whitsett Institute the following was reported:

The efforts to make athletics purely a sport rather than professionalism has some show here. The game was pluckily played throughout, and the score was 9 to 3 in favor of Elon (Elon College Weekly, March 8, 1910, p. 3).

For the season the team tallied a record of 7-5-2 with big wins over Delaware, Richmond, Guilford and Oak Ridge Institute (Elon Record Book, p. D-38). The "Great Easter Game" against Oak Ridge Institute provided

the most cause for celebration. The Elon pitcher, Hearn, a Carolina transfer, was never better. He struck out fifteen that day as over a thousand fans looked on. With the score still tied after ten frames, ". . . the game ended for lack of time" (Elon College Weekly, March 29, 1910, p. 1).

In April the Lincoln brothers were once again performing their skills on the tennis courts. This time A. L. and J. S. handed the Long and Campbell duo from Bingham a defeat in two sets (Elon College Weekly, April 12, 1910, p. 4). This victory avenged an earlier loss to the Bingham team in the fall (Christian Sun, September 29, 1909, p. 8).

When the new year rolled around things had never looked brighter for the prospects of tennis on the campus. The three tennis courts for men were worked into top shape (Elon College Weekly, September 20, 1911, p. 2). In the spring of the year the college took steps to further increase prospects of tennis at the college.

At a joint meeting of the committee last week it was moved and carried to cooperate with the University of North Carolina, Wake Forest, A. & M., Davidson and Guilford colleges in organizing the Inter-Collegiate Tennis Club of North Carolina.

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The Inter-Collegiate Club will meet every year, each college being host in its turn.

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At each meeting of the Club there will be a tournament played and the winners will receive a cup or some trophy which they keep for one year and winning three years in succession, the team will be allowed to be the owners of the cup (Elon College Weekly, March 22, 1911, p. 1).

When the 1911 baseball season rolled around there was once again a new coach to direct the Elon team. This time the faculty selected Bunn Hearn, star pitcher from the previous season, as coach. The new coach was a hard worker and was found preparing the ball diamond for play as early as February. Coach Hearn, with the help of his squad, built a grandstand so the "calico" who watched the game would have a place to sit.

Accommodations [sic] for about two hundred have been provided in the first section, and if need arise, another section can easily be added. Also a band stand has been built which will seat the twenty "wind jammers" and "fram framers" of the College band (Elon College Weekly, February 1, 1911, p. 4).

With the enthusiasm for the team running high, everyone on campus was talking about "Light Horse" Harry Hedgepeth. He was recognized as a ". . . first-class slab artist and in this giant southpaw with his two hundred pounds well distributed over his big frame we have a man that may be depended on to give an account of himself before the close of the season" (Elon College Weekly, March 1, 1911, p. 3). The team only won two games that year while losing eight, but old "Hedgie" did everything he could to aid the Elon cause (Elon College Record Book, p. 38-D). In the 1-0 victory over Atlantic Christian he was almost a one-man show. The following account was reported by The Elon College Weekly:

Elon's only run was scored in the first round when Brockwell drew four wide ones, stole second, took third on Person's scratch hit, and scored on a perfect squeeze play, by Hedgepeth. Several times it looked as if the visitors would score with men on second and third but Hedgepeth [sic] tightened up and there was simply nothing doing in the hit line (April 5, 1911, p. 3).

The Elon team did not have a successful year in the won/lost column that year but the players did win the respect of their fellow students. Although they were chastised by their classmates for not training to their

full potential, they were given high marks in all other departments.

We want pure athletics by straight-forward, clever fellows and are proud to say that the team representing Elon College this season is by far the nearest approach to our ideas of what a college team ought to be that we have ever had, and we believe that a little more attention to points above mentioned will make Elon a worthy adversary of any college team (Elon College Weekly, April 19, 1911, p. 3).

New Regulations Are Adopted

With prospects of building a top-flight athletic program, the college felt it necessary to outline the rules that governed the intercollegiate athletic program. These regulations first appeared in The Elon College Weekly as follows:

1. Intercollegiate games are allowed, except football, under efficient Faculty supervision.
2. The Athletic Association is not permitted to make any debts which it is not prepared to pay.
3. No student is eligible to play in any intercollegiate game until he has been a registered student thirty days in the fall next preceding such game and by Jan. 10th in the spring, taking full work, and making an average grade of 80 per cent.
4. A student having as many as ten demerits against his record is thereby debarred from participation as a player.
5. No student who receives financial aid, directly or indirectly, by reason of his playing on the team shall be allowed in any intercollegiate game.
6. A Faculty representative shall accompany the team when on a trip, at which times the same college regulations, as to student deportment, are in force as at the College.
7. The athletic initial "E" shall be awarded at the athletic season in the spring of each year to those students who have played in 80 per cent of the intercollegiate games of the year of any one sport, such as tennis, basketball and baseball, and no other student shall be entitled to wear the initial letter.

8. The arrangements for all intercollegiate games and matters of athletic finance shall be under the joint management of a committee from the Faculty and the Athletic Association, and the transactions of this committee shall be subject to the approval of the Faculty (May 24, 1911, p. 4).

It was the feeling of the institution that the formulation of these regulations put the college on high ground as compared to other colleges in the state (Elon College Weekly, May 24, 1911, p. 4).

A New Gymnasium On Campus

A few years before, the Young Men's Christian Association had undertaken a movement to build a first-class gymnasium on the Elon campus.

The members themselves had raised two hundred and fifty dollars for the cause. With a start like this it really looked as if the college would get the much needed facility (Christian Sun, September 28, 1910, p. 9).

To the delight of all Elon students, The Elon College Weekly in the June 14, 1912, edition reported that the Board of Trustees had decided to:

. . . erect a modern gymnasium in [sic] addition the equal of any in the State for young men and that these improvements would be ready for the next fall term, if possible. . . . Plans from architects will be received and the contract let as soon as possible. This addition to Elon's equipment will place it on par with that of any college in the South (p. 4).

On January 30, 1913, the new gymnasium was officially opened for play. The new facility had a playing area which measured 60 x 100 feet and a basketball court that was 80 x 45 feet. The floor was constructed of "laid Michigan hard maple" and was the talk of the campus. The coach and players were ". . . delighted with this latest addition to the College's physical plant" (Alamance Gleaner, January 30, 1913, p. 3).

Two weeks later the first college game was played in the new facility when

the Elonites entertained a visiting Emory and Henry team.

The attendance was unusually good considering the cold evening and the fact that at that time heating apparatus had not been installed. Strong and hearty cheers continuously rang out and on the whole, this was a most delightful evening even with victory against us (Elon College Weekly, February 14, 1913, p. 2).

When Elon opened her doors in the fall of 1911, the school continued in its quest to keep its athletic pursuits on a high ground. The college administration advertised its intercollegiate program as follows:

The College is not wild or raving over Athletics, neither does it undervalue the real worth of Athletics in the symmetrical development of life and character. Baseball, basketball, tennis, track games, are encouraged under the Athletic Director. The aim is not to win at any price, but to play clean games. All positions in all Athletic events are assigned to the most expert after competitive playing under the Athletic Director.

No ringers or professionals are allowed and no man can represent Elon in any athletic capacity who receives any consideration directly or indirectly by reason of his skill or efficiency as a player (Bulletin of Elon College, July 1911, p. 15).

Robert S. Doak: First Full-Time Coach

In the previous summer Robert S. "Bob" Doak was hired to guide the athletic fortunes of the college. He was joined in baseball by A. L. Hook, an Elon alumnus, as the graduate manager. Everyone was hoping that Coach Doak would improve the athletic prospects of the college and that he would also maintain ". . . the high standard of sportsmanship prevailing at Elon" (Bulletin of Elon College, 1912, pp. 25-26). Not only would the new coach have full charge of the athletic program but he would also serve the faculty as a professor of English, Math, and Latin (Faculty Minutes, September 5, 1911).

With the new coach lending his guidance, the athletic program broadened its scope. Track had always been sadly neglected at Elon, but

under Coach Doak the prospects looked good. It was surely a new day for the sport at the college (Elon College Weekly, September 29, 1911, p. 3).

Coach Doak had his track men out for a preliminary test on Saturday morning to see about who would be depended on for the meet with Guilford College Monday, coming. Several of the men showed first class (Elon College Weekly, April 12, 1912, p. 3).

Guilford won the track meet that year but the Elon team gave a good account of itself.

So far as natural ability was concerned we should have had the big end of things but lack of work was conspicuously noticeable when up against seasoned athletes (Elon College Weekly, April 26, 1912, p. 2).

This was the first record of an intercollegiate track meet at the college. After this initial entry into the sport, there were no other meets recorded for some years.

Basketball Gets A Start

Basketball, like track, had also been a neglected sport on the Elon campus. This was probably due to the inadequate gymnasium on the campus prior to 1913 (Elon College Weekly, September 20, 1911, p. 2). When Coach Doak called for practice in October of 1911, ". . . a good crowd of basketball enthusiasts have responded to the call of the coach for men and the prospects are brighter for a representative team than was, at one time, thought" (Elon College Weekly, October 13, 1911, p. 3). The college had a very poor showing in its first season of basketball winning only once in nine outings. That first win was a two-point victory over Trinity by a score of 25-23 (Elon Record Book, p. B-15).

Elon College was not dismayed over her initial entry into the intercollegiate basketball arena. In the fall of 1912, Coach Doak attended a

meeting of representatives from the University of North Carolina, Trinity, Wake Forest, A. & M., and Guilford in hopes of forming a basketball league. The meeting was held in the Yarborough House in Raleigh. The fruits of that meeting were not only the formation of a basketball league but also the enactment of eligibility rules. Now it would be possible for Elon, for the first time ever, to strive for a championship (Elon College Weekly, November 1, 1912, p. 3).

In 1913 the basketball fortunes of the college improved somewhat but not enough to claim a championship. The team suffered through another losing season. The record for the year was a disappointing four wins against ten losses (Elon Record Book, p. B-15). The highlight of the season came in the upset win against Carolina. In this contest Elon gained a 23-19 advantage. The victory was a surprise to all ". . . since the score of the first game was 41-11 in Carolina's favor" (Elon College Weekly, March 7, 1913, p. 1).

The disappointing season could possibly have been blamed on the basketball uniforms which were very restricting in nature. In seeking a different style of uniform for the next season Coach Doak made the following request of the Board of Trustees:

"Will the regulation basketball suit, which leaves about four inches of the lower limb bare at the knee, between the pants and the top of the stockings, and which also leaves the arms bare from the shoulder be allowed?"

These gentlemen over in defence [sic] of their asking this privilege of you, that our men will be absolutely handicapped in intercollegiate contest if not allowed to wear the regulation suits and further that there are movements . . . which cannot be made with trousers coming below the knee and the jersey coming to the elbow, as the Board of Trustees ordered at commencement (Board of Trustees Minutes, April 23, 1913, p. 9). (The Executive Board approved the change with three dissenting votes.)

Elon Claims Championship In Basketball

Attired in new uniforms, the following season Coach Doak and his Elon five brought to the college their first North Carolina State Collegiate Basketball Championship. They accumulated a modest 8-9 record but in doing so claimed victories over all league teams including Trinity, A. & M., Wake Forest, Carolina, and Guilford. In announcing the championship, President Harper claimed:

The winning of the N. C. State College Basketball Championship--no mean distinction for the first year of our gymnasium (Board of Trustees Minutes, June 2, 1914, p. 7).

The 1915 basketball squad picked up where it left off the year before, winning ten while losing only five.

Elon is the only bunch that played all the major teams in the State, taking two each from Trinity, and A. & M., and breaking even with Carolina, Guilford, and Wake Forest. In view of the facts, it is hardly to be expected that any other quint will seriously intention any question of her right to be recognized as Collegiate State Champions (Phi Psi Cli, 1915, p. 161).

The baseball team of 1912 was Coach Doak's first experience in this sport at the college. After the disappointment of the basketball team earlier in the year, he was eager to show the home folks he could do better. In his debut as the Elon mentor, the Elon team took an 8-1 victory over the visitors from Catawba College. The coach was proud of his team's performance and all who viewed the game felt there would be ". . . some close and interesting games before the season closes" (Elon College Weekly, March 22, 1912, p. 2). At mid-season, however, The Elon College Weekly reported that the team was composed of ". . . too many smokers and coca-cola drinkers and lovers of chocolates and cakes" (April 12, 1912, p. 2). Whether this was true or not, the team finished



State Championship Basketball Team, 1914-1915

the season with a mediocre record. "Fifteen games were played and eight of them were lost; the scores in all were close, and in three Elon ought to have won" (Elon College Weekly, May 31, 1912, p. 2).

When the baseball season rolled around the following year, Coach Doak and Graduate Manager A. L. Hook began thinking baseball early. On February 7 they announced the schedule. There were eighteen games that year, the number prescribed by the college catalog; and efforts were underway to add two additional games against Lenoir in Hickory (Elon College Weekly, February 7, 1913, p. 2). Elon opened the 1913 season with two straight losses to Trinity and Wake Forest (Elon Record Book, p. D-38).

The team was not discouraged, however, and as always, they looked with anticipation to the Easter Monday game. A special train to Greensboro supervised by Manager A. L. Hook left the college at 1:00 a.m., with a round trip fare of \$1.05, which included admission to the game (Elon College Weekly, March 7, 1913, p. 3). Elon won the game 5-2 against a Lafayette nine. After the Easter Monday game the school could only claim four more victories that season. These came against Eastern, Weaverville and two over Wofford. The final record was a disappointing five wins and twelve losses (Elon Record Book, p. D-38).

In March of that year, Graduate Manager Hook summarized the school's position toward the expanding athletic program and in particular the baseball program:

We stand for clean athletics, and we are going to have them.

Each man who represents his institution when off with the team on a trip should carry himself commendable to all who will see him. . . . The best channel of advertisement for the College is thru and by athletics (Elon College Weekly, March 14, 1913, p. 1).

The next two seasons were also losing ones for the baseball team. Under Coach Doak's guidance the team achieved records of 5-7 in 1914 and 3-14 in 1915 (Elon College Record Book, p. D-39). There appeared to be a "hoodoo" over the team in 1915; for in many games ". . . seemingly won, Fortune would smile on our opponents and the contest would be lost by the close score" (Phi Psi Cli, 1916, p. 126).

Coach Doak Goes To Trinity

After the spring semester, Coach Doak left Elon College and gained employment at Trinity College. Here he enjoyed another successful tenure. In his years at Elon he had gained a state reputation as an outstanding coach. Under his charge the athletic program at the college had improved on all fronts. His greatest achievement was the winning of the State Championships in basketball both in 1914 and 1915, the first ever by Elon athletic teams (A. L. Hook, July 7, 1981).

The college had come a long way in upgrading its athletic program since 1909. To further insure its healthy growth, in 1915, Elon joined with the University of North Carolina, A. & M., Wake Forest, Trinity, and Guilford in setting up regulations to guide their ever expanding program.

The representatives agreed on the following summarized regulations:

- 1) that no student would be able to participate in an intercollegiate game until he had been in residence at the school for one year;
- 2) that the student had to be in good amateur standing;
- 3) that the student had to have passed eighty percent of his work the previous year;
- and 4) that no more than eighteen baseball and twelve basketball games shall be played in one season (Faculty Minutes, March 2, 1914).

C. C. Johnson Directs Athletic Program

Elon College opened the 1915-1916 school year with a new coach, C. C. "Jack" Johnson (Bulletin of Elon College, 1915-1916, p. 10). To help him with his duties, A. L. Hook was elected the graduate manager of all sports (Faculty Minutes, December 13, 1915). When Coach Johnson called for basketball tryouts, he could only count one letterman from the championship squad of the previous year. The team worked hard for their new coach, however, and by year's end they had become a "perfect machine." They were led onto the court by their center and captain, R. T. Bradford, whose leadership and athletic skill were admired by all.

R. T. Bradford as "Captain Shine," has worked hard at Center this year. His jumping has been above par. He has an unusual record, having played in every scheduled game as a representative of Elon for the past four years (Phi Psi Cli, 1916, p. 132).

With Captain Bradford providing both the leadership and good play, the team recorded a respectable 8-11 record for its first-year coach. The big wins that year were over Trinity, Davidson, and Guilford twice (Elon Record Book, p. B-16).

When Coach Johnson called for baseball practice for his maiden season, he was greeted by more than thirty candidates. The pitching staff was good and it was generally felt that ". . . a team could be picked that will reflect credit on our Alma Mater" (Phi Psi Cli, 1916, p. 126). The team finished the season with a 7-13 record with victories over such worthy opponents as South Carolina, Guilford, Wofford, and V.M.I. (Elon Record Book, p. D-39). On many occasions ". . . the team played brilliant ball; however, the season's record might not indicate it" (Phi Psi Cli, 1917, p. 124).

In reviewing the athletic year, President W. A. Harper gave praise to the athletes at the college, but he also gave notice of concern for the rising cost of the athletic program.

Our College teams have this year acquitted themselves creditably. We did not win the State Basketball Championship, but we played a good game and had a clean team. In baseball we made a better showing than last year.

Our greatest trouble in athletics is the financial one. The deficit last year was \$732.03, and this year the College had to pay in order to maintain its self-respect (Board of Trustees Minutes, May 23, 1916, p. 5).

Faculty Takes Full Control Of Athletics

In 1917 the Athletic Association was dissolved. This left all the responsibility for operating the athletic program in the hands of a faculty committee, some of it specifically in the charge of the graduate manager, A. L. Hook. In his year-end report to the Board of Trustees, a review of the intercollegiate year revealed that the track and tennis teams had lost two contests each to Wake Forest and Trinity. The basketball team, being very young, had only been able to win four of its fifteen games. Many of these losses, however, were by small margins. In the spring the baseball team had been successful in only three outings. They finished the season with nine losses. The baseball season was cut short ". . . on account of the unsettled war conditions" (Board of Trustees Minutes, May 28, 1917, p. 25).

Professor Hook's report to the Board of Trustees also contained the following alarming financial report:

Cost of equipping teams:

Tennis	\$ 11.00
Track	26.33
Basketball	48.95
Baseball	<u>219.42</u>
	\$305.70
 Paid for current expenses	 \$100.47

Paid for guarantees:

Tennis	\$ 10.00
Track	20.30
Basketball	185.00
Baseball	<u>229.75</u>
	\$445.05
 Lost on Easter Monday (Cold)	 62.40
Lost on trips (Rain)	<u>16.52</u>
	\$930.14

By 250 season tickets @ \$1.50	\$375.00
By Gate receipts	<u>110.70</u>
	\$485.70
 Indebtedness	 \$444.44

Yours very truly,

A. L. Hook
Graduate Manager

(Board of Trustees Minutes, May 28, 1917, pp. 25-26).

The following year was a peculiar one for the college because of the continued unsettled conditions of World War I.

The Directors has had [sic] to substitute many men for Varsity men enlisting with the colors. However, considering the year as a whole we pronounced it successful (Board of Trustees Minutes, May 27, 1918, p. 13).

The basketball and baseball teams won only forty percent of their games during the 1918 school year. Such teams as V.P.I., V.M.I., and Wake Forest fell before the Maroon and Gold teams (Board of Trustees Minutes, May 27, 1918, pp. 13-14). The basketball team finished the season with seven wins against ten losses. The baseball team did a little better in accumulating a 5-6 slate (Elon Record Book, pp. B-16, D-40).

World War I Takes Toll On Athletics

During the 1918-1919 school year, Coach Johnson and the Elon athletes did very little to improve their status as a force to be reckoned with in intercollegiate athletic circles. It was an exceedingly hard year for three reasons: (1) The war had taken many of the school's better athletes; (2) practice time and facilities were taken away because of the presence of the Student Army Training Corps which was on campus; and (3) the cost of equipment and travel expenses had increased considerably (Board of Trustees Minutes, May 20, 1919, p. 22).

The basketball team that year won only one game and that was against Guilford (Elon Record Book, p. B-16). It played all the teams in the state as well as Virginia, V.P.I., and V.M.I. The team was "inexperienced and light" and although almost every game was close, the team always came up short (Board of Trustees Minutes, May 20, 1919, p. 22).

In that one win against Guilford, Elon looked like a different team. The game proved "highly interesting" with a lot of the Elon students following their team to the Quaker campus. A report in The Guilfordian, the Guilford student paper, gave the following account:

Elon has a good fast team and played a most peculiar game. The whole team, almost as a unit, followed the ball when it was near Guilford's goal.

. . . .

The final score was 15 to 21 in Elon's favor (March 5, 1919, pp. 1, 4).

As bad as things were at the college, thirty-five men responded to Coach Johnson's call for baseball tryouts. These hopefuls included five lettermen. The Elon nine ". . . defeated every team in the state except Wake Forest. The most talked about game of the year was the 3-2 loss to Washington and Lee. It went fourteen innings before it was decided" (Phi Psi Cli, 1920, p. 168). The team finished the season with six wins against thirteen losses (Elon Record Book, p. D-40).

The success of the 1919 baseball season was not just measured in victories, however. During the season the college officials received many letters from opponents indicating that the team had gained the ". . . esteem and respect of the faculties and student bodies of these institutions" (Board of Trustees Minutes, May 20, 1919, pp. 22-23).

The tennis and track teams could do little better than the other sports that year. In tennis the school divided "honors" with Trinity. The track team won one from Wake Forest and lost one to Trinity in Durham (Board of Trustees Minutes, May 20, 1919, p. 22).

With the athletic program at a low ebb, college officials felt that something had to be done. At season's end, A. L. Hook petitioned the Board of Trustees to upgrade the athletic field on the campus. His remarks follow: "We desire a representative athletic field which will be a credit to our institution, as our gymnasium is a standing and permanent credit" (Board of Trustees Minutes, May 20, 1919, p. 24).

At Commencement that year it was announced to the cheers of the students and alumni alike that football would once again be played on the Elon campus (Christian Sun, May 28, 1919, p. 4).

For many years Elon has refused to permit this sport, along with other colleges, because it has been brutal, but modification of the rules had removed the grounds of objection and it is unanimously allowed (Bulletin of Elon College, June 1919, p. 25).

Football Returns To Elon Campus

When school opened in the fall the campus was not only overjoyed with the prospects of fielding an intercollegiate football team, but to the delight of everyone the administration had secured ". . . a thirty-four acre tract of land just south of the College, and convenient to the college campus, on which was constructed a modern athletic field" (Christian Sun, September 17, 1919, p. 9).

The new athletic field was to be called Comer Field in honor of "Uncle" Pink Comer, a long-time custodian and friend of the students at Elon (A. L. Hook, July 7, 1981). Mr. Comer was killed by a train while walking on the tracks near the Elon train station. Upon his tragic death the name was chosen because ". . . 'Uncle' Pink was the 'important' and 'prominent' man about the campus and buildings" (Christian Sun, August 4, 1920, p. 4).

When Coach Johnson made his call for practice that fall, just about ". . . every man in College showed his willingness to don the football togs and work for the team (Phi Psi Cli, 1920, p. 158). The team practiced hard and scored a victory in its opening game against the Lexington Athletic Club by a 12 to 6 margin (Board of Trustees Minutes, May 25, 1919, p. 28). This

initial win was followed by two losses to Lynchburg College and Guilford College by scores of 23-6 and 6-0. In reviewing the season the coach was heard to say ". . . Elon's first football team was not a failure — far from it" (Phi Psi Cli, 1920, p. 158).

In track that year the Elon team lost two meets to Wake Forest while the tennis team won from Trinity and lost to Davidson (Board of Trustees Minutes, May 25, 1920, p. 28).

Flu Hits The Campus

The 1920 basketball team won just two games. These victories were over Davidson and Wofford (Phi Psi Cli, 1920, p. 162). While on its winter tour, the team found one-third of its games had been cancelled due to the influenza epidemic (Board of Trustees Minutes, May 25, 1920, p. 28). After returning from the win, in Spartanburg, the team found its ". . . schedule had been broken by influenza in the College, and the playing season was over" (Phi Psi Cli, 1920, p. 162). The team finished an abbreviated schedule with a record of 5-2 (Elon Record Book, p. B-17).

In March of that year the headlines of the Maroon and Gold exclaimed:
"ATHLETICS BOOMING AFTER FLU EPIDEMIC."

Everybody on? Fifteen "rahs" for athletics.
Let's go!

Wake up you boneheads and put that brain to work, compose some good yells and songs, so you will have something for your mouth to do when the season opens.

Elon is going to make up for all weak places from now on. When the gymnasium gong sounds in the afternoon the athletes are seen jogging to the athletic field in various uniforms, baseball, track and football (March 12, 1920, p. 1).

To add to the campus enthusiasm, the prospects looked bright in baseball that spring for there were six lettermen returning. Everyone on campus thought that a well balanced team would ". . . wear the Maroon and Old Gold this season when the 'Umps' say 'Play ball'" (Phi Psi Cli, 1920, p. 168). The preseason predictions did not hold true, however, as the team could only manage to win five of its sixteen games. In-state wins were recorded over Lenoir, Guilford and Trinity (Board of Trustees Minutes, May 25, 1920, p. 29).

The big win, of course, was the one over ancient rival Guilford. The Elon team gathered 17 hits, among these were four doubles and a triple. This exhibition was ". . . one of the greatest slugging feasts that has ever been witnessed on the local diamond" (Maroon and Gold, April 9, 1920, p. 1).

Johnson Out: Corboy In

At the end of the 1920 baseball season, Coach C. C. "Jack" Johnson left his coaching duties at Elon College to do graduate work at Yale University. His work at that institution completed, he was selected as the Head of the Physical Education Department and baseball coach at the University of Colorado where he attained the rank of full professor (Daily Times-News, April 26, 1973, p. D-14). To succeed Coach Johnson the college chose Frank B. Corboy. The new coach, coming to Elon from the University of Pittsburgh, was welcomed with open arms at the college.

He has won the admiration of all the students both as a man and as a coach, but especially has he won the admiration of the men participating in the athletic sports (Phi Psi Cli, 1921, p. 106).

When the new coach called football practice in the fall, thirty-three men responded (Maroon and Gold, September 17, 1920, p. 1).

Victories were gained over Lexington Athletic Association, Chapel Hill High, and Atlantic Christian, while losses went to Furman, Wake Forest, Trinity and Guilford (Phi Psi Cli, 1921, p. 107). The Thanksgiving Day game against Atlantic Christian, which ended the season, was by far the most entertaining of the season. The game ended ". . . with the score 88 to 0 with Elon holding the big end" (Maroon and Gold, December 3, 1920, p. 1). With confidence riding high from a respectable 3-4 season football had ". . . been placed firmly upon the hearts of the student body" (Phi Psi Cli, 1921, p. 107).

The 1921 football eleven made another "creditable" record for the college (Board of Trustees Minutes, May 29, 1922, p. 2). Again that year, thirty-five candidates reported for practice that emphasized the rudiments of the game. Coach Corboy stated that the squad was ". . . larger than last year's and a lot of new blood has been added" (Maroon and Gold, September 16, 1921, p. 3). The highlight of the year was the scoreless tie against a superior Trinity team. In that win, ". . . Perry's work for Elon in passing and gaining through the line was probably the most outstanding item of the game" (Maroon and Gold, November 4, 1921, p. 1).

Quakers Defeated: Students Burn Jail

The following football season was the best ever at the school. The team compiled a 5-4 slate with wins over Hampden-Sydney, Emory and Henry, Lenoir, Guilford and Erskine (Board of Trustees Minutes, May 28, 1923, p. 30). The big game was with Guilford at Cone Park in Greensboro, when the Elon eleven played inspired ball and took the game 20-7. The victory was the first ever by an Elon football team over Guilford, and brought a

wild celebration to the Elon campus which ended with the Elon students burning down the old town jail. The jail had not been occupied since the Volstead Act had forbidden its use in 1900. The Elon students had planned, ". . . so the whisper is, to wipe out every suggestion against the freedom of the citizen should they be victorious in the game on Armistice Day, and they made good their promise in the early morning hours of November 12" (Maroon and Gold, November 17, 1922, p. 1). At the end of the season Elon's backfield star L. J. "Hap" Perry won All-State honors (Elon Record Book, p. A-29).

The Birth Of The Fighting Christians

With the win over Guilford the college also derived a name for its athletic teams--"The Fighting Christians." The headlines proclaiming the victory read "QUAKERS GO DOWN BEFORE THE CHRISTIANS IN ANNUAL BATTLE ON ARMISTICE DAY" (Maroon and Gold, November 17, 1922, p. 1). The name stuck and the teams today are still called by this name. Before this big win the team had been called the "Maroon and Gold" (Maroon and Gold, October 7, 1921, p. 1). The scrub team, which also played an abbreviated schedule, had been called the "Bear Cats" (Maroon and Gold, November 4, 1921, p. 1).

When the football team reported for practice the following fall, its ranks were thin because the stars of the previous season were no longer in school. Coach Corboy, however, was not to be dismayed and through hard work he developed an excellent team. When the season was completed, victories were counted over Lynchburg, Hampden-Sydney, Emory and Henry, and Guilford (Phi Psi Cli, 1924, p. 100). The banner game was the moral

victory over the great Wake Forest team. A field goal in the fourth quarter gave the Baptists a thrilling 9-6 win (Maroon and Gold, November 21, 1923, p. 1). In another exciting game that year, the outcome was again decided by a field goal. This time, however, it was in Elon's favor. Against Lynchburg with the score tied, the Maroon and Gold team sent in a young freshman named Howard "Puny" Richardson to attempt a field goal. The 130 pounder drop-kicked the ball through the uprights to claim the Elon victory (W. B. Terrell, June 16, 1981). The team finished that 1923 season with an even slate of four wins against four losses (Elon Record Book, p. D-42).

The following season was a disaster. One of the toughest schedules ever attempted had been arranged and Coach Corboy indicated in preseason that the ". . . outcome of the season depended a whole lot on the outcome of the Davidson game" (Maroon and Gold, September 17, 1924, p. 1). The coach must have known what he was talking about, because Elon lost its opener with Davidson and all the remaining six games. The Elon team on the year was out scored 224 to 7 (Elon Record Book, p. A-42). The most humiliating defeat came against Clemson in a 60-0 game. Those Tigers were formidable that day as they ". . . ran end, smashed at the line and slid off tackles with almost equal regularity and effectiveness" (Maroon and Gold, October 1, 1924, p. 1).

In 1925 the Elon footballers came back to campus determined to improve on their record of the past season (Maroon and Gold, September 2, 1925, p. 1). Although they worked hard, they were only able to win in two outings. Those against Guilford and Emory and Henry (Phi Psi Cli, 1926,

p. 113). In the 6-0 win over old rival Guilford, little George Kelly took a pass from the quarterback and ". . . ran unmolested across the goal line, dropped slowly to his knees and touched the ball to the ground for the points which gave Elon the victory" (Maroon and Gold, October 7, 1925, p. 1-2). There was another game that year which proved to be a moral victory and that was in the loss to Duke. The Duke team which was playing on Comer Field for the first time had all it could handle. Although heavily favored, the visitors could only muster a 6-0 win. A fumbled punt gave ". . . the Duke team their chance to put the ball across the goal line" (Maroon and Gold, October 21, 1925, p. 1).

M. Z. Rhodes Writes School Song

In 1921 Markwood Zirkle Rhodes came to the Elon campus as a student and as the band director. Mr. Rhodes was a veteran of World War I and a graduate of Shenandoah Institute. He was recognized by his fellow students as a ". . . lover of music, of musicians, and of a musician" (Phi Psi Cli, 1923, p. 50). While attending the college, M. Z. Rhodes wrote the Elon College fight song. At its writing he was not sure it would gain acceptance, but much to his surprise and delight it did. His composition has been heard to the cheers of the Elon teams, and to the displeasure of many opponents ever since (E. F. Rhodes, May 22, 1981).

The words to the song "Here's to Dear Old Elon" are sung to the music of "Our Director" composed by F. E. Bigelow.

So here's to dear old Elon,
Faithful and bold
Here's to her banners of Maroon and Gold
And here's to men and women,

Who've come and gone.
Singing the victor's song of old Elon (Elon College Bulletin,
November 1922).

When the 1921 basketball season rolled around some thirty-five "fighting" men answered Coach Corboy's call to practice. It was felt that, under the skillful training of the coach, this team could equal the record of the 1915 state championship team (Maroon and Gold, December 10, 1920, p. 1). The squad practiced long and hard and gained wins over Wake Forest, Davidson, North Carolina State, and Guilford, among others. It also had the distinction of not losing a game on its home court (Phi Psi Cli, 1921, p. 112). The team won eleven games and lost only seven that year as it beat every team in the state except Carolina and Trinity (Board of Trustees Minutes, May 23, 1921, p. 14).

When the basketball players reported to practice the following year, they found that new basketball uniforms had been purchased. The team gave a snappy appearance in their new uniforms as they were ". . . made up of a white jersey with maroon and gold stripes, and gold pants with maroon tape" (Maroon and Gold, January 13, 1922, p. 3). The new uniforms looked better than the team played, however, as the Elon quintet managed just seven wins in the year. The success on the home floor again was excellent, as the team's only loss at home was to Wake Forest by two points (Phi Psi Cli, 1922, p. 106). The highlight of the season was the 30-29 victory over Trinity College.

Robert Broun [sic] was the real hero of the game, caging the ball from a difficult angle of the court by a sensational one-handed throw in the last five seconds of play, which resulted in the needed points to win (Maroon and Gold, February 10, 1922, p. 3).

When Coach Corboy was asked about the prospects for the basketball team in 1923, he shrugged his shoulders and said, ". . . I will show you in a few weeks and you can judge for yourself" (Maroon and Gold, January 5, 1923, p. 1). Everyone was hoping for an excellent team but a rash of injuries to key personnel plagued the team all year. The big win was against ancient rival Guilford ". . . who went down in 'bloody' defeat at the hands of the regular five to the tune of 24 to 14" (Phi Psi Cli, 1923, p. 119). The team finished the season with a good record of eight wins against seven losses (Board of Trustees Minutes, May 28, 1923, p. 30). The team was captained that year by J. M. Fix, Jr. (Daily Times-News, January 18, 1923, p. 4).

The following season the basketball team had a mediocre record tallying eight wins against ten losses. The team's ranks had been depleted through graduation and the newcomers were not able to fill the gaps. The team worked hard, however, and considerable improvement was shown during the latter part of the season, when Guilford, Wake Forest, and Trinity were met. All these foes were favored heavily but could only claim their wins by small scores. Down the stretch the Elon five was only victorious in one of its seven games (Phi Psi Cli, 1924, pp. 111, 114).

The next year Coach Corboy felt that his basketball team would only have a fair record at best since ". . . all of the regulars of last year's team are among the missing and only one of the second string men has returned" (Maroon and Gold, January 7, 1925, p. 1). In its opening game against Newberry, the Elon team played with five freshmen and was easily defeated by twelve points by the heavier Indian squad (Maroon and Gold,

January 14, 1925, p. 1). The team made steady improvement all year, however, and in its final game against High Point the team made one of the greatest comebacks in the school's history to claim the win. At the half the Elon team was behind 18-5 and only a great inspirational intermission speech saved the team from an embarrassing defeat. Much to the delight of the local fans, the team played brilliantly the second half and won the game 31-28 (Maroon and Gold, March 4, 1925, pp. 1-2).

In 1926 the basketball team won eight while losing the same number. The team won four each from collegiate and non-collegiate teams. Their capacity to win the close ones against collegiate competition resulted in victories over Wofford, 18-15; Guilford, 16-15; Lynchburg, 17-15; and Lenoir-Rhyne, 26-16 (Phi Psi Cli 1926, p. 120). The thriller that season was the mid-year encounter with arch-rival Guilford. The game was a classic.

With a minute go to [sic] the Quakers shot a goal and placed themselves one point ahead, the count standing 14-15. As the stop watch ticked off the few remaining seconds the Christians caged another beauty that marked the difference between winning and losing (The Guilfordian, February 3, 1926, p. 1).

When the basketball season ended on the Elon campus, all baseball hopefuls were expected to report straight to Comer Field to begin preparation for their season. This held true for Coach Corboy and his players in 1921. In approaching the season the first-year Elon baseball coach felt good about the upcoming season, remarking that ". . . hard work will make a team; then Elon will be proud of her nine" (Phi Psi Cli, 1921, p. 118). The year before the team had only won 5 of its 16 games, and everyone hoped for a better record. The locals got their wish as the Elon players gave their first year coach a 7-8-2 record. A win over North Carolina State College,

the first ever over that team, was the high point of the season (Board of Trustees Minutes, May 23, 1921, p. 14).

The warm weather of March welcomed the 1922 edition of the "Fighting Christians" baseball team to Comer Field for preseason workouts. Forty eager players answered Coach Corboy's call and he felt that the prospects were good for a winning team (Maroon and Gold, March 10, 1922, p. 1). A. L. Hook, the Graduate Manager, had arranged an attractive twenty game schedule with half of those contests being played on Comer Field (Maroon and Gold, March 3, 1922, p. 1). As usual the Easter Monday game with Guilford was one of the important games of the season. The Quakers won that one. The second game with Wake Forest was also a big game and it offered some sweet revenge for the Elon nine. After losing to the Deacons on their campus, 14-0, the Elonites returned the favor by pounding the Baptists 9-0 at Comer Field. Many people thought that the team was possibly the best ever to don ". . . the Maroon and Gray tinted caps in a number of years, although its life as a ball club was inconsistent" (Phi Psi Cli, 1923, p. 124). The team finished the season with a 9-10-1 slate with the nine wins being the most ever recorded by an Elon baseball team (Elon Record Book, p. D-41).

As the 1923 baseball season rolled around everyone on the campus was expecting the college to have the best club in many years. And why not? There were a lot of veterans returning from the successful campaign of the previous year. Coach Corboy was optimistic and ". . . confident that, when the season closes, Elon will be a close runner for state honors" (Phi Psi Cli, 1923, p. 127). All the preseason enthusiasm was lost, however,

as the Christians met defeat at the hands of Wake Forest, State and Guilford in their first three games (Maroon and Gold, April 6, 1923, p. 1). As the season progressed it was felt that there was a "jinx" following the team. With three more losses, to Lenoir, Davidson and Trinity in late April, the inability of the Elon diamonders to win games was ". . . a puzzle that no one here has been able to solve" (Maroon and Gold, April 27, 1923, p. 1). The team closed its season with two straight wins over Lenoir and Davidson to salvage a little self-respect with a 4-12 record. The final game of the year with Davidson at Comer Field offered the home folks the biggest thrill of the season. The score was tied at one all ". . . until the eighth inning when Elon pushed over the winning run" (Phi Psi Cli, 1924, p. 116).

The following year things did not look good at all for the Elon ballers. There were only six lettermen listed among the thirty candidates who reported for the first practice (Phi Psi Cli, 1924, p. 118). The team only won one game that year against ten losses. The lone win was against Lenoir by a 7-6 score (Elon Record Book, p. D-41).

When the call for practice was issued in 1925 Coach Corboy greeted thirty-five hopefuls. Among these he could only count four lettermen. To say the least the best the team could hope for was a "fair" season (Phi Psi Cli, 1925, pp. 116-117). In its opening game against Duke, in near freezing weather the Elon nine was pounded 16-0 (Maroon and Gold, April 1, 1925, p. 1). At mid-season the team traveled to Raleigh to face North Carolina State. They took with them a good many Elon students. The students traveled ". . . by way of the 'Hop-it' bus line, expecting to witness a

close and exciting game. The final score, however, was not even close. State took the game 17-0" (Maroon and Gold, April 22, 1925, p. 1). Elon only won four games that year while losing thirteen. After the embarrassing loss to State the team recovered, losing eight of its final nine games (Elon Record Book, p. D-41).

On March 1, 1926, Coach Corboy "sounded the call" for baseball practice in what would be the last team he would coach at Elon College. As practice progressed it was obvious that there was ". . . an abundance of material among the new men, especially in the pitching department" (Phi Psi Cli, 1926, p. 123). The schedule was a strong one with all the in-state teams being played. Among the in-state competition the Elonites won eight of fifteen games taking two wins from Carolina (Phi Psi Cli, 1927, p. 118). The team played well all season and presented Coach Corboy a 10-10-1 record (Elon Record Book, p. D-42).

Minor Sports Neglected

Football, basketball, and baseball were always the big sports at Elon and this was again true during the first half of the 1920's. Only on very rare occasions did tennis or track demand any attention.

Tennis, always popular at Elon, was surely a stepchild in the Corboy era. The team did have matches every year but only one or two in most instances. In 1920 the Maroon and Gold team split with Trinity and lost to Davidson. The following year the Christians played most of the teams in the state and also participated in the state tournament. In 1922 the team did not "maintain." A victory and a tie with Guilford was achieved the next season (Board of Trustees Minutes, May 25, 1920, p. 28; May 23,

1921, p. 24; May 29, 1922, p. 4; May 28, 1923, p. 30). The netmen were handicapped by the lack of courts in 1924 but the team did look forward to the State Intercollegiate Tennis Tournament. H. C. Hanier, Marvin Johnson, James Roders and Oscar Atkinson were all members of that squad (Maroon and Gold, April 30, 1924, p. 1). In 1925 the team played two matches, losing both to Wake Forest and Guilford (Maroon and Gold, April 22, 1925, p. 1; May 13, 1925, p. 1).

In the early twenties the track team could do no better than the tennis team. Meets run were few and the victories were indeed few and far between. Elon did have one distance runner of note, however, and this young man, W. E. Marlette, brought much recognition to himself and his Alma Mater. In 1921 he won the intercollegiate cross-country championship in Chapel Hill (Maroon and Gold, December 23, 1921, p. 1). In March of the next year the Elon star runner participated in the first indoor track meet held in North Carolina. The meet was held in the Star Brick Warehouse in Durham. Marlette won the mile event and was awarded a "beautiful" gold medal. In reporting to the school newspaper he stated ". . . It was like a circus; there was something going on all the time" (Maroon and Gold March 17, 1922, p. 1).

With the close of the school year in 1926, Coach Frank B. Corboy's career at the college also came to an end. His tenure at Elon had secured for the institution a firm footing in the intercollegiate athletic circles of the state. Under his direction the college attained membership in the National Collegiate Athletic Association. Corboy himself was a member of the American Football Coaches' Association (Maroon and Gold, January 14,

1925, p. 1). While he was serving as coach the Elon teams played under the conference banners of The Virginia-North Carolina Intercollegiate Athletic Association and The North Carolina Intercollegiate Athletic Association (Board of Trustees Minutes, May 24, 1926, p. 19). In his years at Elon College he was admired by ". . . all the students both as a man and a coach, but especially has he won the admiration of the men participating in the athletic sports" (Phi Psi Cli, 1921, p. 106).

Athletic Program Changes Direction

When Coach Corboy left Elon the institution felt it was time for a change in the direction of its intercollegiate athletic program. These changes were outlined in the address to the Board of Trustees in its May 1926 meeting. President W. A. Harper's address contained the following remarks:

I now speak of a very important tendency, and that is to put athletics under the control of the faculty.

. . . .

"By faculty control is meant not merely the general supervision of students and of games which a faculty exercises as standing in loco parentis, but specifically the control thru faculty officers (professors or directors of physical education), or thru committees, over the appointment or tenure of office of coaches, the making of schedules, the eligibility of athletes, and the expenditure of funds" (Board of Trustees Minutes, May 24, 1926, p. 10).

The Board, therefore, approved a policy of assigning regular college professors to coach at the college. It was felt that under this system ". . . athletes will have a higher ideal and desire for scholarship and that the best qualities of character development will come from athletics. In taking this action the Board was following the actions taken by other colleges who like Elon desired admission to the North Carolina Conference

and the Southern Association of Colleges (Board of Trustees Minutes, May 24, 1926, p. 11).

As the 1926-1927 school year opened Dr. Harper had obtained the services of two outstanding professors to take charge of the athletic teams at the college. For football, Professor A. R. VanCleave was chosen. His previous coaching experience had been at Union Christian College where he had fielded the best team ever at that school. His teaching assignment at Elon included Philosophy and Social Science. Professor VanCleave was a man of high integrity and ". . . has enjoyed high popularity as professor and coach."

For basketball and baseball Dr. William Jay was selected. Professor Jay had previously coached at Defiance College for six years. Besides his coaching duties the new basketball and baseball coach taught English Literature (Bulletin of Elon College, June 1926).

The football team in the fall of 1926 did not win a single game. It was by far the worst season in the school's history. In its defeats the team was outscored by a margin of 284 to 24 (Board of Trustees Minutes, May 24, 1927, p. 22). The poor season was a combination of a heavy schedule and too many injuries. Adding insult to injury the team lost its final game of the season to arch-rival Guilford (Phi Psi Cli, 1927, p. 107). At the end of the season special attention was given to Captain W. E. "Mac" McCauley who played every minute of every game (Maroon and Gold, December 17, 1926, p. 1).

The college had a freshman squad in 1926 coached by Howard "Rich" Richardson. As a varsity player he had himself made a good record at Elon.

As a coach he did a good job ". . . and trained several men to take places on the Varsity" (Phi Psi Cli, 1927, p. 100).

Under Professor Jay the basketball team made a somewhat better showing. Out of 16 college games played the Elon squad won six (Board of Trustees Minutes, May 24, 1927, p. 22). Elon wins were over Hampden-Sydney, Bridgewater, V.M.I., Lenoir and two from Guilford (Elon Record Book, p. D-42).

After the failure of the football and basketball seasons the students on the campus began to wonder what was happening to its athletic program. With the school spirit at an all time low, the Maroon and Gold reported the following:

Why is it that we seldom hear the tune of the College song? Why is it that we do not see as much interest in our teams as in former years? Why is it that our athletes show such an utter disregard of training rules (March 17, 1926, p. 2)?

In an effort to improve the situation the college secured the services of Charlie Carroll to assist with the baseball team (Board of Trustees Minutes, May 24, 1927, p. 22). Coach Carroll had coached the Greensboro Patriots before coming to the Elon campus (Phi Psi Cli, 1927, p. 122). Under his guidance the team jumped off to a great start. The Maroon and Gold related the following:

Our team is showing an abundance of pep and a great determination to win this year; and if they continue to fight as they are fighting, we are bound to be on top of the percentage column in State Collegiate baseball circles this spring. To date, Elon has won five out of six games played (April 9, 1927, p. 4).

The team continued their winning ways and finished the season with an excellent 14-4 record. Although they did not win the championship their victories over Davidson, Wake Forest, High Point, V.P.I., and Guilford

were enjoyed by everyone on the campus (Elon Record Book, p. D-42). With such a great team it was little wonder that even President W. A. Harper and the entire Elon staff locked their office doors and strolled over to Comer Field to watch the team in action (William B. Terrell, June 16, 1981). After the season the team was ". . . amply rewarded at a chapel service when they were presented the coveted large maroon 'E'" (Maroon and Gold, May 20, 1927, p. 1). For their individual play, first baseman and pitcher Art Fowler and centerfielder Paul Braxton garnered All-State honors (Elon Record Book, p. D-30).

Summary

In those early days at Elon, there was no intercollegiate athletic program. To insure healthy students the officials at the school did require a regular calisthenics program. After a few years these exercise sessions were no longer meeting the needs of many male students. In honoring the request of two male students the faculty designated a room to be used as a gymnasium. The facility was equipped with a set of rings, a skin-the-cat pole, and an old cannonball. This facility was all that was needed to encourage the meager beginning of an athletic program which included among other sports an on-campus football team.

In the mid-nineties the Athletic Association was founded. This organization was charged with supervising all the athletic activities on the campus. On November 24, 1894, the Association sponsored a Field Day. The event was well attended and consisted of tennis, track events, and a football game. The highlight of the day was of course the football game. The contest pitted the college team against those boys living in homes of

Professors Long and Holleman. The off-campus bunch won the game by a score of 12-0.

There was also much interest in baseball and tennis in the nineties. The baseball team, although not allowed to play intercollegiate games, was said to have some fine players. Elon also had five tennis courts.

In the latter part of the decade the college officials watched as a vigorous athletic spirit was developed on the campus. This caused the faculty to consider the prospect for fielding an intercollegiate baseball team. In March of 1900, the faculty voted to grant two baseball games with Guilford College. Although Elon did not win either of those contests, the students at the college were not disheartened and looked to future contests with great anticipation.

In 1904 the Elon College baseball team played a grand total of five games, winning four and losing only one game to a good Guilford nine. The following year, W. W. Staley, Elon's President, offered two tuition grants in return for teaching the fundamentals of baseball to members of the Athletic Association.

Prospects were really improving at the institution. In 1906 a gymnasium was erected at the college. This facility was located on the first floor of the new West Dormitory annex. The following year the college purchased four acres adjoining Elon to be used as an athletic park. Elon also hired its first baseball coach, Mr. M. B. Murrow.

On Thanksgiving Day in 1908, Elon played in the first recorded tennis match against Bingham School. The match proved very interesting with Elon gaining the advantage.

The following year was a very controversial one for the college. In the spring charges of professionalism were cast at the Elon baseball players. Apologetically, the college confessed guilt. In the fall the school fielded its first football squad. The team logged an outstanding 4-2 record in its first year. When the team coached by "Reddi" Rowe played in an unsanctioned game at Thanksgiving, the outraged faculty voted to drop the sport.

When the next decade opened a new spirit of athletics was introduced at the college. This new spirit was guided by the rigid restrictions of the faculty. There was a sincere effort by everyone to put the athletic program and the college on a purely amateur status. In 1910, L. L. Hobbs was hired to coach the baseball team. His team, to the delight of everyone, attained a 7-5-2 record.

Basketball at Elon had always been a neglected sport but with the addition of a new gymnasium the prospects of fielding a good team were given a big boost. The old annex facility was turned into a ladies' gym. With enthusiasm riding high, the basketball team claimed the North Carolina State Basketball Championship in both 1914 and 1915.

In 1911 the college set forth regulations to govern its intercollegiate athletic contests. Among the regulations was the requirement for gaining the Elon "E" for athletic excellence.

In 1912 Robert S. "Bob" Doak was hired to lead the athletic fortunes at the college. Under his tutelage the college made great strides in placing its athletics near the top of the athletic circles in the state. Under his direction Elon won two state basketball titles.

When Coach Doak left Elon to take a coaching assignment at Trinity College, C. C. Johnson was hired. Under his leadership football was once again permitted on the Elon campus. Games were played on a thirty-four acre tract of land called Comer field. The field was named by the students after a long-time custodian at Elon, "Uncle" Pink Comer. At the end of the 1920 baseball season Coach Johnson left the college to pursue graduate work at Yale. His tenure at the college, although modest, was vital to the athletic development at Elon College.

In replacing Coach Johnson the college selected Frank B. Corboy. Under his direction the college athletic fortunes really improved. This was especially true for football. In 1921 his team defeated, for the first time ever in that sport, Guilford College by a score of 20-0. With this great victory the Elon team acquired their nickname "Christians." Upon returning to the campus the jubilant student body burned down the old condemned city jail. The Elon College fight song was also written in 1921. Its composer was M. Z. Rhodes, an Elon student and band director. The song is sung to the music of "Our Director," an inspiring march by F. E. Bigelow.

Coach Corboy directed the Elon athletic teams for five years. Under his direction Elon was established as a viable force in intercollegiate athletics. His teams gained the reputation of never giving up. This coach was admired, loved, and respected by all who knew him.

In the fall of 1926 the football squad did not win a single game. The basketball team could do little better. In an effort to improve the situation, Elon secured the services of Charlie Carroll to assist with the baseball team. Under his direction the team compiled a record of fourteen wins against four losses, the best ever by an Elon nine.

CHAPTER V
THE PROGRESSIVE YEARS (1927-1942)

Football

The Walker Years

Before the college closed her doors for the 1926-1927 school year there were two decisions which had to be made. The first was the hiring of a new coach. Upon the recommendation of the Faculty Athletic Committee, the Board of Trustees elected D. C. Walker. At Elon he would have charge of all three sports: football, basketball, and baseball. He would also serve as a member of the faculty with a minimal teaching assignment (Board of Trustees Minutes, May 24, 1927, p. 22).

The announcement of the new coach appeared in the Maroon and Gold:

Coach Walker is familiarly known in North Carolina as Coach "Pea Head" Walker of the "Little Christians," formerly coach at Atlantic Christian College but now in professional baseball with the Wilson Bugs of the Virginia league as shortstop. He will report at Elon as chief mentor with [sic] the opening of football practice next fall (May 20, 1927, p. 1).

A second issue to be addressed in the spring of 1927 was the selection of a league in which the athletic teams at the college would participate. Many of the newspapers in the state in recent years had been writing about the "big five" when referring to Carolina, Wake Forest, Duke, North Carolina State, and Davidson. The smaller colleges in the state were referred to as the "little six." This group included Elon. The officials at the college did not particularly care for this distinction. The faculty at Elon as usual voiced an opinion: "It is the hope of the faculty athletic

committee that Elon may draw up on a par athletically with the so called 'big five' institutions" (Board of Trustees Minutes, May 24, 1927, p. 23). At a later meeting, however, the faculty reversed its position and the athletic fortunes of the college were aligned with the "little six" (Dr. A. L. Hook, July 7, 1981).

When the football season opened in the fall of 1927, Coach Walker welcomed 52 candidates for tryouts. There was an air of excitement on campus and students looked forward to practice each afternoon so they could evaluate the team as well as their new coach. "Comer Field is the center of interest during the afternoon workouts, about one-fourth of the student body reporting to the practice field as spectators" (Maroon and Gold, September 15, 1927, p. 3).

The new coach wasted little time in impressing the student body with his knowledge of the game and his ability to mold a team. Soon after his arrival the Maroon and Gold gave the following report:

And our Coach, how he grows on us! A silent, powerful man, a gentleman, a man who knows 'his stuff' and who has the confidence, the love of every man on his squad. We are with Coach Walker solid. Count on us, Coach (September 15, 1927, p. 1).

In his initial season at Elon, Coach "Pea Head" compiled a record of 3-4-1. The three wins were over Lenoir-Rhyne, Guilford and Lynchburg while the losses were to such powers as High Point, North Carolina State, Davidson, and Emory and Henry (Daily Times-News, November 28, 1927). The tie was against a strong Wake Forest team on their turf. It was surely the high mark of the season. The contest was a grueling one "from the start to finish, with Elon on its opponent's four yard line and first down when the final whistle blew" (Maroon and Gold, October 6, 1927, p. 1). When the

team closed its season with a win over Lenoir-Rhyne, everyone felt that the college had completed a "highly successful" season and that the Maroon and Gold warriors "had this season merited their nickname 'Fighting Christians'" (Daily Times-News, November 28, 1927).

When the 1928 edition of the Maroon and Gold eleven reported for pre-season drills, Coach Walker announced that all practices would be closed for the entire season. In preparing his players for their opener against a North Carolina State squad, Coach Walker made the following statement:

Remember [sic] team, those boys down at Raleigh put on their pants the same way you do, they play football the same way you do, show them Friday that you are made out of a little bit better stuff than they are (Maroon and Gold, September 27, 1928, p. 1).

The Christians lost that first game to North Carolina State in 1928, but that was only the beginning. Before the season was over they had lost six more games to such powers as Davidson, Catawba, University of Richmond, Guilford, High Point, and Emory and Henry (Board of Trustees Minutes, May 27, 1929, p. 18). Even with the six losses there was still joy in the Christian camp on two occasions. The first was the mid-November encounter with the undefeated Miami University team in Florida. Much to the delight of everyone in "The Old North State," Elon won the game 21-18 (Maroon and Gold, November 15, 1928, p. 1). Also, in the final game of the season against Lenoir-Rhyne on Thanksgiving Day, Elon gained a 26-6 victory in a pass-oriented spectacular. All who saw the team play that day felt that the Elon team ". . . played an excellent brand of ball" (Daily Times-News, November 30, 1928).

Elon opened the next season by losing a tough battle to a good Davidson team 20-6 on their field. When the team returned to the campus, they were

greeted by an enthusiastic student body who held a spontaneous bonfire to encourage the Elon eleven for the remainder of the season (Maroon and Gold, September 27, 1929, p. 1). The team responded to the wishes of their fellow students and when the season was over the Elon team claimed a record of five wins against three losses. Victories for the season were over Emory and Henry, Lenoir-Rhyne, High Point, Catawba, and Atlantic Christian. Besides the loss to Davidson, the Christians suffered defeats at the hands of Wake Forest and arch-rival Guilford. Elon closed the season in a blaze of glory with a victory over a powerful Lenoir-Rhyne's eleven in Hickory on Thanksgiving Day. The weather was bitterly cold but all who took the trip rejoiced in the victory.

Though not entertaining any claim to the 'little six championship' the Elon team does claim the best record in the 'little six conference' having played every member of the conference and won four of the games, scoring 99 points against little six conference members to 34 for the conference opponents. Elon was the only member of the little six conference to play all the other members (Maroon and Gold, December 5, 1929, pp. 1, 3).

As Elon looked forward to the 1930 football season it had a special purpose in mind and that was to gain a conference title. The seven smaller colleges in the state--Appalachian State Teachers College, Atlantic Christian, Catawba, Elon, Guilford, High Point, and Lenoir Rhyne--had joined together to form the North State Association (Board of Trustees Minutes, February 18, 1930, p. 16).

Coach Walker welcomed only thirty candidates for his opening practice as he prepared for the 1930 season (Daily Times-News, September 18, 1930). Preseason drills were rough on those thirty, however, as the team was pushed hard in an effort to gain a peak performance for the opener with the

Davidson Wildcats (Daily Times-News, September 15, 1930). Elon lost that first game with Davidson but rebounded with a win over Atlantic Christian. This was followed by another loss to Emory and Henry. A victory over Light Infantry, a non-collegiate team, then preceded another loss to the Catawba eleven by a 38-0 score under the floodlights. After the loss to the Indians the Elonites gained three more victories over Guilford, High Point, and the Naval Apprentice School (Maroon and Gold, November 13, 1930, p. 3).

In the final game, a Thanksgiving Day encounter with the Lenoir-Rhyne Bears, Elon gained a 20-7 victory (Maroon and Gold, November 29, 1930, p. 1). The team finished the season with a 6-3 record, the best ever at the school. Because of their fine record and hard work ". . . the crown of North State Championship was granted Elon" (Phi Psi Cli, 1931, p. 74). The crown was awarded to Elon because Catawba had used an ineligible player (Daily Times-News, September 12, 1931, p. 8).

As Coach Walker prepared for the next season the squad was again small as many of the players had left the team during the preseason workouts (Daily Times-News, September 17, 1931, p. 6). Elon lost the first game that year to a powerful Davidson team. Coach Walker was pleased with the team's efforts against the Wildcats; however, he felt his team had done more to stop themselves than the Davidson defense (Daily Times-News, September 23, 1931, p. 2). For the year the Christians only won three games while losing five. These three wins were over Lynchburg, High Point, and Guilford (Elon Record Book, p. A-43). In their home opener the Elon eleven beat the visitors from Lynchburg 26-0. The defeat caught the Lynchburg team off

guard ". . . as they expected little opposition from the Elon eleven" (Maroon and Gold, October 15, 1931, p. 1). To close out the season Elon won over an excellent Guilford eleven that hoped to win the North State title but the 19-6 defeat gave the championship to Appalachian (Daily Times-News, November 23, 1931, p. 5). At season end Pete Williams, the star runner for the team, was selected All-State. Coach Younger from Davidson said about "Smiling" Pete, "He is without a peer in the fullback role" (Daily Times-News, November 28, 1931, p. 5).

The 1932 football team suffered through another losing season. The only wins came over Langley Field and Newport News Apprentice. The team lost its opening game to Duke by a score of 45-0 and from that point on things did not get any better (Phi Psi Cli, 1933, p. 78). As a matter of fact, the whole North State League looked bad. Going into the second week of October the little six had not won a single ball game (Daily Times-News, October 7, 1932, p. 2). To add insult to injury, Elon lost the turkey-day encounter to arch-rival Guilford. It was clear to all ". . . that the Quakers outclassed the Elon team by their clever lateral and forward pass attack and swift running charges" (Maroon and Gold, December 2, 1932, p. 1).

When the 1932 football season ended with only two wins for the Fighting Christian eleven, Dr. L. E. Smith, the President of the College, took measures to improve the situation. In a conference with Coach Walker, he instructed the football mentor to recruit the necessary players to attain a winning team and he would allow them to attend Elon for only a "small token fee." With this offer of athletic scholarships, the football fortunes at the college improved vastly (Stokes, p. 21).

With recruited scholarship recipients the Elon eleven looked forward to a change. And that is just what they got. After suffering through three defeats in their first four games, the team rebounded with four wins and a tie to close out the season with a good 5-3-1 record (Phi Psi Cli, 1934, p. 72). After that third loss to Lynchburg, Elon students held a big pep meeting to ". . . build up the spirit of the players and supporters" (Daily Times-News, October 19, 1933, p. 6). The team responded by going on a winning rampage which ended with Elon being declared North State Champion. The Christians closed the season with a ". . . hard fought game with Guilford which ended in a 13-13 tie (Daily Times-News, November 29, 1933, p. 6).

The following year Elon again won the North State title by compiling a record of 6-2-1. After losing its first two games to Davidson and Emory and Henry, the team did not suffer another loss (Phi Psi Cli, 1935, pp. 72-76). The top battle of the year came against a much heralded Catawba eleven. The game ended in a scoreless tie but it was a great moral victory (Daily Times-News, October 16, 1934, p. 6). In its final game of the season, Elon won convincingly over the Guilford Quakers. To everyone's delight the same Saturday saw Lenoir-Rhyne and Catawba playing ". . . to a scoreless tie, thereby giving Elon undisputed possession of the North State Championship in Football" (Phi Psi Cli, 1935, p. 75).

When all the liquor and pop had been downed, signifying the end to another football season, it is with pardonable pride that we look back on the season and say, "Well done, 'Pea Head'" (Phi Psi Cli, 1935, p. 72).

In 1935 Elon again fielded an excellent football team. After two early season defeats at the hands of "big five" power Davidson and a good Westchester State College team by only a three-point margin, the Elon eleven

won six of their last seven games to end the season with an enviable record of 7-3. The powerful machine scored a total of 200 points while giving up only 29. North State competition was unable to penetrate Elon's end zone a single time (Phi Psi Cli, 1936). The team closed their season with a brilliant 65-0 win over Guilford in Greensboro and thus concluded ". . . a season that saw the third consecutive North State Conference Football Championship brought back to the local campus" (Maroon and Gold, December 7, 1935, p. 1). The All-State team numbered seven that year including such Elon stars as Rudy Walser, Webb Newsome, and James Abbitt (Elon Record Book, p. A-29).

When Coach Walker welcomed his team to campus for the 1936 season he was delighted with the returning prospects. This was especially true regarding his backfield. Such outstanding runners as Jack Stallings, Webb Newsome, and James Abbitt could be counted on to score enough points to make Elon a threat to win every game (Maroon and Gold, September 30, 1936, p. 3). With all this talent everyone expected Elon to start the season with a bang. But this was not to be. After four games Elon was without a win and without a score (Maroon and Gold, October 17, 1936, p. 3). In the following game against a good LaSalle eleven, the Elon team found itself. Although the Christians did not win, they did score two touchdowns in the closing minutes and ". . . from then on Elon was never beaten" (Maroon and Gold, May 14, 1937, p. 3). In their first conference game against Lenoir-Rhyne, Elon gained a rewarding 38-0 homecoming victory as ". . . the Elon co-eds helped make the homecoming colorful by wearing yellow chrysanthemums" (Maroon and Gold, November 10, 1936, p. 3). Elon closed the

season with a 33-13 victory over the Catawba Indians, thus claiming yet another North State crown.

The reign of the Christians in the North State Conference gridiron world since 1932 has been one of the most dominating periods in the conference history (Daily Times-News, December 8, 1936, p. 2).

Horace Hendrickson - New Elon Mentor

When school opened in the fall of 1937 there was a new coach on campus. He was Horace "Horse" Hendrickson, a twenty-seven-year-old Duke graduate, a three-sport man at his Alma Mater who had won All-Southern and All-Dixie honors in football. Coach Wade, the great Duke football mentor, stated that "Hendrickson was one of the greatest athletes he ever coached, a man who has a natural inclination for work, and one who will undoubtedly go far as a coach" (Maroon and Gold, September 18, 1937, p. 3).

Forty-three men answered the new coach's call for football practice that year in what may be viewed as the strongest eleven ever fielded on the Elon campus. After reviewing a scrimmage session against Duke, Coach Hendrickson remarked, "In view of the fact of a new regime, the spirit is wonderful and the boys are taking to the new system as well as can be expected" (Maroon and Gold, September 18, 1937, p. 3).

In the opener against a powerful Virginia Military Institute squad, Elon came out the victor in a 12-6 game that the sports writers termed a "major upset" (Maroon and Gold, October 7, 1937, p. 3). After the opening win the team kept on rolling, winning five of its six games. Everyone was hoping for a North State title for their first-year coach, but there was another college in Salisbury which also had an eye on that crown. The stage was set:

Catawba's undefeated Indians and Elon's cannonading Christians, victorious in five of their last six contests this season, will take the spotlight this weekend when the rival football forces tangle in Salisbury in a North State conference contest that will be lettered as one of the outstanding small college games in the South (Daily Times-News, November 2, 1937, p. 7).

Elon won that game against the "Tribe" 22-2, and thus claimed second place in the North State conference for their first-year coach. In the victory the entire team played well but particular praise was given to the offensive line and the backfield duo of James Abbitt and Joe Golombek. The team finished the season with a 7-1 record losing only to Appalachian in an upset (Phi Psi Cli, 1938, pp. 74, 77). Elon lost to the Mountaineers with a 31-0 score on a snow-covered field that featured the running of the Appalachian backs (Crutchfield, July 8, 1981). In its final game of the season the Christians routed Guilford 39-0 as Coach Hendrickson let his reserves play ". . . quite a bit of the game and a courtesy was given manager Bill Maness when he was put in the last few minutes" (Phi Psi Cli, 1938, p. 78).

As Elon prepared for the opening game in 1938 against Virginia Military Institute, the largest squad in the history of the school was working hard in preparation to win the conference crown. Led by Captain Archie Israel, the squad was a mixture of new recruits and old veterans (Maroon and Gold, September 17, 1938, p. 1). Elon lost two of the first three games that season to eastern powers Virginia Military Institute and LaSalle (Phi Psi Cli, 1939, p. 77). The win was over conference foe, High Point, in a 40-0 rout. The Christians were led in that game by the strong running of Joe Golombek (Maroon and Gold, October 1, 1938, p. 3). As the season continued

Elon suffered two more losses to Appalachian in Memorial Stadium in Greensboro and to Catawba by a 20-6 margin. The loss to the Indians was a "crushing disappointment" as it was the first defeat to that team in ten years (Phi Psi Cli, 1939, p. 77). In its final game of the season against Guilford in the annual turkey-day classic, Elon gained a 19-0 win before 3000 fans in Burlington at Hillcrest Field. As this was the first time that the Christians had played in this new stadium, the victory was even more enjoyable. The win over the Quakers coupled with Catawba's loss to Lenoir-Rhyne left the Indians and Christians in a tie for the North State title. This prompted Dr. L. E. Smith to advance the following challenge ". . . We'll meet them at any time and any place, but we're not satisfied to leave it at a tie" (Daily Times-News, November 25, 1938, pp. 6-7). Catawba rejected the offer claiming it would be "detrimental to the academic work of the Catawba team" (Daily Times-News, November 30, 1938, pp. 6-7). The team finished the season with a 6-3 record and fullback Joe Golombek became Elon's first All-American (Elon Record Book, pp. A-44, A-32).

The following season was a disaster by Elon College standards. The team ended the season with five wins against the same number of losses. In its first five games the Christians fell prey to four opponents, including Wake Forest, LaSalle, Catholic University, and Lenoir-Rhyne (Phi Psi Cli, 1940, p. 112). Even a campus-wide pep rally led by Dr. L. E. Smith, the "soul of the College spirit," could not bring forth a victory (Maroon and Gold, October 14, 1939, p. 3). A measure of respect was salvaged near season's end as the Christians won their last three outings over Catawba, Western Carolina, and Guilford (Phi Psi Cli, 1940, p. 115). The Catawba victory was sweet revenge as the ". . . Christians defeated the Indians by

a final score of 7-0" (Maroon and Gold, November 11, 1939, p. 1). At the annual banquet held in December, the football players in an effort to regain their winning ways resolved ". . . that a new, unbroken loyalty must and will be forged" (Daily Times-News, December 1, 1939, p. 2).

When the 1940 football schedule was announced, such powers as LaSalle, Catholic University and Wake Forest were not included. These three teams which had overwhelmed the team the previous year were replaced with Newberry, King College, and Miami University, in a schedule that contained only nine games (Maroon and Gold, September 21, 1940, p. 3). In its opening contest the Christians got off to an excellent start by taking a win over Western Carolina (Daily Times-News, September 23, 1940, p. 6). As the season rolled on the Elon "cannonade" continued winning with victories over Appalachian, Lenoir-Rhyne, and High Point to take the lead in the conference standings. A non-conference encounter with the University of Miami Hurricanes in the Orange Bowl Stadium resulted in a 31-7 defeat. From the Elon standpoint, the highlight of the game was the punting of Jack Boone which kept the Hurricanes backed up for much of the day (Phi Psi Cli, pp. 104-105). The season and conference title came down to just one game and that was against the Catawba Indians. Elon lost the much publicized game that year by a 13-0 score, thus dropping to second place in the conference standing behind the Tribe (Maroon and Gold, November 6, 1940, p. 3). The season ended with the traditional turkey-day game against Guilford with Elon gaining the victory to finish the season with a 5-2-1 slate.

Save for the first five minutes it was a typical Elon-Guilford clash. Elon players saw action, and generally speaking, the Elon team called their shots, and walked away with a 28-0 victory (Phi Psi Cli, 1941, p. 105).

When asked about the prospects of the 1941 football eleven, Coach "Horse" Hendrickson was neither optimistic or pessimistic as he welcomed only five starters back from the previous year's team (Maroon and Gold, October 4, 1941, p. 3). All pre-season predictions had placed the Christians to finish third in the North State Conference behind defending champion Catawba and a veteran-filled Appalachian team. Elon was looked on at best as the "dark horse." Coach Hendrickson and his assistant coach, Joe Brunansky, said nothing but continued to keep their ". . . boys hard at work" (Maroon and Gold, February 7, 1942, p. 3). The Christians opened the season with a resounding victory over a "stubborn" Western Carolina team 28-7 amidst thunder showers. After a 39-0 defeat at the hands of the Miami Hurricanes in the Orange Bowl Stadium, the team won the last seven games to end the season with an excellent 8-1 record (Phi Psi Cli, 1942, pp. 91-93). The game against the Catawba Indians was by far the biggest game of the year with Elon finishing on top 8-7 by virtue of a safety. The game was highlighted by the running of Jack Boone and the blocking of Curry Bryan.

Wing-footed Jack Boone, the running ghost of the Christians, put his team back in the game early in the third quarter with an 82-yard punt return that goes down in the conference books as the run of the year.

. . . .

It was the great play of the Elon forward wall led by Curry Bryan which played a vital part of the triumph over Catawba (Daily Times-News, November 10, 1941, pp. 6-7).

After gaining a 26-6 decision over Appalachian in the final game of the season, the Christians were once again on top in the North State Conference (Daily Times-News, November 28, 1941, p. 6).

Basketball

A Basketball Tradition Emerges

In assuming the basketball duties at Elon, Coach Walker wasted little time in establishing his priorities. The first week of practice was ". . . confined to the fundamentals of passing and goal shooting" (Maroon and Gold, December 8, 1927, p. 1). In all the practice sessions he pushed his players to the limit and indications were that the team would ". . . have a formidable quint to send against their opponents this season" (Maroon and Gold, December 15, 1927, p. 1). Elon opened the season with four games against non-collegiate Y.M.C.A. teams. Elon won three of these contests (Phi Psi Cli, 1928, p. 117). In its first competition with collegiate foes, the Elon team entertained arch-rival Guilford winning by only one point in a hard fought contest. Catawba was next and again Elon was victorious. After the Catawba win, the Elon players took a northern tour into Virginia and Ohio to play seven games. On the trip Elon won over Hampden-Sydney, Roanoke, and Ohio State Normal, but down the stretch, the team could only claim wins in two of its last ten games (Maroon and Gold, March 1, 1928, p. 1). Against William and Mary, late in the season, a near riot occurred on the Elon court. Coach Taskers of William and Mary made an apology to the house and the game then progressed without further incident. The visitors were down by six at the half but came back to take a 36-28 win over the Maroon and Gold (Daily Times-News, February 11, 1928). The team finished the season with a disappointing 9-12 slate (Elon Record Book, p. B-18).

When the Elon cagers opened their second season under the direction of Coach Walker, it was felt that this year's team would ". . . make a

mark for itself during the coming season" (Maroon and Gold, December 6, 1928, p. 3). After dropping the first two contests to Erskine and arch-rival Guilford, the Elon quint took a win over the Lenoir-Rhyne Bears by a 21-16 score (Maroon and Gold, January 17, 1929, p. 3). At mid-season Elon played her sister institution from Ohio, Defiance College, in two games. Elon won the first encounter 26-19, while Defiance gained the advantage in the second by a 32-14 margin (Board of Trustees Minutes, May 27, 1929, p. 18). The rest of the season was not better or no worse. The team finished the season with a respectable 9-11 record winning three of its last five games (Elon Record Book, p. B-19).

When the basketball team started practice for the 1929-1930 season, the players were determined to improve on their records of the two previous seasons. The team was composed entirely of North Carolina grown talent and this gave an added incentive for the team to do well. After an opening 36-18 win over the High Point Y, the Elon team met Guilford. The final outcome was 41-19, Elon's victory. In fact, the Quakers were unable to score a goal in the second half (Maroon and Gold, January 16, 1930, pp. 1, 3). At mid-season, Elon took another northern tour into Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, D.C. Out of seven games played, Elon won five. Victories were counted over Emory and Henry, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Bridgewater, Randolph-Macon, and the Richmond Blues. The most exciting win on the tour was the victory over Emory and Henry. A "foul goal" by "Lefty" Briggs in the closing minutes gave Elon the winning margin in a 31-30 win (Maroon and Gold, February 13, 1930, pp. 3, 4). The team played outstanding ball throughout most of the season and at one point had established an 11-3 record. But after returning from the northern tour,

things did not go as well for the Christians. For the remainder of the season they could only claim two wins in seven games. They did, however, finish the season with a record of 12-8 (Phi Psi Cli, 1930, p. 98).

When Coach Walker called for basketball practice the following season he could only count two lettermen in the fold. From the outset he had a difficult time finding a right combination (Daily Times-News, December 4, 1930). Under the coach's direction, however, the team started strong and at the halfway mark had compiled a 7-3 slate with wins over three Y.M.C.A. teams, Atlantic Christian, Guilford, Bridgewater, and George Washington. But just as it had done the year before, the team folded down the stretch winning only two of its remaining ten games. The team after a grand start could only manage a 9-11 record (Phi Psi Cli, 1931, p. 82). In the final game the team again went down in defeat, this time to arch-rival Guilford.

The Elon College basketball team went over to Guilford last Friday evening with the intentions of winning over the Quakers, but to the whole student body's regret we were defeated by a score of 22-19. This game was the third of the series played between the two institutions, giving Guilford two victories to our one (Maroon and Gold, March 6, 1931, p. 1).

The 1931-1932 Maroon and Gold cagers were shorter than in years past, but under the direction of Coach Walker, they were said to be ". . . handling the ball well and rapidly, developing an eye for the basket" (Daily Times-News, December 11, 1931, p. 5). As Elon prepared to open its home schedule with Guilford College, all reports were that the Quakers had some fast, seasoned players (Daily Times-News, January 12, 1932, p. 6). Elon won the game in the closest contest possible taking a 23 to 22 victory over their old rival. After the Guilford win the team went on a winning spree which ended at season's end. The team did not lose as many games down the

stretch as it had the two previous years. In gaining the 15-6 record on the year, the team was victorious in seven of its last eight contests (Elon Record Book, p. B-19). In the final home game Elon won over Lenoir-Rhyne College by an impressive score of 39-19 and claimed its first North State Basketball Championship. In gaining the title, the Fighting Christians went through the entire small college competition with only one defeat (Daily Times-News, February 26, 1932, p. 5).

After winning the championship the previous year, everyone on campus was excited about the prospects of the new season. The Maroon and Gold reported the following:

The mercury of the burning college spirit characteristic of Elon's student body will begin its rise next week, when Coach D. C. Walker begins ironing out the wrinkles in his 1932-33 basketball team (December 2, 1932, p. 3).

Things never got on track for the Christians that season but the team did show improvement. After a slow start it looked like the cagers would finish the season ". . . offering a belated bid as a team of championship caliber" (Daily Times-News, February 24, 1933, p. 8). The championship bid did not materialize, however, as the team lost two of its last three games to conference foes Lenoir-Rhyne and High Point finishing the season with a respectable 9-9 slate (Phi Psi Cli, 1933, p. 82). The team did prove its fighting spirit by taking two wins over Guilford for the year, the first by a 45-40 score (Daily Times-News, February 27, 1933, p. 2). In the second encounter the Elon team really triumphed in a 41-27 victory over its rival (Daily Times-News, March 6, 1933, p. 3).

Elon opened the 1933-1934 basketball season with three straight wins. In that third win over the Guilford quintet, Elon captured its first

conference game by a 30-23 margin in a hard fought contest (Daily Times-News, January 12, 1934, p. 2). Elon played great basketball all season and finished the year with an outstanding 13-9 record. Victories were gained over such teams as High Point, Lenoir-Rhyne, Western Carolina, Catawba, University of Delaware, Davidson, and Atlantic Christian (Phi Psi Cli, 1934, p. 76). In its final game of the season the Maroon and Gold five took a 36-18 win over a strong High Point team (Daily Times-News, February 24, 1934, p. 2). The High Point victory brought a tie for the conference title with Guilford (Phi Psi Cli, 1934, p. 76). Although the Elon squad had to settle for the tie, they did take satisfaction in knowing that they had beaten the Quakers in both contests played that year. In the second encounter the Elon squad fell behind by as many as eight points before jumping into a six-point lead in the last few minutes to claim a 48-42 victory (Daily Times-News, February 15, 1934, p. 6).

Before the curtain closed on the 1934 school year, people around the Elon campus were already predicting a successful season for the basketball team in 1935. The Phi Psi Cli exclaimed, ". . . With most of the team back next year, Elon should go up to the top and bag another title" (1934, p. 76). How right they all were. The basketball team in 1935 was one of the greatest in the school's history. The team lost only one conference game while their non-conference losses were to such powers as Carolina, George Washington, Davidson, and Saint Johns. In its final regular season game against East Carolina State Teachers College, the Elon cagers gained a 70-34 win. At season's end the Christian basketball team was again crowned North State champion (Daily Times-News, February 27, 1935, p. 2). To add icing to the cake, the cagers were victorious in the

Tri-State Tournament held in Charlotte, North Carolina, taking wins over Erskine, Lynchburg, High Point, and Guilford (Phi Psi Cli, 1935, pp. 78-79). The team finished the season with a spectacular 18-6 slate (Elon Record Book, p. B-20).

As early as November the players on the Elon basketball team were already shooting hoops in preparation for the 1936 season. All indications projected another championship for the Elon roundballers (Maroon and Gold, November 23, 1935, p. 6). The team opened its season against Duke with an expected 58-42 defeat. Following this initial loss, the team took its usual northern tour, winning two and losing the same. Upon returning the team opened its quest for another North State title by soundly beating Western Carolina Teachers College 35-18 (Phi Psi Cli, 1936). Down the stretch run, Elon claimed conference wins over Guilford, Catawba, and Atlantic Christian College. This set up another contest with the High Point Panthers to decide the North State title. Elon had lost the previous game to the Panthers by a wide margin. The High Point and Elon squads had 6-1 and 5-1 records, respectively, going into the big game (Maroon and Gold, February 8, 1936, p. 3). Thus the stage was set. After the biggest game of the year, The Daily Times-News gave the following report:

Elon's long reign of terror in the North State Conference has apparently been checked by the High Point Panthers, who won their second game from the Christians Saturday night 52-43 as 1000 on-lookers marveled at the precision and the power displayed by the Panthers in their ninth consecutive conference victory, which practically assured them of the '36 title (February 11, 1936, p. 7).

Although Elon did not win the title for a fourth consecutive time, the season ended with an excellent 15-8 record.

As the 1937 season approached, all eyes were on the High Point Panthers to see if they could retain their hold on the North State Championship which they had taken from the Elon Fighting Christians the year before. All reports indicated another strong team for the High Pointers, but Atlantic Christian as well as the Elon team were ready to offer a challenge (Daily Times-News, December 8, 1936, p. 2). The team played excellent basketball all year and at season's end they had claimed sixteen wins against only eight defeats. In conference play, they had won eleven games and lost only two (Maroon and Gold, March 8, 1937, p. 1). In the final weeks of the season Elon defeated both Guilford and High Point. The High Point win avenged an earlier loss to that team. The victory was exceptionally pleasing in that Elon won the contest after two extra periods (Daily Times-News, February 18, 1937, p. 15). Elon closed out the season with a conference win over Appalachian ". . . and declared themselves the victors in the race for the North State basketball conference laurels" (Daily Times-News, February 24, 1937, p. 2).

Basketball Team Keeps Winning Championships

In his first season as basketball coach in 1938, Horace Hendrickson welcomed four starters from the championship team of the previous year. In announcing the schedule, the new Elon mentor stated "a few pre-holiday games would be played with independent teams, but that the regular schedule would open January 5 with an extended northern tour" (Maroon and Gold, December 11, 1937, p. 3). Elon opened the season with three wins over the independent competition before heading north into Virginia. With confidence running at a fever pitch, the Elon quintet toured the Old

Dominion state winning five games and losing only one (Phi Psi Cli, 1938, p. 81). After a second win over High Point the team was sporting a record of 15-1 while scoring 637 points to their opponents 425 (Daily Times-News, February 10, 1938, p. 12). When the final tally was taken, the "towering Christians" were boasting a record of nineteen wins against only two losses. Eleven of those wins were against conference competition, giving the Elon team the championship for a second straight year. The starting five's average height was 6'3" and included such star performers as Ike Fesmire and Lloyd Whitley (Maroon and Gold, March 5, 1938, p. 3).

With two straight North State titles under its belt, the Elon basketball team opened the following season in an impressive manner winning five of its first six outings (Phi Psi Cli, 1939, p. 82). Two of those wins were over McCrary of Asheboro by scores of 50-40 and 42-34. The one loss was to Morris Harvey when Elon's top scorer, Lloyd Whitley, fouled out with nine minutes to play (Maroon and Gold, January 14, 1939, p. 3). In late January when the Christians opened their conference schedule there were four teams with a shot at the championship. Besides Elon, High Point, Catawba, and Appalachian all had excellent chances of grabbing the North State honors (Daily Times-News, January 21, 1939, p. 6). Disaster struck the team as it entered into the thick of the conference schedule when Lloyd Whitley, who many felt was the best player in the league, was laid low by "fate's fickle finger" for the rest of the season due to an injury (Maroon and Gold, March 4, 1939, p. 4). Without its star the team continued to play well but could not measure up to the High Point team. The team finished the season with an outstanding 19-6 record but two losses

to the High Point Panthers allowed that team to capture the title (Phi Psi Cli, 1939, p. 80).

Elon opened the 1939-1940 basketball season with eight straight wins. With such a start, many followers were thinking of recapturing the North State title, but for now the squad had exams to worry about and the players were ". . . battling with their studies rather than the opposition found on the hardwood" (Daily Times-News, January 17, 1940, p. 2). Following the examination period the team continued its winning streak to fourteen games before losing to Appalachian in Boone. After a win over Catawba the Christians avenged the Mountaineers by a 24-22 decision on the Elon court. Appalachian won the title, however, as Elon lost its last two games of the season, the finale a heart-breaker to Western Carolina by just two points. Although the Elonites did not recapture the North State crown, the team finished with an excellent 19-3 record, out scoring its opponents by an amazing total of 1,056 to 624 (Phi Psi Cli, 1940, pp. 116-118). One of the main reasons for the excellent record of the 1940 basketball team was the outstanding play of senior captain Lloyd Whitley who many felt was the greatest basketball player ever to wear the maroon and gold uniform. Coach Hendrickson said of his star captain, "Whitley is the best leader I have ever seen" (Maroon and Gold, March 9, 1940, p. 3).

After the great 19-3 basketball record of the previous season, hopes were once again running high on the campus as Coach Hendrickson had seven lettermen returning. The record of the past three seasons had combined to give the fourth year Elon basketball coach an enviable 59-11 slate.

The pressure was on for the 1941 team to uphold the Elon basketball tradition (Daily Times-News, December 3, 1941, p. 7). During pre-season drills "The Horse" worked hard to prepare his quintet both "physically and mentally" for the season ahead. In two practice games the team took wins over "semi-pro" teams from Greensboro . This was an excellent warm-up for the schedule ahead which included fourteen conference games in the always tough North State league (Maroon and Gold, December 14, 1940, p. 3). Coach Hendrickson called his players back to campus before the winter quarter actually started that year for additional work. And after an overtime loss to a talented High Point "Y" team, the Christians set out on a six-game winning streak which included wins over the "Whiskered Wizards," a traveling basketball circus team; two over Western Carolina; and an impressive 77-34 victory over Lenoir-Rhyne in Hickory (Maroon and Gold, January 25, 1941, p. 3). After a mid-season loss to Appalachian, Elon went on another winning rampage and finished the regular season on top of the North State Conference. The team averaged an amazing 53.5 points a game while holding its opponents to just 35.4 (Phi Psi Cli, 1941, pp. 106-107). Even though the team was eliminated in the second round of the tournament by a strong Appalachian team, the people around Elon were thrilled with the 20-4 record which included the regular season championship (Daily Times-News, February 22, 1941, p. 6).

Elon opened the following season with an impressive victory over a ". . . star-studded High Point YMCA quint 45-39" (Daily Times-News, December 4, 1941, p. 21). Then, after dropping a close 49-46 contest to Georgetown, the team went on an eight-game winning streak which included a 48-45 victory over conference power Appalachian (Phi Psi Cli, 1942, p. 90).

It was at this point that the war took its toll on the Elon squad when Jack Gardner, the team's captain and scoring leader, and Preston "Spec" Towns, the team's pivot man, were called to the service of their country (Daily Times-News, January 24, 1942, p. 6). The team played valiantly for the rest of the season but never fully recovered from the loss of the two starters, losing four of its remaining games to Catawba, Lenoir-Rhyne, Atlantic Christian and High Point. A victory over Guilford in the final game gave the Elonites an exceptional 17-5 regular season record (Phi Psi Cli, 1942, pp. 90-91). In the tournament that year Elon again lost in the second round to end a war-plagued season (Daily Times-News, February 28, 1942, p. 6).

New Intercollegiate Sports Added

In the thirties the college administration opened the way for two new intercollegiate sports: wrestling and boxing. In March 1931 there was an exhibition in the college gym to determine the sentiments of the college community toward this form of athletics (Maroon and Gold, March 6, 1931, p. 1). During the next few years the boxing and wrestling hopefuls worked hard to secure their sports as part of the college's intercollegiate athletic program. Although there were no intercollegiate meets there were some local bouts. "Gashouse" Newsome was recognized as the best boxer while "Butch" Milligan took the honor in wrestling (Phi Psi Cli, 1933, p. 89).

In January 1936, President L. E. Smith announced that Mr. Ellis Fysal would assume the duties of fielding the first intercollegiate boxing and wrestling teams at the college. At the initial practice some 35 men

reported (Maroon and Gold, January 17, 1936, p. 1). In that first year of intercollegiate competition, the boxing team participated in three meets, losing all three. The wrestling squad could do no better as they dropped their only match (Phi Psi Cli, 1936).

In 1937, in its first full season of competition, the wrestling team, after a slow start, ended the season by taking second place in the North and South Carolina Amateur Athletic Union championship meet. Carl Foushee was the Elon star as he captured the gold medal in the 145-pound class. Teammate Ez Thompson took the silver medal in the 165-pound class (Maroon and Gold, March 9, 1937, p. 3).

When the call for practice was made the following year very few candidates showed up. The scheduling of matches was held up pending the outcome of early training. An appeal by the Maroon and Gold for additional wrestlers apparently did not help. There are no records of any match played in 1938 at all (Maroon and Gold, 1938, p. 3).

After the 1936 entry into intercollegiate boxing, the college did not field another team but the school was represented in the ring on various occasions by students who wore the Elon colors. In 1938 and 1939 Joe Golombek won the heavyweight Amateur Athletic Union Golden Gloves Championship in Charlotte, North Carolina. From there he advanced to the National Golden Glove meet in New York where he advanced to the finals both years before being defeated (Athletic Publications, November 2, 1974, p. 37).

In 1940 two more Elon boxers, Richard Casey in the 135-pound division, and Jim Ferris in the 160-pound class won titles (Maroon and Gold, May 22,

1940, p. 4). The following year Elon had four representatives in the Golden Gloves match in Greensboro. Only one, however, was successful. Frankie Hayes, a light-heavyweight, brought yet another gold medal to the Elon campus (Maroon and Gold, April 5, 1941, p. 3).

Baseball

Championships Galore in Baseball

With the conclusion of the 1927-1928 football and basketball seasons, Coach D. C. "Pea Head" Walker turned his attention to his first love, baseball (Daily Times-News, February 27, 1935, p. 2). In his first call for an Elon baseball practice, the new Elon mentor welcomed forty candidates. The early practices centered around fundamentals and "bombering" up drills (Maroon and Gold, February 23, 1928, p. 1). As practice continued two "hurlers-deluxe" were observed in the pitching ranks in Captain A. F. Fowler, Jr., and C. V. "Lefty" Briggs. All and all the year gave ". . . promise of being one of the most successful seasons for baseball in the history of the institution" (Maroon and Gold, March 8, 1928, p. 1).

Elon opened the 1928 baseball season with a three-game sweep on their southern trip. Lefty Briggs, Elon's "big slab-sided clod-hopper," who "delivers his wares from the portside," defeated the Davidson nine allowing just six hits. Wofford and Catawba fell by scores of 13-10 and 10-6 respectively (Maroon and Gold, April 12, 1928, p. 1). On its northern tour, Elon continued to capture wins. Roanoke, Virginia Military Institute, and the University of Richmond all fell before the power of the Elon bats. (Elon Record Book, p. D-42). Elon closed out the season with back-to-back wins over Guilford. In the first encounter the Guilford pitcher

struck out fourteen Elon batters but the Christians, behind the air-tight pitching of Lefty Briggs, won the game with a 9-0 shutout. Two days later the Christians won again as the Elon batters pounded the Quakers 18-1 (Guilfordian, May 23, 1928, p. 3).

With the two wins over Guilford, Elon finished the season with an outstanding 16-2 record. The only losses were to Wake Forest in a 1-0 game and a 27-5 defeat by "Bunn" Hearn's Camel City Twins (Elon Record Book, p. D-42; Maroon and Gold, April 5, 1928, p. 3). For their hard work and outstanding record, the Maroon and Gold were recognized as North State Champions (Elon Record Book, p. D-36).

As practice opened for the 1929 year, poor weather forced Coach Walker to move his team inside, but prospects looked bright as many lettermen returned (Maroon and Gold, March 7, 1929, p. 3). The schedule was attractive and included teams from South Carolina, Virginia, Massachusetts, and North Carolina. Trips were planned into Virginia and South Carolina (Maroon and Gold, March 21, 1929, p. 3). Elon opened the season by losing to a strong Springfield nine by a 7-3 margin. A game with Catawba was called off because of a wet field in the Salisbury area. Against High Point the Elonites gained their first win as they pounded out twenty-three hits. On their northern trip the Christians could only manage one win in three outings and that was over Emory and Henry by a 11-6 advantage (Maroon and Gold, April 11, 1919, p. 3). After a home win over Wake Forest it appeared that the team was ". . . batting in the style of former years" (Daily Times-News, April 13, 1929). At mid-season the team was sporting a respectable 6-3 record. It was everyone's hope that they could continue

their dominance over the smaller schools, not having lost a game to those schools in two years (Daily Times-News, April 27, 1929).

Elon finished out the season winning only half of the games played. Two losses to Lenoir-Rhyne and another to Catawba shattered Elon's supremacy over the small colleges in North Carolina. The season ended on a winning note, however, as the Christians won three of their last four games, finishing the season with a 11-7 record (Elon Record Book, p. D-42). The wins over Guilford were especially rewarding. In its first outing against the Quakers, the Elonites came away with a 8-2 victory as the Christian batters hit everything the Red and Gray pitchers had to offer (Guilfordian, May 15, 1929, p. 3). In the second encounter the Maroon and Gold took the Guilfordians by a margin of 10-4 (Elon Record Book, p. D-42).

The following year Coach Walker could only count on one experienced pitcher and that was his ace left hander, Lefty Briggs. Returnees were few but there were many newcomers and the competition was fierce for all positions as everyone worked hard for their opener against Springfield (Daily Times-News, March 14, 1930). The visitors from Massachusetts won that opening game by one run. Elon then lost to big five opponent, Davidson, before going on a seven-game winning streak which included wins over High Point, Wake Forest, and Guilford (Phi Psi Cli, 1931, p. 86). The win over Guilford was the sweetest as it put the Christians in front in the race for the little six title. Briggs never looked better as he struck out nine while allowing only two runs as Elon tallied six (Maroon and Gold, April 10, 1930, p. 1). The team played well most of the year and finished with a respectable 10-7 record, good enough to be awarded the

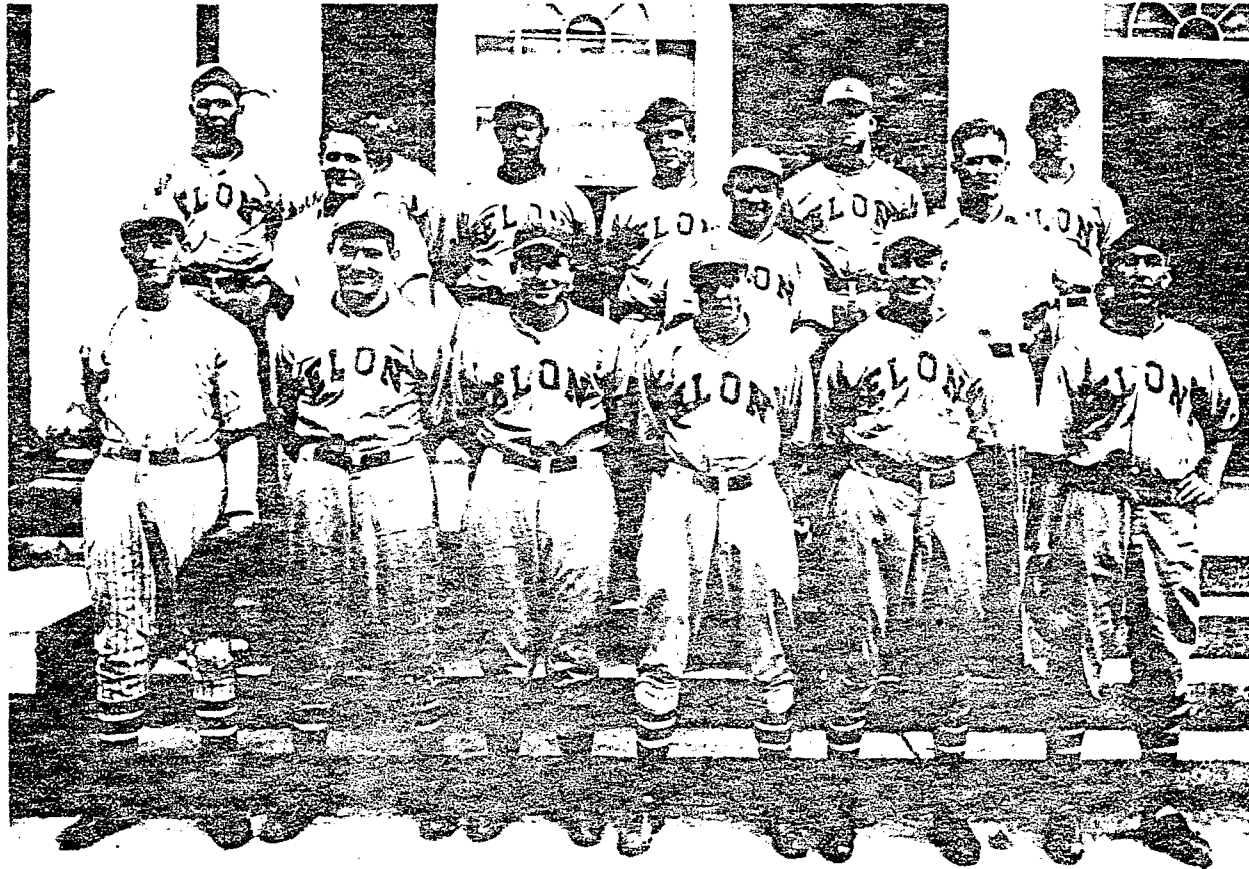
Championship Cup for their play in the Little Six League (Phi Psi Cli, 1931, p. 86).

In 1931 cold weather curtailed many early practice sessions, but when the warm winds of March finally came the team really started shaping up. Coach Walker indicated that the team would be ". . . fairly strong at the stick, but weak in the defense because of the absence of the seasoned battery material" (Maroon and Gold, March 13, 1931, p. 1). Gone from the team was the ace left hander, Briggs, who had been the mainstay of the pitching staff the previous four years. Without his service the team started slowly winning only three of its first eight games. It was obvious in these contests that Elon players had the hitting but lacked the pitching power as they tallied a total of fifty-five runs while giving up seventy-six (Elon Record Book, p. D-43). It was on the team's trip into Virginia that the Elonites finally put it all together. They won all four of their games on the tour, taking two wins from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and one each from Washington and Lee, and Emory and Henry (Maroon and Gold, April 16, 1931, p. 1). The team finished the season with five straight wins to end the season with a record of 8-5 (Board of Trustees Minutes, March 17, 1931, p. 15).

Again in 1932 cold weather hindered the preseason baseball drills at the college and except for some outside hitting practice, the team was confined to the gymnasium for the duration of the preseason. Therefore, as the team prepared for its first game with the Jersey City Internationals, it was impossible for Coach Walker to establish a true picture of the squad. The team started extremely slowly that year but finished the season winning

six of its last eight games (Phi Psi Cli, 1933, p. 86). Three of those wins were over Guilford College as the Quakers and Christians battled on five different occasions that spring. Guilford won the first game 12-10 with a come-from-behind victory as the Quaker pitchers struck out thirteen batters while their batters garnered eighteen hits (Guilfordian, April 20, 1932, p. 3). Elon took the next two games 8-4 and 14-0 to give the local fans something to cheer about. In the 14-0 win, the Christians garnered a total of seventeen hits and allowed only five. In the last of the four-game series, the Quakers stole the thunder again, by a 14-7 score (Guilfordian, May 11, 1932, pp. 3-4). The two teams were all even with two victories apiece as the two clubs met again for the record fifth time. Elon took the win 13-1 to close a very successful year (Elon Record Book, pp. iv, D-43). The team finished the season with an outstanding 11-6 record and claimed for Elon its first North State title in baseball. Their conference record was 9-2 with the two losses being to Guilford (Phi Psi Cli, 1933, p. 86).

Twenty-five baseball hopefuls showed up for practice the following season as Elon prepared to defend its conference title. Everything looked good, especially the infield, as the team embarked on a schedule which included Carolina, Michigan State, North Carolina State as well as the always tough North State teams (Daily Times-News, March 15, 1933, p. 5). At season's end the team had recorded another great season on its way to winning the North State title for a second straight year. In conference play the team lost only once as it recorded seven victories (Daily Times-News, May 16, 1936, p. 6). The record for the year was an impressive



North State Championship Baseball Team, 1933

eleven wins against only six losses. Included among these victories was a "surprise" win over the University of North Carolina (Phi Psi Cli, 1934, p. 66). That game was a classic. Coach "Bunn" Hearn, the Tarheel coach, had attended both Carolina and Elon where he had accomplished quite a record for himself in baseball. He had also coached the Elon team before moving on to Carolina (Daily Times-News, March 30, 1933, p. 6). In the game Elon could only manage three hits but a double steal in the second inning sent in a run and Elon came away with a 1-0 victory (Daily Times-News, April 3, 1933, p. 2).

As Coach Walker prepared for the 1934 baseball season he could look back at the basketball and football campaigns with great pride. In both these intercollegiate sports, Elon was declared the North State Champions. To follow suit in baseball would just add icing to the cake (Board of Trustees Minutes, May 30, 1934, p. 5). The preseason drills opened with inclement weather as usual. Practice sessions were confined to the gymnasium with the pitchers getting most of the attention. The team was only able to work outside three times before mid-March (Daily Times-News, March 13, 1934, p. 2). Elon opened the season with an unaccustomed victory in its first game against a Springfield nine and that was only the beginning of things to come. After dropping the first of a two-game series to Michigan State, the Elon boys turned the table on the visitors. Behind some very good pitching, Elon won the second game 5-4 (Daily Times-News, March 31, 1934, p. 2). Later in the year the team had a great come-from-behind win against Hampden-Sydney as the Elonites rallied for eight runs in the sixth and seventh innings to capture an 11-6 victory (Daily Times-News, April 28, 1934, p. 2). When the season was completed, Coach Walker

had his "hat trick" as the baseball team won the North State crown for the third straight year. The team finished the season with an excellent 15-6 record with a 9-3 slate in the conference (Daily Times-News, May 22, 1934, p. 7).

When practice opened the following season, there was only one starter missing from the previous year. Coach Walker, however, was saying very little about Elon's chances of winning another North State diamond championship, but everyone around Elon thought that the chances were better than last year ". . . when he groomed a conference winning nine" (Daily Times-News, March 5, 1935, p. 7). The team started slowly, losing its first three games as the team's inability to score runs was the big factor in those losses (Elon Record Book, p. D-44). After taking a conference win over a good High Point Panther nine by a 10-4 margin, the team rekindled a ". . . spirit of confidence in their preparation to again clinch the North State loop flag" (Daily Times-News, April 15, 1935, p. 2). From the confidence gained from the victory over High Point, the team went on a rampage, winning thirteen of its remaining fifteen games. The only losses were to Catawba and High Point by one- and two-run margins. In the season, the team compiled a 10-2 conference slate and an overall record of 13-5 (Elon Record Book, p. D-44). For its hard work and excellent play, the team was once again declared the Conference Champions for an unprecedented fourth straight year. There were some fans who thought Elon had the best players in the league that year, and according to others ". . . the best in the state intercollegiate athletic circles" (Maroon and Gold, May 18, 1935, p. 1).

Elon received another honor in the spring of 1935 and that was the North Carolina Sportsmanship Trophy.

Representatives of Catawba, Lenoir Rhyne, Guilford, High Point, W.C.T.C. and Appalachian voted to give the award for 1934 to Elon. The election was made on the basis of sportsmanship, attitude to visiting squads, and participation of Elon squads in athletic contests (Daily Times-News, March 12, 1935, p. 7).

When the baseball schedule was announced the following year, it included such powers as Duke, Wake Forest, Georgetown, George Washington, and Springfield as well as the always tough North State Conference teams (Phi Psi Cli, 1936). In preparation for defending the conference title, the team had twenty-one candidates report for opening workouts. With a bevy of lettermen and a host of newcomers, prospects looked good for yet another winning year (Maroon and Gold, March 7, 1936, p. 3). Behind good pitching the team won five of its nine games with wins over Springfield, Duke, Guilford, and Wake Forest.

Captain Mike Briggs, ace left hander, and Webb Newsome, star right hander, veteran mainstays of the hurling staff, have been the big reason for most of the Elon victories this year (Maroon and Gold, April 25, 1936, pp. 1, 4).

Elon continued its winning ways down the home stretch with big wins over High point and Catawba but finished second in the loop race when a fired-up Lenoir-Rhyne team beat the Elon nine in a doubleheader to close out the conference schedule. The losses to the Bears in Hickory gave the title to Catawba, which the Elonites had beaten twice during the season (Maroon and Gold, May 14, 1936, p. 3). The team finished the season with a 13-8 record while recording eight wins and three losses in conference play (Elon Record Book, p. D-44).

Before the 1937 baseball season officially opened Coach Walker was working his diamonders hard, as usual (Daily Times-News, March 18, 1937, p. 6). There were six promising rookie pitchers in camp to aid a depleted pitching staff brought about by graduation. Among these were ". . . Roland 'Gourdhead' Longest; and two 'H' men, Hill and Holland" (Maroon and Gold, March 9, 1937, p. 3). Elon started the season by winning eight of the first ten games, three of which were conference victories, one against High Point and two against arch-rival Guilford. Non-conference wins were over Springfield, Michigan State, and Cornell (Maroon and Gold, April 16, 1937, p. 3). The second half of the season was not as good as the first, however, as the Christians could only manage two wins in the final nine games. The team finished the season with a record of 15-10 (Elon Record Book, p. D-44). At the end of the season the Maroon and Gold reported the following:

The record of the baseball team which isn't bad, is not quite up with that of other teams. . . . Starting off rather well with victories over large colleges and universities, the team fell into a batting and fielding slump which caused it to yield the pennant to the Catawba Indians (May 14, 1937, p. 3).

In the Board of Trustees Meeting that year, Dr. L. E. Smith, the President of the College, praised the athletic program and its coach, Pea Head Walker. In his remarks he also credited the dynamic coach with saving the college from the despair of the depression.

1932 found the College in serious financial straits. To think of the College was to recall its debts. There seemed to be a general impression that the College would be compelled to close. Something had to be done to capture the imagination of the people. We had a great coach, and there were possibilities in the field of athletics. With winning teams in all three sports, attention was turned to Elon College. The public seemed to forget the debts of the College and became more hopeful of its future. Enrollment increased in 1934-1935. In 1935-1936 we had a record student body. We have a good student body today (Board of Trustees Minutes, February 16, 1937, p. 7).

No sooner had Dr. Smith given credit to the Elon coach for saving the institution from the claws of the depression than Coach Walker left the college to accept the position of head football coach at Wake Forest College. The Daily Times-News in making the announcement wrote the following: "Walker was named to the head coachship yesterday at a meeting of the Wake Forest Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees" (July 8, 1937, p. 10).

Coach Walker was known as "The Iron Man of Athletics" on the Elon campus and his players fought as if they themselves were made of iron. With the formation of the North State Conference in 1930, the Elon athletic program under Pea Head's tutelage won at least one major championship every year. A record of his championship teams included five titles in football, four in basketball, and in his first love baseball he claimed six (Maroon and Gold, March 23, 1937, p. 3). Everyone who knew this great coach learned to love and respect him for the way he worked with young men, not only on the athletic field but in their daily lives.

He has taught his teams to win a victory in morals if they can't always win one in scores. He has truly put across the idea that athletics shall develop the mind, spirit, and body equally (Phi Psi Cli, 1931, p. 71).

More Baseball Titles On The Way

After winning the basketball title in his maiden season, Coach Hendrickson set out to prove that he also knew a little something about baseball. In early practices it was necessary for him to cut his squad in half in order to reduce it to a workable size (Maroon and Gold, March 19, 1938, p. 3). It was obvious from the onset that the team was going to be fashioned around a strong pitching staff composed of Tommy Williams,

"Dopey" Fuller, Roland Longest, and Herbert Jenkins (Phi Psi Cli, 1938, p. 82). Elon started the season with two fine wins over the touring Springfield College nine on Comer Field (Daily Times-News, March 28, 1938, p. 5). A loss to Mojud Mills was followed by three wins over Haverford, Guilford, and Atlantic Christian before the team suffered its second loss of the season to Lenoir-Rhyne (Elon Record Book, p. D-45). Near the end of the season the baseballers split a doubleheader with Catawba and took a twinbill from Lenoir-Rhyne. The team finished the season with a 15-5 record and a second-place finish in the conference. A 5-3 and a 5-4 loss to Catawba had cost the Elon team the title (Maroon and Gold, May 21, 1938, p. 3).

The 1939 baseball team faced one of the most difficult schedules ever attempted at the college. A total of twenty conference games was ". . . by far the most ambitious attempt for the loop crown tried by an Elon team" (Daily Times-News, March 2, 1939, p. 12). As practice entered its second week, Coach Hendrickson was running his squad through hitting and fielding drills and also a few intra-squad games (Maroon and Gold, March 18, 1939, p. 3). After a short exhibition season the team jumped right into conference play, taking two wins over Guilford and one over High Point. In the annual Easter game with Guilford, Elon won by the colossal margin of 25-6 as the Christian hitters pounded freshman pitching ace Shell, sending him to the showers (Maroon and Gold, April 27, 1939, p. 3). Elon also had a freshman hurler of note that year in Talmadge Abernathy. Against Atlantic Christian he pitched a no-hitter. Later in the season he followed with a two-hitter in a 10-4 win over High

Point. In the final game of the season the Elonites lost an eleven-inning game to Lenoir-Rhyne by a 9-8 margin, thus giving the Bears the North State title. Elon finished the season with an excellent 14-6 Conference record (Daily Times-News, May 10, 1939, p. 8).

When the 1940 baseball season rolled around, the prospects for a championship team appeared rosy. The team was well balanced with good fielders, good hitters, and an excellent pitching staff with Longest and Abernathy both back from the previous year (Maroon and Gold, March 9, 1940, p. 3). The team opened the season with six straight wins including a 2-1 decision over Cornell with Roland Longest doing the honors (Phi Psi Cli, 1940, p. 119). At mid-season the Fighting Christians were still winning as they shelled Wake Forest 18-9 in Greensboro. A two-hit gem by Tal Abernathy gained a 2-0 victory over the defending conference champions, the Lenoir-Rhyne Bears (Maroon and Gold, April 20, 1940, p. 3). Going into the last game of the season, Elon was sporting a perfect 19-0 record, when the Catawba Indians defeated the Christians by a 8-2 score. Even in defeat the team was crowned North State Champions. In an effort to "win their honor back," the Christians issued a challenge for another game and after a "pow-wow" the Indians accepted (Daily Times-News, May 4, 1940, p. 6). The Christians regained their honor and a 20-1 season with an 8-3 victory the following day (Maroon and Gold, May 6, 1940, p. 7).

With only four men missing from the 1940 championship team the prospect for another North State title looked real good, especially with Longest and Abernathy back on the mound (Daily Times-News, March 7, 1941, p. 6). The team opened the season with a 3-2 win over Lenoir-Rhyne. Abernathy was the star in relief as he fanned nine of the twelve men he

faced. A win over High Point was followed by another over Lenoir-Rhyne (Maroon and Gold, April 19, 1941, p. 3). Late in the year Elon was still riding high when it took a 3-2 win over arch-rival Guilford. The game was not decided until the bottom of the ninth when an Elon pinch hitter drove in the winning run with a single (Maroon and Gold, May 3, 1941, p. 3). For the season Elon compiled a 15-3-1 record with losses to Duke, East Carolina Teachers College, and Catawba. The tie was also against Catawba. This game was called due to rain just as Elon pushed across the tying run in the bottom of the seventh (Phi Psi Cli, 1941, pp. 110-111). Elon closed out the season with two wins over Atlantic Christian by scores of 5-2 and 10-6. Talmadge "Lefty" Abernathy was the winning pitcher in both games as the Elon hurler fanned seventeen batters in the first game to tie his own Elon and North State record. The victory also gave the Christians their second consecutive North State title (Daily Times-News, May 10, 1941, p. 6).

Coach Hendrickson Resigns

In March 1942 Coach Hendrickson resigned his position as head coach of the three major sports and athletic director at Elon College to assume a position as an assistant coach at the University of Pennsylvania. His three previous teams at Elon had all been North State Champions (Daily Times-News, March 2, 1942, p. 6). The resignation was reported in the Maroon and Gold in the following release:

The story from here on we all know. Every year he has produced at least one championship team in the North State Conference. Had he completed the current baseball season, it would have made his fifth complete year with us. His five football, five basketball, and four baseball teams have lost a total of only seventeen contests

in Conference play. This is a record that will stand as a challenge to other Conference coaches for years to come. One cannot pay tribute to his coaching powers, however, without simultaneously mentioning his magnetic personality. His amiable disposition and unique personal qualities went hand in hand with his success as an athletic mentor (March 7, 1942, p. 3).

"Gentleman" Joe Brunansky, an assistant coach at the college since 1939, was selected to succeed Horace Hendrickson as baseball coach for the upcoming season. Only twenty-two candidates responded for practice and although everyone was hopeful for another title, the outlook was not too bright with four of the top pitchers gone from the previous year's squad (Maroon and Gold, March 7, 1942, p. 3). After a postponement due to bad weather, Elon finally opened the season taking two wins over Atlantic Christian by scores of 11-3 and 9-1 (Daily Times-News, April 2, 1942, p. 3). Elon also won its third game over the Guilford Quakers to give Coach Brunansky an excellent 3-0 record (Elon Record Book, p. D-46). In their fourth game, the Christians ran into an undefeated Lenoir-Rhyne team and came out the loser in a marathon 14-inning encounter by a score of 6-4 (Maroon and Gold, April 25, 1942, p. 3). The team finished the season with a respectable 6-4 slate, winning three of its last six contests over Catawba, Appalachian, and Guilford (Elon Record Book, p. D-46).

Tennis Dominates North State Conference

As far back as 1928 Elon set out to improve its sagging tennis fortunes by upgrading its tennis courts. Much to the delight of the racket swingers, not only were the old courts renovated, but a new one was constructed (Maroon and Gold, May 3, 1928, p. 3). Two years later, under the direction of Professor Ross Ensminger, the team took victories over

High Point and Danville Athletic clubs before entering the little six championship matches. In the championship matches held in Greensboro, the powerful doubles team of C. D. Johnson, Jr. and Nash Parker ". . . swept to the finals, falling only to the championship pair from Lenoir Rhyne" (Phi Psi Cli, 1931, p. 90). In 1931 the tennis team was under the direction of senior class president E. Frank "Flick" Johnson (Phi Psi Cli, 1931, pp. 25, 90). The following year the racketeers finished third in the conference standing with C. D. Johnson, Jr. playing in the finals in the league tournament. The next two seasons the team was under the direction of player/coach J. Hinton Rountree (Phi Psi Cli, 1933, p. 88). Under his direction prospects were always good as the Elon players worked hard and fought hard against all opponents (Phi Psi Cli, 1934, p. 78). His 1934 team captured the conference title for the first time ever (Elon Record Book, p. iv).

The team won its first match against North Carolina State College the following year. For the first time in years there were many good tennis players in school. The results were a very successful season for first-year player/coach Daniel Jones and a North State title for the college (Phi Psi Cli, 1935, p. 82; 1939, p. 87).

When the 1936 season rolled around things never looked better for tennis at Elon. The tennis manager, Eugene "Chiefy" Lankford, had arranged a thirty-three game schedule which included such powers as Wofford, the University of South Carolina, Army, St. Johns, and William and Mary (Daily Times-News, March 18, 1936, p. 2). The season opened with the team winning its first eight matches before departing on its northern trip (Maroon and Gold, April 25, 1936). At season's end the team had enjoyed another

successful year which gave the team its third straight conference championship (Phi Psi Cli, 1939, p. 87).

The following year the tennis team completed the best season ever for a tennis team at the college. Taking three trips that year, the team first went to Florida where it defeated Rollins, Stetson, and the University of South Carolina, while losing to the University of Florida. A second trip brought victories over Villanova, Albright, and the University of Pennsylvania while the third trip to Virginia produced wins over William and Mary and Lynchburg Colleges and a loss to the University of Virginia. The team extended its win streak in conference play to three consecutive years (Phi Psi Cli, 1938, p. 86). The team finished the season with a most impressive twenty-one wins against only four losses (Maroon and Gold, April 14, 1937, p. 3). The team again won the conference title for a fourth consecutive year (Phi Psi Cli, 1938, p. 87).

In 1938 Daniel P. "Rusty" Jones and the tennis team had another outstanding season as they won yet another North State tennis crown (Phi Psi Cli, 1939, p. 87). This gave Elon a record five straight titles while attaining a remarkable 80-12 record. This included undefeated teams in conference play for five straight years (Phi Psi Cli, 1939, p. 87). With such an outstanding record it was little wonder that sports writer had called the Elon team the ". . . strongest little outfit in the country" (Maroon and Gold, May 7, 1938, p. 1). At the end of the year when Daniel Jones departed from the Elon campus, his legacy remained, as he had compiled an amazing 40-2 record during one two-year period. The long tall redhead was recognized as the greatest maroon-and-gold tennis player ever (Crutchfield, July 8, 1981).

When the tennis season opened the following spring, three lettermen returned along with a freshman, "Jimmy" Lightbourne, who was considered to be a potential star (Maroon and Gold, February 18, 1939, p. 3). The schedule was one of the toughest ever and when the season was over, the Elon racket swingers had won twelve while losing nine. Two of those losses were to Guilford who took the conference crown from Elon for the first time in five years (Maroon and Gold, May 20, 1939, p. 3).

In 1940 the tennis team again lost the conference title to Guilford. Any chance of regaining the crown was lost when the final match with the Quakers was rained out (Maroon and Gold, May 22, 1940, p. 4). The team finished the season with an average record as it was unable to win against non-conference foes (Phi Psi Cli, 1940, p. 121).

In its first match the following year, player/coach Jimmy Lightbourne's squad beat the visiting William and Mary team by a score of 5-2 (Maroon and Gold, April 5, 1941, p. 3). After that victory the team lost in a heartbreaker to North Carolina State by a 4-3 margin. This was followed by a 5-2 loss to Catawba. A match scheduled with Guilford was rained out (Maroon and Gold, April 19, 1941, p. 3). At one point in the season, the team accumulated a record of eight wins against five losses--not good enough to capture conference honors (Phi Psi Cli, 1941, p. 113). The following season the team was coached by Dr. Robert L. Westafer, a professor of mathematics and a former tennis player at Ohio State University. He was welcomed by four lettermen including Jimmy Lightbourne (Maroon and Gold, March 7, 1942, p. 3). The team played well most of the season with Jimmy Lightbourne supplying a consistent winning performance (Maroon and Gold,

April 25, 1942, p. 3). At the end of the season the team was rewarded with a second-place finish in the North State Conference (Stokes, p. 25-A).

The Track Program and "Hardrock" Simpson

The track program had had very little support or emphasis on the Elon campus, especially in the late twenties and the thirties. Between 1928 and 1931, an awakening of track hopefuls was initiated by Paul J. "Hardrock" Simpson, who had only been on the campus for a week when he elected to enter the cross-country race that would cover 3,150 miles from Los Angeles to New York (Maroon and Gold, January 19, 1928, p. 1). The race started in Los Angeles on March 4, 1928, and was scheduled to end in New York on May 9, 1928. A letter from Hardrock outlined the race procedure for the Maroon and Gold as follows:

We have to cover between thirty-five and seventy-five miles a day, depending on the road and weather conditions. Altogether, we have sixty-five days in which to cover the three thousand, four hundred miles. This averages about fifty-two and a third miles a day (March 1, 1928, p. 4).

Everyone on the Elon campus and in the Burlington area followed the progress of Hardrock Simpson almost daily. He was fast becoming the local hero. Only eleven days into the race the Elon runner found himself in second place. This announcement prompted the Athletic Committee at the college to award the varsity letter "E" to their famous entry (Maroon and Gold, March 15, 1928, p. 1). Hardrock had won the hearts of everyone in the whole Burlington area and they supported him every mile.

Win, lose or draw, "Hardrock" has trotted his way into the affections of his home folks, and his college mates, by his performance thus far. He will quit glorious, if he quits now, or a week or a month later (Daily Times-News, March 17, 1928).

Although Hardrock did not win the race, he did finish strong ". . . in spite of injuries to his feet which would have made any one, except one of great fortitude and courage 'give up the ghost'" (Maroon and Gold, April 11, 1929, p. 3).

In 1930 Hardrock Simpson returned to Elon to try to revive a fallen track program. He made a plea to the student body for support (Maroon and Gold, February 13, 1930, p. 4). The Elon men answered his call and participated in a total of six meets that year. They suffered defeats against Wake Forest, High Point, Duke Freshmen, Bridgewater, and Emory and Henry. Their lone victory was over Guilford College by a 64-62 margin. In the North State Conference Meet, Elon finished third scoring 28½ points. Captain Paul Brawley from Mooresville was the team's scoring leader and he was also voted ". . . the most outstanding track man in the North State Conference" (Phi Psi Cli, 1931, pp. 88-89).

The following year was also disappointing for the track hopefuls. In the only meet of the year Elon lost to a well balanced Davidson team by a score of 75-49 (Maroon and Gold, April 16, 1931, p. 1). There are no records of any other meets held that year. Nor were there any others until the post World War II era. An effort on the part of some students to start a program in the early forties was received warmly by the coaching staff but, of course, the War's imminence dashed these hopes (Maroon and Gold, April 19, 1941, p. 3).

War Brings Halt to Elon Athletics

On May 18, 1942, because of the declaration of war against Japan and Germany, the Board of Trustees of Elon College issued the following edict:

That in view of the drastic war emergency, and in view of the rubber shortage which will probably severely curtail attendance at games, and in order that the College may do everything possible to aid the nation in its war efforts, that Elon College discontinue football and baseball for the duration of the war (Board of Trustees Minutes, May 18, 1942).

The students at Elon College could hardly imagine a fall Saturday afternoon without football or a hot spring afternoon without baseball.

There will be something missing at Elon next year, but there is one consolation in all this darkness. We can all look forward to the time when the crisis is over and Elon once again will come into her own in the athletic field (Phi Psi Cli, 1942, p. 100).

Summary

In the spring of 1927, D. C. "Pea Head" Walker came to Elon as coach of the three major sports: football, basketball, and baseball. The new coach came highly recommended both as a person and a professional coach and under his tutelage the athletic teams at the college soon dominated the small colleges in the state. The smaller institutions often referred to as the "little six" joined together to form the North State Conference. It was in conference play that the Elon teams performed so well, winning numerous conference titles. In football the Fighting Christians performed brilliantly as the team took league honors in 1930, 1933, 1934, 1935, and 1936. The basketball team did almost as well as it claimed championships in 1932, 1934, 1935, and 1937. The cagers also won the Tri-State Tournament in Charlotte in 1935. Baseball was always Coach Walker's first love and it was in this great American sport that the Elon mentor won six championships for the Maroon and Gold. Starting in 1928 with the North Carolina State Championship, the team dominated the smaller colleges in the state by winning the little six title in 1930 and the North State title in 1932, 1933, 1934, and 1935.

Coach Walker's record at the college was unequalled by previous coaches. Before his departure to guide the football fortunes at Wake Forest College, he had set a standard of excellence by which future coaches at the college would be measured. Not only was he a great coach, but he was also a great man who taught his players to win victories in moral as well as in athletic contests.

In 1928 the track program at the college experienced a rebirth when Paul J. "Hardrock" Simpson came to the campus. He delighted everyone at the school as well as the entire Burlington area when he entered a cross-country race from Los Angeles to New York. He did not win but his entry brought much recognition to the college. In 1930 the famous cross-country runner assumed the position of track coach at the college. Although his teams participated valiantly, victories were few and the school dropped the program for lack of interest.

In the thirties the college tried its hand at boxing and wrestling but again the student interest was not there and these programs also were phased out. One boxer of note, however, was Joe Golombek, who after winning the Golden Gloves Championship in North Carolina, advanced to national championships in New York where he made it to the finals before suffering a loss.

During the late thirties, the tennis fortunes at the college took a definite turn for the better. With player/coach Daniel "Rusty" Jones leading the way, the teams won five straight conference titles. The tennis players were called by many the strongest little outfit in the country.

In the fall of 1937 Coach Horace "Horse" Hendrickson succeeded "Pea Head" Walker as the coach of the major sports at Elon. He came from

Duke University where he had made All-Southern and All-Dixie honors under the famous Wallace Wade. Coach Hendrickson picked up where Coach Walker left off by winning the North State basketball title in his first year. He also took the football crown in 1938 and 1941 as his teams accumulated a record of 31-12-1. In basketball his teams did even better as they won an impressive ninety-five games, while losing only twenty-one, and captured North State honors both in 1938 and 1941. In baseball the "Horse" won two more titles for the Maroon and Gold. His 1940 and 1941 teams captured conference titles sporting excellent 20-1 and 15-3-1 records. His career was marked by winning at least one major North State Conference crown in each of his years as coach. In March of 1942 Coach Hendrickson left Elon to take a position on the football staff at the University of Pennsylvania.

With the departure of a great man and a great coach, the college announced that the athletic program would be discontinued for the duration of the war.

CHAPTER VI

THE WAR YEARS AND BEYOND (1942-1960)

Impact of World War II on Athletics

Following the declaration of war against the Empire of Japan in December of 1941, many extreme measures were taken to aid the war efforts of the nation. Many colleges and universities in the land either drastically curtailed or completely dropped their athletic programs. The Maroon and Gold reported the following:

We miss a good many things from the American scene these days-- everything from chewing-gum to tar babies and licorice. Among other misses, we've been regretting the absence of the men who used to keep the flag of victory flying for the college athletic teams (May 1, 1943, p. 3).

Not only did the Elon athletes make sacrifices on the playing field but many of them gave their lives for freedom's cause. The following was contained in the Maroon and Gold:

We recently suffered the misfortune of losing an alumnus while on duty with the Army Air Corps. A clever, finer, more superb character never graced the Elon gridiron than the late Joseph Hopkins, whom we sadly mourn (March 28, 1942, p. 3).

When the college opened for the 1942-1943 school year the students on the Elon campus wasted little time in adjusting to the absence of inter-collegiate athletic competition. In lieu of the Saturday afternoon gridiron encounters with sister institutions, a "Fall Sports Festival" was held. That Thanksgiving afternoon sport spectacular was unlike any other ever held on the oak-covered campus. With the athletic fields flooded with onlookers, the events of the day reached a climax when the Kappa Psi

Nu and the Iota Tau Kappa fraternities played for the campus football championship (Maroon and Gold, December 5, 1942, p. 3). The two teams had played twice previously that fall with both contests ending in scoreless ties. Both football elevens put up a brilliant fight that Thanksgiving Day, but as fate would have it, the game once again ended with no points scored (Phi Psi Cli, 1943, p. 31). When the cold winds of January beckoned, all the athletic hopefuls moved inside to engage in "hardwood" battles where as many as three hundred spectators cheered for their favorite team. When the season was concluded, the Alpha Pi's walked off with the men's crown (Phi Psi Cli, 1943, pp. 52-53).

In the spring of 1944 the college did field an intercollegiate basketball team of sorts. It was a pick-up group directed by Captain Bob Lee. The Novelties, as they were called, brought enjoyment to the Elon campus as they ". . . dropped only a couple of games in their entire schedule against the outstanding semi-pro and independent teams of adjoining counties" (Maroon and Gold, April 1, 1944, p. 3).

The following year a Maroon and Gold basketball team was again in competition. This time, however, it was representing the school in an official capacity. As early as November there were thirty players, many of whom were freshmen, seeking berths in the Lacy B. Adcox coached quintet (Maroon and Gold, November 11, 1944, p. 3). In its first athletic contest following the war, the Fighting Christians were victorious over H & H Clothing Company of Greensboro by a 36-32 margin (Daily Times-News, December 4, 1944, p. 6). Everyone on the campus was glad to see the return of intercollegiate competition. The Maroon and Gold expressed everyone's feelings:

It was mighty good to see the Elon Maroon and Gold on the basketball court Saturday night. The boys in the uniforms were proud of the colors they wore, and the student body was behind them. And how about those cheerleaders? Didn't they look good in those maroon sweaters and gold skirts? (December 9, 1944, p. 3).

The rest of the season did not go as well, however, as the Christians could only manage four wins in the twenty-one starts. In North State competition they faired better as they took two wins over Atlantic Christian and won the last game of the year against Appalachian (Elon Record Book, p. B-23). That Appalachian victory was a thriller. Down by a 25-14 margin at halftime the Christians fought back and rallied for a 44-43 win, giving the Elon team a 3-7 record in the North State competition (Daily Times-News, February 24, 1945, p. 5). At year's end the Phi Psi Cli gave praise to the Maroon and Gold quintet:

The team was a hard fighting one and the boys deserve a great deal of credit for turning in such good performances in the face of great odds in many instances (1945, pp. 74-75).

Coach Adcox and the Elon hoopsters turned the tables on the opposition the next season as they compiled a 17-8 record. With all-conference performers Warren Burns and Roney Cates leading the way the team finished the season in the third position in loop play behind High Point and Catawba with an 8-4 North State record (Phi Psi Cli, 1946, pp. 80-81). The team was much taller than the previous year's quint as they had eight players over six feet. Among these were Roney Cates, Joe Golombek, and Ernest C. "Pep" Watkins (Maroon and Gold, October 20, 1945, p. 3). In their quest for league honors the Christians took wins over both Lenoir-Rhyne and Appalachian to open conference play. The game in Boone was a thriller as ". . . the Appalachian cheering section almost

went mad as the lead changed eight times in the last four minutes" (Maroon and Gold, January 26, 1946, p. 3). In the final game of the season, freshman Roney Cates tied the North State conference's single game scoring record as he tallied 28 points in the team's overtime victory over Atlantic Christian (Maroon and Gold, March 16, 1946, p. 4).

Elon Returns to Intercollegiate Athletic Program

In February of 1946, upon the recommendation of the Athletic Committee, the Board of Trustees of the college voted to "re-enter" its Elon athletic teams in intercollegiate athletic competition (Board of Trustees Minutes, February 12, 1946, p. 3). Basketball which had been played on the campus the two previous years had been exempt from the Board's mandate of 1942 which discontinued football and baseball during the war years (Board of Trustees Minutes, May 18, 1942).

Football

Dr. Smith Hires L. J. Perry

As early as January 1946, Dr. L. E. Smith, Elon's President, was looking for a coach to take the reins of the three major sports at the college. With the resumption of football planned for the fall, the college would have returned to a full program for competition in the North State Conference (Maroon and Gold, January 12, 1946, p. 3).

At last the right man was found. He was L. J. "Hap" Perry, a former Elon quarterback and highly successful football mentor at Reidsville for nineteen years, where he coached the Golden Lions to no less than seven Class "B" state championships. John Oliver, a Reidsville sports writer, related the following:

There can be no doubt that "Hap" Perry will be a successful college mentor. I don't know of anyone who knows and understands the game better than he does. Anyone with his knowledge of the game and his ability to handle men would succeed whether in college or high school circles (Reprinted from John Oliver's Sports Review, in the Reidsville Review, Maroon and Gold, February 9, 1946, p. 3).

Finally after four years lapsed, football returned to the Elon campus. For Coach Perry and his staff, this meant a great deal of planning and hard work. Although there were many "Big Husky" boys out for the team, there was a noticeable lack of experience. Blocking back Dave McClenny was cited for his work in those early drills (Daily Times-News, September 12, 1946, p. 6). After two weeks of drills on the local practice fields, Coach Perry took his chargers to Chapel Hill to do battle with Carl Snavelly's University of North Carolina eleven in a practice scrimmage. The Elon staff was pleased with what they saw as the ". . . team performed in a creditable manner against the stronger Carolina squad" (Maroon and Gold, September 21, 1946, p. 1). One week later the Elon team was earning its first win of the season against Atlantic Christian by a 14-0 margin as 2,300 Christian fans cheered (Daily Times-News, September 27, 1946, p. 6). For the season the Elonites had other victories over East Carolina, Erskine, and a previously unbeaten Glider Infantry team from Fort Bragg. A homecoming day loss to Lenoir-Rhyne was the "heartbreaker" for the season as the home squad dominated the contest making nineteen first downs to eight for the visitors. The team finished the season with a 4-5-1 record. The tie was with arch-rival Guilford in another turkey day classic in Greensboro (Phi Psi Cli, 1947, p. 104). The Elonites played extremely well against the heavily favored Quakers to gain the 14-14 moral victory (Daily Times-News, November 29, 1946, p. 8).

Before the start of the 1947 football season there was a controversy of sorts on the Elon campus over the nickname of the college's athletic teams. Coach Perry in conjunction with Jimmy Darden, the Alumni Secretary, had announced that the college was changing the name by which the athletic teams were called from Fighting Christians to the Golden Lions. It was felt that Christians should not fight, so therefore, a different name would be more appropriate (Daily Times-News, September 9, 1947, p. 6). This new nickname was short-lived, however, as Dr. L. E. Smith announced that Elon athletic teams would continue to carry the name Fighting Christians (Hook, July 13, 1981). With that matter settled once and for all everyone turned their thoughts to the football season.

Coach Perry was optimistic as he worked with some sixty gridgers in preparation for the 1947 football season. Although the team might not be of championship caliber, the second-year coach emphasized that Elon opponents should not take his Christian eleven lightly (Daily Times-News, September 6, 1947, p. 5). The team dropped its first game that year to Davidson by a score of 19-0. The fifty-two defense, employed by the Wildcats, gave the Christians' offense a fit as the Elon backs could only manage twenty yards rushing compared to two hundred for the opposition (Daily Times-News, September 22, 1947, p. 6). The loss to Davidson was followed by a win over Atlantic Christian by a 14-6 score. After another defeat against Appalachian the team rebounded with two wins over East Carolina College and Newberry (Phi Psi Cli, 1948, p. 119). The Newberry victory was sweet revenge for the defeat by the South Carolinians the year before. It was Jim Huyett's 22-yard field goal in the fading moments

of the first half that gave Elon the 3-0 win (Maroon and Gold, November 1, 1947, p. 3). At halftime of the game, Elon fans were given an added treat as they watched for the first time ever, four pretty majorettes perform with the always delightful Elon band. The four twirlers were Neal McDonald, Mary Brown, Edna Burke, and Virginia Rebick (Daily Times-News, October 18, 1947, p. 5). In the second half of the season the team was hit by a rash of injuries and lost four of their last five games to finish the season with a 4-6 log. The injury-riddled Christians did manage to upset a favored Erskine eleven by a 17-7 score. The Phi Psi Cli reported the following: "The game ranks as the most deserved win of the year; the line play was flawless, and performance in the backfield left little to be desired" (1948, pp. 118, 120).

Elon Selects James B. Mallory

When "Hap" Perry resigned his football post in December of 1947, the college selected James Mallory as his successor. The new coach wasted little time in preparing his players for the fall football campaign. During spring practice he installed a completely new system which utilized a single wing formation behind an unbalanced line (Lou Rochelli, July 18, 1981). When September rolled around the new Elon mentor again had his charges hard at work. In a practice game with Guilford, with revenue from the game going to the Greensboro polio fund, 1,600 spectators watched as the Christians took a 12-0 victory (Daily Times-News, September 10, 1948, p. 6). After losing their first regular season game of the year to an always powerful Davidson team, the students on the Elon campus held a mammoth pep rally in front of West Dormitory to fire up their football

eleven for their upcoming encounter with Atlantic Christian. Head cheerleader, Carl Coley, led the cheers (Maroon and Gold, September 24, 1948, p. 3). With the support of the student body the Christians took a 13-7 win behind the outstanding play of Dave McClenny. After that win the Christians improved steadily but could only garner a 4-5-1 record for the year. Additional wins were over East Carolina, Naval Apprentice, and Guilford. Losses were to Appalachian, Newberry, and always tough Catawba and Lenoir-Rhyne. The tie came against the heavily favored High Point gridders as Arnold Melvin, Elon's all-conference selection, led the defensive charge (Phi Psi Clj, 1948, pp. 111-113). In its final game the Christians took the annual turkey-day game over a favored Guilford team by a 12-0 score as the "Powerful Christian Line" played brilliantly. By the conclusion of the season the Elon football team had established itself as the most improved team in the North State conference (Daily Times-News, November 26, 1948, p. B-2).

As the Christians prepared for their gridiron battles for the 1949 season everyone expected the Elon eleven to be near the top of the conference at season's end. Led by Co-captains Arnold Melvin and Claude Gentry, the sixty football candidates worked extra hard for Coach Mallory in anticipation of their opening game (Alumni News, August 1949, p. 14). Elon took that first game against a hopelessly outclassed Edenton Marine team as no less than eleven Elon backfield men scored. As the season continued the team had victories over Atlantic Christian, East Carolina, Catawba, Naval Apprentice, High Point, and Guilford but vital losses to Appalachian and Lenoir-Rhyne eliminated the Christians from the title picture. The team

became known as the "home-coming spoilers" as they won four homecoming games during the year including their own by a 21-7 margin over the High Point Panthers (Phi Psi Cli, 1950, pp. 119, 120). The biggest win of the season, however, was on Catawba's Shuford field as the Christians scored a 20-14 victory as an Indian homecoming crowd watched. It was the first Elon win over a Catawba eleven since the 8-7 victory in 1941 (Daily Times-News, October 24, 1949, p. 6). Led by All-American Arnold Melvin, the team finished the season with an 8-2 record. The Christians also led the state in both total offense and defense as Coach Jim Mallory was named North State Conference "Coach of the Year" (Maroon and Gold, January 11, 1950, p. 3).

Again in 1950 the Christians fielded another excellent football eleven. Led by All-American Sal Gero, the team gained an outstanding record of 7-2-1. The only loss in North State competition came against a powerful Lenoir-Rhyne team as the Elonites again lost all hopes for conference honors (Phi Psi Cli, 1951, pp. 107-109). The gridgers brought the home fans many thrills that year, but none were more warmly received than the 26-12 victory before some 3,500 fans in Memorial Stadium on homecoming. It was Lou Rochelli passing and Bob Lewis receiving that sealed the win over the visiting Catawba eleven (Daily Times-News, October 23, 1950, p. 6). Elon closed out the season with a 6-0 win over arch-rival Guilford. The win gave the Christians a 7-2-1 record and second place finish in conference play. With such an excellent record it is little wonder that Sal Gero, Hank DeSimone, R. K. Grayson, and Pete Marshburn all gained All-Conference honors (Maroon and Gold, December 13, 1950, p. 3).

The following year there were only nine teams on the Elon schedule as both High Point and Atlantic Christian announced that they would drop the popular gridiron sport (Alumni News, March 1951, p. 12). Elon, however, had no intentions of following suit as the Christians welcomed twenty-one lettermen back to the campus. After losing their first outing against Emory and Henry, the Christians bounced back and took a 37-7 victory over the Norfolk Navy team (Maroon and Gold, September 26, 1951, pp. 3-4). In its third contest the Christians gained a 20-6 homecoming victory over Appalachian in Burlington Memorial Stadium. The victory over the Mountaineers was the first over the team from Boone since 1941 (Alumni News, October 1951, p. 5). At mid-season the Christians made it four in a row as the Elon gridders earned a seven-point victory from Catawba. It was Lou Rochelli providing the fireworks as he passed for 225 yards. All three of the Elon scores came on fourth down passes from Rochelli as the Christians took the 21-14 win (Daily Times-News, October 22, 1951, pp. 6-7). After two more wins, the Christians had made it six in a row as they prepared to play Lenoir-Rhyne in Hickory for the North State title. The Elon eleven were denied, however, as the Bears took the game by a 48-14 margin (Phi Psi Cli, 1952, p. 95). In its final game it was an overconfident Elon eleven that faced Guilford. Before the Christians knew what hit them, the Quakers had gained a 21-0 halftime lead. The Maroon and Gold came roaring back the second half, however, on Rochelli's passing. The Elon tailback amassed 277 yards in the air to claim the state passing title. His efforts were not good enough to gain a victory, however, as the Guilfordians won the game 28-21 (Daily Times-News, November 22, 1951,

p. B-2). The squad finished the season with a 6-3 record; both Sal Gero and Lou Rochelli made All-Conference teams. Gero was again named All-American, moving up from the second team to the first (Phi Psi Cli, 1952, p. 95).

Coach Mallory and his top assistant, Graham Mathis, opened preseason drills the next year without the services of the big All-American tackle, Sal Gero. They did, however, have a dynamic duo in the backfield in Captain Lou Rochelli and fullback John Platt, a Kentucky transfer (Alumni News, October 1952, p. 11). The Elon offense sputtered in its first two games as the Rochelli-Platt combination failed to score a single touchdown. A 0-0 tie against the Norfolk Navy and a 20-0 loss to Wofford left the Christians searching for their first win as they traveled to Boone to play the Mountaineers. The Elon gridgers finally got on the scoreboard as they took a 13-7 come-from-behind victory (Daily Times-News, October 6, 1952, p. 6). The victory over Appalachian was followed by a loss to East Carolina which spoiled Elon's homecoming celebration. Elon took a 9-0 lead in the contest but the Pirates stormed back to gain a 25-9 victory. The win was the first ever by the Greenville team over the Christians. The loss to the Pirates must have stunned the Christians as they only managed to win two of their remaining games (Phi Psi Cli, 1953, p. 86). One of those wins was over a good Newberry team in Clover, South Carolina. After being shut out the two previous games, the Elonites took a 20-14 victory from the Indians as Rochelli played brilliantly (Maroon and Gold, November 19, 1952, p. 3). After a loss to conference champions, Lenoir-Rhyne, the Elon football program hit rock bottom as they dropped a 17-14

game to Guilford. In that year the Quakers had not won a game, but they played inspired ball and upset the favored Christians who finished with a 3-6-1 record, their poorest efforts since 1932 (Phi Psi Cli, 1953, pp. 85-87).

Harry E. Varney New Football Mentor

When James B. Mallory resigned as football coach in the spring of 1953, Harry E. "Sid" Varney, a Carolina graduate of the Carl Snavely era, was chosen as his successor. Known as the "Toy Bulldog" he was a strict fundamentalist who believed in conditioning (Maroon and Gold, September 30, 1953, p. 3). The Christian gridgers welcomed their first-year coach with three straight losses to Wofford, Appalachian and East Carolina. The Appalachian defeat was a heartbreaker as the Christians were unable to convert two extra-point tries and the team lost by a 21-19 score. In its fourth game against Catawba, the team put on a great offensive show as they gained a tie with the Indians in Salisbury (Alumni News, November 1953, pp. 6, 10). The following week the Elonites were facing a winless Western Carolina eleven in a game billed as a battle of the non-winners. It was homecoming for the Christians and the Elon gridgers gave their 1,500 fans something to cheer about as they took a 13-7 victory over the Catamounts. After that win, the team dropped their last three games to Newberry, Lenoir-Rhyne, and Guilford to finish the season with a 1-6-1 record, the poorest at the college since 1926 (Phi Psi Cli, 1954, pp. 86-87).

As Coach Varney worked with his football team in the preseason drills the following year, he concentrated most of his efforts on a youthful backfield. Bob Stauffenberg, a freshman fullback, was getting special

attention (Daily Times-News, September 10, 1954, p. 9-A). After dropping their first two games to Southern Conference foe The Citadel and the Mountaineers from Appalachian, the Christians took their first win of the season against East Carolina in Burlington's Memorial Stadium by a 20-6 score. The big play of the game was when Elon's backfield ace, Kerry Richards, fielded a punt at mid-field and dashed fifty yards for a score as the Elon fans stood and cheered (Maroon and Gold, October 13, 1954, p. 3). After a loss to Newberry the Christians rebounded with a 36-12 homecoming victory over Catawba. Bob Stauffenberg opened the Elon scoring with a 38-yard run up the middle to start things rolling in what was becoming ". . . one of the hottest football rivalries in the North State Conference" (Maroon and Gold, October 27, 1954, p. 3). The homecoming win was followed by victories over Western Carolina, Guilford, Lenoir-Rhyne, and Davidson (Phi Psi Cli, 1955, pp. 86-87). That final victory over Davidson was special as it was the first time ever that a Christian eleven had beaten the Wildcats. The 14-6 Elon victory also prevented the Davidson eleven from gaining their best record in history (Daily Times-News, November 22, 1954, p. 11-A). In winning their last five games the Christians finished the season with a 5-3-1 record and the second spot in the league standings. For his tremendous rebuilding job, Sid Varney won Conference Coach of the Year honors (Alumni News, February 1955, pp. 8-9).

After such a grand finish the year before, everyone on campus expected the 1955 football team to be a winner. This was not the case, however, as the Elon footballers met defeat by a 39-0 margin in their very first game against Mississippi Southern in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, before

13,500 fans. Prior to the game Elon's backfield had been touted as one of the best small-college crews in the South and possibly the nation. They were not, however, able to dent the big Southern line (Phi Psi Cli, 1956, p. 93).

The team went on to lose the next five games to The Citadel, Appalachian, East Carolina, Newberry, and Catawba. In those defeats the touted backfield could only muster a total of 24 points while the opposition was scoring 135 (Maroon and Gold, October 29, 1955, p. 3). Finally after six straight defeats Elon won over a visiting Western Carolina team to celebrate homecoming. Apparently, it was the spirit of the crowd that rallied the Christians to their 19-6 victory (Daily Times-News, October 31, 1955, p. 6_A). After making it two in a row with a win over Newport News Apprentice, the Christians returned to their losing way with a 28-0 defeat at Hickory to the conference-leading Bears. The game saw the return to action of Bob Stauffenberg who had been sidelined with a fractured arm since the team's opener. Against the Bears, the big fullback played sparingly but his brief appearance gave notice that Guilford had better be ready for him the following week. Against the Quakers, "Stauffy" was never better as he ran up and down a muddy Hobbs field for two touchdowns and Elon finished the season in high fashion with a 19-6 victory. In taking their third win in four outings, the Christians finished the year with a 3-7 record (Maroon and Gold, November 21, 1955, pp. 3-4).

Elon opened the 1956 football season with a loss to an excellent Jacksonville State Teachers' team. The Christians took the lead twice during the contest on the running of big Bob Stauffenberg only to see the

Gamecocks rally on each occasion to take a 13-12 win (Maroon and Gold, September 26, 1956, p. 3). After the initial defeat, the Christians took wins over Newport News Apprentice and Appalachian before suffering two more losses to East Carolina and Presbyterian (Maroon and Gold, October 24, 1956, p. 3). With two victories in their first five contests the Elon gridgers were really ready to play ball when the Catawba Indians arrived at Memorial Stadium for Elon's homecoming extravaganza. It was a Kerry Richards' pass to Tony Carcaterra that gained the homecoming victory.

The Daily Times-News described the action:

The Christians, behind 13-0 as the fourth quarter began, caught fire in the final period to push across two touchdowns--the final one coming with just two seconds left on the scoreboard clock--to nip the Catawba Indians 14-13, before some 2,000 fans.

. . . .

Only two seconds remained in the game as Guard Glenn Varney booted the placement squarely between the uprights as the Homecoming crowd went wild with joy (October 22, 1956, p. 8-A).

The win over the Tribe was followed by a 26-6 win over Western Carolina. Then came two more setbacks to Newberry and Lenoir-Rhyne. This left the Christians just one victory away from a 5-5 record as they entered their last game against Guilford (Elon Record Book, p. A-47). That added incentive gave the Christians and Bob Stauffenberg, their All-State and Associated Press All-American, all they needed as they rolled over the Quakers on a muddy Memorial Stadium field by a 20-0 margin (Maroon and Gold, December 12, 1956, p. 3).

The following spring Joseph E. Bryson, Sid Varney's first-year back-field coach, was already preparing for the upcoming football season when he journeyed down to Georgia Polytechnic Institute to watch Bobby Dodd's

football eleven in spring practice. The young Elon coach ". . . is an eager learner when it comes to the grid sport, and he just might pick up some fine new ideas by observing the Golden Tornado in its drills" (Maroon and Gold, April 3, 1957, p. 3; September 26, 1956, p. 3). That fall as Coach Varney was starting his fifth season as head football mentor the team faced a schedule of only eight foes. The inability to attract additional games for the team had necessitated an extra long preseason workout period. As far as the season was concerned, no one was making any predictions, though, as the team prepared to do battle with Herb Appenzeller's Guilford squad (Maroon and Gold, September 26, 1957, p. 3). After that opener, Coach Varney and Joe Bryson were all smiles as the Christians took a 25-14 victory on a muddy field at Senior High Stadium in Greensboro. Bob Stauffenberg led the way as the big Elon fullback tallied twice. It was also evident that Bryson's trip down to Georgia the previous spring was paying dividends as the Christians' backfield men scored four touchdowns (Daily Times-News, September 30, 1957, p. 8-A). The Quaker victory was followed by two more big wins as the Christian offense continued to roll gaining victories over Appalachian by a 21-6 score and East Carolina by a 21-12 margin. The Alumni News reported the following:

A feeling of optimism prevails concerning the outcome of the season. With three conference victories already achieved, there is hope that the team may go all the way and win the remaining three games scheduled with conference foes (October 1957, p. 15).

After a 37-14 victory over Presbyterian, there was a flu epidemic in the Old North State and two conference games with Catawba and Western Carolina were cancelled. The Western game was supposed to be homecoming for the Christians, and even without a football contest the students on

the campus had their celebration as Dr. James E. Danieley and his wife Verona led the homecoming parade in a decorated convertible (Maroon and Gold, November 6, 1957, p. 3). When the Christians resumed play they handed a Newberry eleven a stinging 37-7 defeat (Elon Record Book, p. A-47). In its final game of the season in Hickory on a fog-blanketed field the Elon footballers took a 20-7 win over Lenoir-Rhyne as 9,000 Bears fans watched. Both Sid Varney and Bears' coach Clarence Stasavich felt that the turning point of the game was

When Elon halfback Harry Foust took a handoff from quarterback Charlie Maidon and literally disappeared around his own left end for a 57-yard touchdown run, the bell finally tolled for Lenoir-Rhyne's defending North State Conference champions (Daily Times-News, November 18, 1957, p. 6-A).

With Elon's abbreviated schedule, the North State title that year was decided at a conference meeting held in December when Dr. A. L. Hook, the chairman of Elon's athletic committee, recommended that Lenoir-Rhyne be declared conference champions. On a voice vote, the Bears were selected conference champions and all that was left for Coach Varney and his Fighting Christians were Coach of the Year honors and a perfect 6-0 record. Thus the first undefeated football team in the history of the school acquired the slogan "Undefeated, Untied, and Uncrowned" (Maroon and Gold, December 11, 1957, p. 3).

In the fall of 1958, the Elon football eleven picked up where they left off the year before by gaining a 14-7 victory over Guilford as the Elon backfield men racked up 297 yards on the turf at Senior High Stadium in Greensboro (Maroon and Gold, October 2, 1958, p. 3). After the victory over the Quakers the team lost their next two games to Wofford in Burlington and to Appalachian in Boone (Alumni News, October 1958, p. 17). That was

only the beginning of Elon's trouble, however, as the team's losing streak climbed to five straight with victories going to East Carolina, Presbyterian, and Catawba. The loss to Catawba marred the Christians' Homecoming celebration as a fired up Indian squad rallied in the second half to claim a 14-8 victory over an injury-riddled Elon eleven (Alumni News, December 1958, p. 2). The next week the streak was broken as the Christians traveled to Cullowhee to spoil the Catamounts' homecoming festivities by securing a 15-6 win as the squad finally ". . . lived up to much of the potential attributed to the Christians' preseason ratings" (Daily Times-News, November 3, 1958, p. 6-A). That win was followed by another win over Newberry. The squad then suffered another loss to Lenoir-Rhyne to close the season with a disappointing 3-6 ledger. A bright note to the season, however, was the outstanding play of senior end Tony Carcaterra who was awarded All-State honors for the second year in a row (Phi Psi Cli, 1959, pp. 112-113).

The following year the Christians again opened their season with a win. The victim was Newport News Apprentice by a 22-0 margin (Daily Times-News, September 14, 1959, p. 2-B). That opening win, however, was followed by nine straight losses. In its final game of the year the Christians took a resounding 50-15 defeat from Lenoir-Rhyne as the Bears strengthened their hold on their number one national ranking (Maroon and Gold, November 24, 1959, p. 3). The student yearbook, Phi Psi Cli, gave the following account of the poor season:

This was a season of defeat for the Fighting Christians football team. Although outclassed the Christians fought hard and showed determined spirit and turned in many good performances. Many were the times when everyone was hopeful for a victory but

the goal line always seemed to vanish from under our nose to spoil the thrill (1960, p. 146).

After such a poor showing the two previous years, Elon officials decided not to renew Coach Varney's contract as head football coach. The popular coach was, however, re-elected to the faculty at the school but apparently was so dismayed by the offer that he elected to retire from the Christian campus (Alumni News, May 1960, p. 4).

Basketball

L. J. Perry Is New Elon Cage Mentor

In the fall of 1946, "Hap" Perry made his first call for basketball practice and twenty-four men reported for the cause. The Maroon and Gold related the following:

A number of men from last year's squad, which won seventeen of twenty-five games were among those present. The aim, of course, is the conference championship, won by High Point last year (November 16, 1946, p. 4).

The Christians opened the season in fine fashion as they won their first game 63-52 over the Danville Independents. Roney Cates paced the Elon victory with a game-high twenty-two points (Daily Times-News, December 9, 1946, p. 6). As the team approached the half way mark the Elon basket tossers were sporting a respectable 4-4 card (Phi Psi Cli, 1947, p. 107). Against Lenoir-Rhyne in Hickory the Elon five broke the deadlock with a thrilling 43-42 overtime win over the Bears. It was Ed Drew's two field goals in the extra period that clinched the one-point victory (Daily Times-News, January 19, 1947, p. 6). The win gave the Christians the momentum they needed as they entered the conference tournament with a respectable 13-10 slate (Phi Psi Cli, 1947, p. 106). In the

tournament the Elon team never played better as the Elon cagers defeated Atlantic Christian and Lenoir-Rhyne to gain the finals. In the title game against Western Carolina the team fell behind by a 21-5 score as the Catamounts burned the nets. The Christians, however, fought back and behind the excellent play of Roney Cates, Warren Burns, and John Clayton claimed the North State crown with a thrilling 53-52 victory (Maroon and Gold, March 22, 1947, pp. 1, 3).

For the year it was sophomore Roney Cates who stole the thunder as he amassed 457 points for the season with a game-high of 36 points against Atlantic Christian--a new North State record. At season's end he was listed number seven in the nation in scoring (Phi Psi Cli, 1947, pp. 106-107).

Even before the school started for the 1947-1948 academic year, the Elon basketball team suffered a great loss as it was announced that their leading scorer of the previous season, Roney Cates, had decided not to return for his junior season. The "Lanky six foot four and a half inch basketballer" had instead chosen to play with a semi-prove five (Daily Times-News, September 5, 1947, p. 8). This did not, however, stop Coach Perry and his assistant Garland Causey from preparing for their opener in Woolen Gymnasium against the University of North Carolina. Elon lost that game to the "White Phantoms" by a 74-22 margin (Daily Times-News, December 4, 1947, p. 14; December 8, 1947, p. 6).

Shortly after the season was underway, Coach Perry resigned his position as athletic director and coach of the three major sports on the Elon campus to accept the position as commissioner of high school athletics

for the state of North Carolina. Elon released the popular mentor though he had three years remaining on his five-year contract. The college appointed Assistant Coach Garland Causey to finish up the basketball season (Daily Times-News, December 27, 1947, p. 5). Under Causey's leadership the Christians managed a record of 10-12. In conference play the team fared better as they won eight of sixteen games played. Much to the delight of the home crowd, nine of the team's ten wins that year were on the Christians' home court (Phi Psi Cli, 1948, p. 122).

In the three year period from 1945-1946 to 1947-1948, the Elon quintet had been directed by three different men. The new coach for the 1948-1949 season was Hal J. Pope. Under his direction the team suffered through a disappointing 7-22 season (Phi Psi Cli, 1949, pp. 114-115). The team opened the season with defeats at the hands of the Fieldale YMCA and the University of North Carolina. It was evident in those games that the Christians were in for a hard year with both a ". . . rookie coach at the helm and a comparative green squad in the court" (Maroon and Gold, December 10, 1948, p. 3). Elon's big win that year came with a mid-season win over Western Carolina in what was called the "biggest upset in the 1949 North State" basketball season (Daily Times-News, February 21, 1949, p. 3-B). The cagers finished the season with a 76-65 double overtime loss to Guilford (Daily Times-News, February 21, 1949, p. 6). The leaders for the young Christians were Larry Gaither, a 6-3 freshman who tallied 226 points to lead all scorers, and Billy Rakes, who only played in eleven games but had the best per-game average (Maroon and Gold, March 9, 1949, p. 3).

Graham L. Mathis Leads Basketball Team To Titles

Elon opened the 1949-1950 basketball season with another new coach at the helm. The college had chosen Graham L. "Doc" Mathis to direct the fortunes of the team. Coach Mathis had been a three-sport performer at Davidson in the early thirties where he captained both the football and basketball teams (Maroon and Gold, November 22, 1949, p. 3). With their new coach leading the way, Elon opened the season against the University of North Carolina at Woolen Gymnasium. In that first game the Tarheels moved out to a fast start and led by 37-16 at intermission. The end result was an overwhelming defeat for the Elon cagers (Daily Times-News, December 2, 1949, p. 2-B). The team did not win many games during the early part of the season and it was obvious that the Christians did not have the experience to compete with its conference foes (Alumni News, January 1950, p. 5). Even with such a disappointing start, the players, students, administrators, and alumni were all bursting with pride as the Fighting Christians prepared to play Catawba. The cause of the celebration was the opening of Elon's new Alumni Memorial Gymnasium. The Alumni News reported on the festivities as follows:

An estimated crowd of over two thousand fans was watching when the opening whistle blew for the game between Elon and Catawba College. Elon, a 20-point underdog, battled the "Indians" in a close and hard-fought game that saw the lead exchange 18 times before the final whistle blew. The Catawba team came out victorious, but the "Christians" won a moral victory and gave the fans their money's worth in thrills and excitement (January 1950, p. 2).

After losing two more games to Appalachian and Lenoir-Rhyne by three and two points respectively, the team bounced back and won four of its next five games with victories over Lynchburg, East Carolina, Atlantic

Christian, and Guilford (Phi Psi Cli, 1950, p. 123). In the North State tournament the Christians made it to the finals with upset wins over both Catawba and High Point. A loss to Appalachian in the finals ended the season for first-year coach "Doc" Mathis. With its great finish, and with scoring leaders Don Haithcox and Larry Gaither still underclassmen, the situation looked bright for the next season (Maroon and Gold, March 22, 1950, p. 3).

Elon opened the season the following year by dropping games to the University of North Carolina and Wake Forest on the Elon court. It was the first appearance of Big Four teams on the Elon campus in more than twenty years (Maroon and Gold, December 13, 1950, p. 4). There was a special celebration at the halftime of the Carolina game when the college officially dedicated its Alumni Memorial Gymnasium. A "beautiful bronze plaque, bearing the names of the known Elon Alumni who fell in battle" during the two world wars was unveiled in the foyer of the new facility (Alumni News, November 1950, p. 2).

With the dedication ceremonies behind them, the team got down to business and took its first win of the year from the McCrary Eagles, 75-69. Freshman Ben Kendall was the Elon star in the game as he came off the bench and "rammed home seven field goals and added seven out of eight free shots for a total of 21 points, for the night" (Daily Times-News, December 15, 1950, p. 2-B). Entering conference play the cagers took two games over Atlantic Christian, and single wins from High Point and East Carolina while losing to Lenoir-Rhyne, Catawba, and East Carolina (Maroon and Gold, January 31, 1951, p. 3). Elon closed its regular season with two straight

conference wins over Lenoir-Rhyne and Guilford. The Lenoir-Rhyne victory was most rewarding as the Elon cagers downed the high-flying Bears in the annual "High School Day" held on the Elon campus. It was the team's best defensive performance of the season (Maroon and Gold, February 28, 1951, p. 3). A second-round loss to High Point in the Conference Tournament gave the young but talented Elon cagers a 12-11 record for the year (Phi Psi Cli, 1951, p. 110).

Elon had nine lettermen returning as the cagers started their pre-season practices the following year. Among the returnees were Don Haithcox, Billy Rakes, and All-Conference performer Ben Kendall. It was evident from the start that the Christians were not going to be pushovers (Maroon and Gold, November 11, 1951, p. 3). Elon lost its first game to Hanes Hosiery by a 68-61 score but even in defeat the Christians ". . . displayed smooth floor play and a keen offensive ability" (Daily Times-News, November 27, 1951, p. 4-B). The Christians finished their pre-Christmas schedule with an 81-49 victory over The Citadel to take a five-game winning streak and 7-2 record home for a well-deserved break (Maroon and Gold, January 16, 1952, p. 3). Returning from the holidays, the Christians promptly had their winning streak snapped. After another win and three more losses, the team embarked on a ten-game winning streak. The string of wins included victories over seven North State Conference opponents. The cagers strengthened their hold on first place in the league. The final victory in the winning streak was against Appalachian on "High School Day" which avenged an earlier loss to the Mountaineers (Phi Psi Cli, 1953, p. 98). After a late season slump that saw the team lose three

conference games, the team rebounded to win their last four games to claim a tie for the Conference title with Appalachian. The Elonites finished the regular season with a 22-9 slate as both Ben Kendall and Don Haithcox broke Roney Cates' single season scoring record in the last home game of the season against Guilford (Maroon and Gold, February 26, 1952, pp. 3-4). After losing out in the conference tournament, the team won the National Association of Intercollegiate Basketball Carolinas Tournament held in its own Alumni Memorial Gymnasium and advanced to the National Tournament for the first time ever for an Elon athletic team (Daily Times-News, March 4, 1952, p. 3-B). The cagers flew to Kansas City on a TWA Constellation only to face one of the top teams in Milliken in a losing effort. The team did finish the season with a magnificent 25-11 record and became the most celebrated basketball team in the history of the school (Maroon and Gold, March 19, 1952, p. 3).

The Elon cagers started the 1952-1953 year in grand fashion by winning their first six games. With the "Three Musketeers"--Kendall, Atkinson, and Mallory--leading the charge, the team was the pride of the campus. Everyone looked for a return trip to Kansas City. The Elonites finally took their first defeat in the finals of the Piedmont Hosiery Tournament to a good High Point five in overtime to halt its winning streak (Alumni News, January 1953, pp. 6-7). Mid-season found the Christians losing three games in a row including two in conference play. The hard-fighting team fought back, however, and won three of their next four contests behind the scoring of Ben Kendall and Jack Mallory. Among the wins were victories against always tough Lenoir-Rhyne and Catawba. Against the Tribe, it

was Lynchburg transfer, Jack Mallory, providing the Christian power as the ". . . slender forward made seven field goals in the third period to rally the Christians" (Maroon and Gold, January 26, 1953, p. 3). Shortly thereafter two-time All-Stater Ben Kendall left the team because of disciplinary reasons. Bob Burgess, a transfer from Wake Forest, was declared ineligible (Phi Psi Cli, 1953, p. 89 and Daily Times-News, January 30, 1953, p. 2). Even in the face of adversity, the Elon cagers closed out their season with a flurry of victories as they won eight of their last nine outings. The one loss, however, was to East Carolina which gave the Pirates the regular season title (Maroon and Gold, February 25, 1953, pp. 3-4). Elon lost in the conference tournament to High Point in the finals. They also fell to East Carolina in the finals of the NAIA district playoffs to forfeit their chance for a return trip to Kansas City. In spite of their four runner-up positions for the year, the students on the Elon campus felt that this group of Christian athletes had appropriately earned the title "Fighting Christians." They amassed a fabulous 25-11 record for the second straight year (Phi Psi Cli, 1953, p. 89).

With only one starter returning, Coach "Doc" Mathis knew that the 1954 season would be one to build on for the future (Phi Psi Cli, 1954, p. 89). The team struggled through its first five games garnering only two wins before the holidays (Maroon and Gold, December 16, 1953, p. 3). Returning from the Christmas vacation, the cagers evened their record at 5-5 with wins over Atlantic Christian, Catawba, and High Point. These wins were preceded by a loss to East Carolina (Maroon and Gold, January 27, 1954, p. 3). People on the Elon campus were smiling since it looked as

if the Christians just might develop into a fine basketball quintet. This was especially true for Elon's gymnasium supervisor, Johnny Randleman. His smiling face was a welcome sight for all visitors to the Elon Alumni Memorial Gymnasium. His love for sports and his allegiance to the college was appreciated by all (Maroon and Gold, October 14, 1953, p. 3).

Even Johnny couldn't put the spark in the Christians, however, as the team finished the season as they had started it, losing three of the last five regular season games to finish with a 10-12 record (Alumni News, February 1954, p. 10).

An added feature for the 1954-1955 basketball schedule was a trip to Florida to play four games (Maroon and Gold, November 10, 1954, p. 3). That year the season opened on an impressive note with the team winning three of its first four games including a 78-71 contest with Virginia Polytechnic Institute. Elon Captain, Dave Maddox, led the charge against the Gobblers as he netted twenty-one points (Maroon and Gold, December 15, 1954, p. 3). After the impressive start, the cagers took their Christian machine on their trip to the Sunshine State where they took wins over the Jacksonville Navy and Florida Southern while losing to Rollins College and Stetson University (Alumni News, February 1955, p. 8). Following the Christmas holidays the team won seven of its next ten games with Maddox leading all scorers. In a thriller against the High Point Panthers, it was guard Hank Hamrick who sealed the victory with a free throw in the last five seconds to give Elon a two point victory (Maroon and Gold, January 26, 1955, p. 3). Late in the season, the team took a 93-69 win over arch-rival Guilford but after that win the Christians lost the last

three games to conference foes East Carolina, Atlantic Christian, and Lenoir-Rhyne (Maroon and Gold, February 23, 1955, pp. 3-4). The loss to Lenoir-Rhyne was a bitter pill to swallow as the college was again celebrating "High School Day." The Bears took a 77-73 win while 2,700 fans watched (Daily Times-News, February 17, 1955, p. 10-A). After a second round loss to Lenoir-Rhyne in the North State Tournament, the cagers closed the season with a 17-11 record. Ed Juratic and Dave Maddox both broke the 400-point mark for the year. Maddox, the senior captain, was an All-Conference selection (Phi Psi Cli, 1955, p. 89).

Elon basketball fortunes were given a boost the following year when Ben Kendall and Dee Atkinson re-entered school after a tour in the armed forces; both had gained All-Conference honors before their departure from the campus. They were joined by Ed Juratic, Earl Stone, Frank DeRita, and Ray Whitley to give Elon one of the tallest teams ever with four players over the 6'5" mark (Maroon and Gold, November 21, 1955, p. 3). The Elon cagers started the season by winning eight of their first nine games. The team topped the century mark in scoring on six occasions. A win in the Parris Island Invitational Tournament closed out the pre-holiday play. Dee Atkinson, Elon's "jumping-jack junior center" led all scorers (Daily Times-News, January 2, 1953, p. 3-B). Near the end of the season the high-scoring cagers found themselves in second place in the conference with a 16-3 record behind an excellent East Carolina five. Dee Atkinson continued to lead all scorers. He ". . . racked up 39 points in the Western Carolina contest to set a new all-time single game scoring record for Elon" (Alumni News, January 1956, p. 9). The team closed the season by winning seven of

the last nine regular season games to finish with a 20-6 record. Those two losses, however, were to conference foes. As a result the Christians finished a distant fourth in the North State standing. In its final home game the Christians took a revenge win over the East Carolina Pirates as 3,000 fans cheered every Elon score. It was the largest crowd ever to watch an Elon quint play a regular season game (Maroon and Gold, February 22, 1956, pp. 3-4). With the regular season completed the Elonites set their sights on tournament competition. After winning the North State and Carolinas District NAIA Tournament the Christians along with their All-District coach, Graham Mathis, once more journeyed to Kansas City (Maroon and Gold, March 14, 1956, pp. 3-4). This time the "Jittery Christians" lost to the Pittsburg (Kansas) Teachers. It was a four minute scoring drought in the second half that sent the team packing (Daily Times-News, March 14, 1956, p. 8-A). Even in defeat, however, the team was the pride of the Elon campus as they posted a brilliant 25-7 ledger for the year (Elon Record Book, p. B-26).

The following season things once again looked bright in the Elon basketball camp as the Christians returned its "Big Four" inside men--Dee Atkinson, Ed Juratic, Frank DeRita, and Earl Stone. Jimmy Crump was also back. He was the guard who had ". . . banged in 35 points from the outer court in one game last year" (Alumni News, October 1956, p. 8). The Elon quint opened the season with seven straight pre-Christmas wins against non-conference foes. The Christians showed everybody they had plenty of speed to go with their height (Daily Times-News, January 7, 1957, p. 10-A). After mid-year defeats at the hands of Lenoir-Rhyne, High Point and Atlantic

Christian, all by close scores, the Christians went on an eleven-game winning streak which included eight wins against conference competition (Alumni News, February 1957, p. 9). The Elon string was broken by the conference-leading Lenoir-Rhyne Bears who themselves were sporting a 20-1 record. A win over the Guilford Quakers in the final regular season game, however, gave the Elon cagers the second spot in the loop standing. After losing to Catawba in the first round of the North State Tournament, the Christians won the district crown with wins over Erskine and Presbyterian to once again earn a berth in the National Tournament (Maroon and Gold, March 20, 1957, pp. 4-5). As fate would have it Elon drew the top seed in the thirty-two team tournament, Pacific Lutheran. The Gladiators who were boasting a record of 25-1 beat the Christians 76-61. In that defeat, the Elon cagers proved no match for the taller team from the Pacific Northwest (Daily Times-News, March 13, 1957, p. 2-D). The team finished the season with a 24-6 record (Elon Record Book, p. B-27).

The following season was a rebuilding one for the Elon cagers as Coach Mathis had to replace all five of his starters from the great team of the year before. The only returnee of note was Captain Frank DeRita (Phi Psi Cli, 1958, p. 109). Shortly after the season opened the team found itself in the midst of a twelve-game losing streak, the longest ever for an Elon quintet. Included in the losses were no less than eleven to North State foes. A win over Appalachian by a 72-48 score ended the Elon nightmare (Maroon and Gold, February 26, 1958, p. 3). Elon closed its regular season on a winning note, however, as the Christians beat the Guilford Quakers by an 83-68 score. It was the second win over the Guilfordians

for the year (Daily Times-News, February 24, 1958, p. 11). With a loss to Western Carolina in the North State Tournament the Christians finished the season with a poor 4-12 record in conference play and 5-16 slate overall (Alumni News, March 1958, p. 9; Elon Record Book, p. B-27).

As Coach Mathis entered his tenth season, the Elon basketball mentor hoped to improve on the record of the previous year. There were five lettermen returning (Maroon and Gold, November 13, 1958, p. 3). By Christmas break, however, the team was sporting only a 2-3 record with non-conference wins over Pfeiffer and Wofford (Alumni News, January 1959, p. 3). As the season progressed things did not get any better for the cagers could only gain a 6-8 record. Against Pfeiffer the home crowd had their thrill of the year as Captain Gil Watts sank a free throw to give the Christians a 69-68 victory (Maroon and Gold, February 12, 1959, p. 3). One fan gave the following description of the game: "Elon got far behind and 'Ketched Up,' then the Christians took a comfortable lead and allowed the Panthers to 'Ketch Up'" (Daily Times-News, February 3, 1959, p. 4-B).

Elon finished the season with three straight losses. The final defeat was to arch-rival Guilford when the Quakers took a 79-44 win over the cold shooting Christians. For the season the team recorded a dismal 7-15 record (Maroon and Gold, February 26, 1959, p. 4).

At the close of the 1959 basketball season, Coach Mathis resigned his position as the basketball mentor of Elon College. He left behind an outstanding record of one hundred and sixty victories, the most ever by an Elon coach. Under his charge three Elon basketball teams had participated in the NAIA Tournament in Kansas City. His resignation contained the following:

"Due to the fact that I do not have my master's degree, and did such a lousy job in basketball the last two years, I am resigning my position at Elon College effective June 1, 1959" (Alumni News, March 1959, p. 10).

With the departure of Coach Mathis, Elon President, James E. Danieley, the successor to Dr. L. E. Smith, wasted little time in announcing that the new Christian basketball mentor would be William Ralph "Bill" Miller, a 33-year-old graduate of the University of North Carolina. A native of Berea, Kentucky, the new Elon coach had gained his expertise in the hardwood sport while coaching at Campbellsville Junior College in Kentucky (Alumni News, May 1959, p. 3). Soon after his arrival on the Elon scene, the new coach was hard at work recruiting for the Christian basketball program. He hoped that he could persuade a couple of his Campbellsville stars to join him at Elon. He was particularly interested in Richard Conatser, a 5'10" guard who he felt was ". . . the best shooter in the great state of Kentucky" (Daily Times-News, May 5, 1959, p. 2-B). That fall Conatser was wearing the maroon and gold uniform (Maroon and Gold, November 24, 1959).

The Elon cagers opened that fall season in an impressive fashion with an 85-84 victory over Pembroke College on their floor. Campbellsville transfer Herbie Hawks pushed home the winning basket with only three seconds showing on the clock (Maroon and Gold, December 5, 1959, p. 3). Ten games down the road, the Christians were sporting a 4-6 record with conference wins over both Guilford and Western Carolina (Daily Times-News, January 4, 1960, p. 5-B). At mid-season, Hawks banked in a ten footer in the last second of play to give the Elon cagers a two-point win over the Catawba Tribe (Maroon and Gold, January 22, 1960, p. 3). After that big win over

the Indians, the "Three I's" hit the squad when "injuries, illness and ineligibility" completely destroyed the team. The "Millermen" could only gain two victories in their last eleven outings. One of the losses was to Lenoir-Rhyne in the first round of the North State Tournament. The Elon cagers finished the season with a 9-17 record (Maroon and Gold, March 4, 1960, p. 3).

Baseball

Elon Rebuilds Baseball Tradition

The decision to resume intercollegiate athletics at the school was welcomed by Coach J. L. Pierce and all the Elon baseball prospects as the school prepared to field its first diamond team since the advent of World War II (Phi Psi Cli, 1947, p. 4). When Coach Pierce was asked about the team's prospects there was a conservative tone as he responded:

At present, however, I need more time to look over the squad. Some of the new men are good. We will probably get some top pitching, but lack a left-hander now. "In any case," he concluded, "you may be sure that we will have a fairly good team" (Maroon and Gold, March 30, 1946, p. 4).

Elon opened the post war baseball season with a 6-5 win over a visiting Ohio University Bobcats' nine. Elon's Johnny Clayton provided the spark in that game with a triple in the first inning and some "sparkling fielding" plays from his short stop position (Maroon and Gold, April 13, 1946, p. 4). That victory was followed by a 4-3 come-from-behind win over the Greensboro ORD Hawks as W. C. Latta, a Burlington native, led the Christian attack with three hits (Daily Times-News, April 4, 1946, p. 7). The team entered North State competition with four straight defeats including one to Lenoir-Rhyne and Catawba and two to Atlantic

Christian (Elon Record Book, p. D-46). In its fifth conference tilt the Christians finally came out the victor as they claimed a 2-1 win over the Guilford Quakers and gave Coach Pierce a 4-4 record at mid-season (Maroon and Gold, April 27, 1946, p. 4). The Quaker win was followed by league wins over the High Point Panthers and a Guilford nine while losses went to Lenoir-Rhyne once and Atlantic Christian twice (Maroon and Gold, May 18, 1946, p. 4). The team closed the season with a 5-3 loss to the Greensboro ORD as the Hawks gained a tenth inning victory to avenge an earlier loss to the Christians (Daily Times-News, May 18, 1946, p. 7). Elon finished with a 11-5 record as Atlantic Christian was forced to forfeit its four wins to the Elon team (Elon Record Book, p. D-46).

In 1947 Coach L. J. Perry was directing the baseball fortunes on the Elon campus. When the season approached there was added optimism because the entire mound staff returned from the year before. It was everyone's hope that Bill Anderson, Jack Andrews, Ernest C. "Pep" Watkins, and James McSwain could win enough games to make a run for the conference title (Phi Psi Cli, 1947, p. 108). The diamonders opened the season by winning three of their first four starts. In the fifth game against Atlantic Christian, to open North State play, Elon's Bill Anderson pitched a four-hitter as the team claimed a 9-3 win (Daily Times-News, April 12, 1947, p. 6). After a mid-year victory over High Point the Elonites were sporting a 6-5 record. Down the stretch the Christians took conference wins over Atlantic Christian, Appalachian, and Lenoir-Rhyne but four losses to a powerful Catawba nine removed the Christians from the title picture (Phi Psi Cli, 1948, p. 125). In its second two-game series with Catawba,

Elon was helpless as the Indians posted wins of 5-2 and 26-6 to claim the North State title and place Elon in the second position (Maroon and Gold, May 17, 1947, p. 4). The "Perrymen" closed the season with a good 14-10 record with a victory over the Lenoir-Rhyne Bears by an 8-3 score (Phi Psi Cji, 1948, p. 125).

James B. Mallory Takes Team To Titles

In February the college selected James B. Mallory to guide the inter-college athletic program on the Elon campus. Mallory had coached at Burlington High School for the past few years and it was hoped that he could obtain an early release from that school system so he could take over the baseball duties at Elon in March (Maroon and Gold, February 24, 1948, p. 1).

Mallory did obtain an early release and began immediately on a conditioning program for the fifty baseball candidates who reported for the early workouts (Daily Times-News, March 9, 1948, p. 6).

The Christians opened their season against a visiting Akron University team. The Elon nine scored four runs in the ". . . first inning and went on to win the season's opener by a 12-8 score" (Maroon and Gold, March 26, 1948, p. 1). After that victory the Maroon and Gold nine kept on rolling and gained their eighth victory of the year against the Sanford Spinners by a 14-9 margin (Daily Times-News, April 16, 1948, p. 6). As the team moved into North State Conference battles, the Elonites took wins over Guilford, East Carolina, High Point, Lenoir-Rhyne, and Atlantic Christian. The team lost both of its encounters to the Catawba Indians, however (Elon Record Book, p. D-46). Elon closed the year with a 9-4 win over the High

Point Panthers to finish the season with a 17-8 record for its most successful post-war baseball season. For their efforts the team gained the second position in the North State Conference behind Catawba College (Daily Times-News, May 19, 1948, p. 11). For the year John Roberts led the mound staff with a 6-2 record while Steve Walker led all Elon hitters with a .383 batting average (Elon Record Book, pp. D-1, D-19).

In his second season as baseball coach, James Mallory and the Elon diamonders hoped to improve on their 17-8 record of the previous season. A schedule of twenty-six games had been announced and everyone on campus had their sights on the North State title and defending champion Catawba. With four veteran pitchers Jack Andrews, C. K. Siler, Bill Anderson, and Art Fowler in camp, the team approached the season with confidence (Daily Times-News, March 9, 1949, p. 3-B). Elon opened the season by taking a double win over Randolph Macon, each by a one point margin. It was the fine hurling by the Elon pitchers that brought the wins as the "A" men, Anderson and Andrews did the honors in the first game, while Fowler and Siler served the victory in the second (Daily Times-News, March 28, 1949, p. 6). After the opening victory, the Christian machine kept on rolling as they established a 10-3 record before their crucial game with the Catawba Indians (Phi Psi Cli, 1950, p. 124). With Jack Andrews pitching an excellent four-hitter the baseballers took a 3-0 win from the Tribe. Many felt it was Andrews' greatest pitching performance (Daily Times-News, April 25, 1949, p. 6). With the win over Catawba, the Elon nine placed themselves on top of the North State loop, a position they had not held for a number of years. In early May they had taken all nine games in the league play. The Alumni News gave the following account:

The team has all the tricks that go with a championship baseball team. Good pitching and heavy batters. . . . Their murderous batting has brought fear to every pitcher that has faced them this spring (May 1949, p. 10).

In its final game of the season, the Christians clinched the North State championship with a 3-1 win over Guilford to give the Elonites their first baseball title since 1941. The team compiled a 13-2 conference slate and a 20-5 record overall as C. K. Siler gained a perfect 9-0 record for the year (Maroon and Gold, May 20, 1949, p. 3; Elon Record Book, p. D-19).

The following season Coach Mallory could only count five veterans returning as the Christians prepared for a rough twenty-seven game schedule (Daily Times-News, March 25, 1950, p. 6). Among the veterans, however, were two fine pitchers--C. K. Siler and Lefty Taylor. Hank DeSimone and Joe Bryson joined them to give the Christians an excellent battery (Phi Psi Cli, 1951, p. 112). In their opener the Elonites faced a powerful Wake Forest nine that handed the youthful team its initial defeat. Following the Deacon game, a loss of a different kind befell the Elon baseballers as the old grandstand that was built by Elon students back in 1941 was burned to the ground. The Alumni News offered the following details:

In less than two hours after the game was over the grandstand was nothing but smouldering ashes. It is believed that the stands caught fire from a cigarette (April 1950, p. 7).

Elon got revenge over the Deacons in the second game of the series as they pounded the Wake Forest team 12-3. That win was followed by loop victories over Lenoir-Rhyne, Catawba, East Carolina, and Atlantic Christian as two freshmen outfielders, Archie Brigman and Carroll Reid, battled it out for hitting honors (Maroon and Gold, April 19, 1950, p. 3). At mid-season the team posted an 8-7 ninth inning win over Catawba to give the

team a perfect 8-0 record in North State play. In its final loop game the Elonites took a 13-3 victory over rival Guilford for its fifteenth win in conference play and its second straight North State title (Daily Times-News, May 8, 1950, p. 9-A). Elon closed its most successful baseball season ever with a 10-7 win over Siler City to give the Christians a 21-7 record. The twenty-one wins were the most ever by an Elon nine (Daily Times-News, May 22, 1950, p. 2-B).

The 1951 baseball squad brought to the Elon campus yet another North State crown. Led by its two Co-Captains, Shag Myers and Hank DeSimone, the Christians only lost two of their fifteen conference games. Both of these losses came against the teams from the East, Atlantic Christian and East Carolina. The team rode to the title on the strong pitching arms of Hank Hamrick and Lefty Taylor as the two mound aces combined forces to take ten of the team's sixteen wins (Phi Psi Cli, 1952, p. 100). Bad weather had curtailed early practices and as a result, Elon lost five of its first seven games that year. The losses were all to non-league foes, however. Elon took two conference wins over East Carolina and High Point (Daily Times-News, March 17, 1951, p. 6; Maroon and Gold, April 18, 1951, p. 3). In its run for the loop title, the Christians were as hot as the "proverbial firecracker" as they gained two loop wins each over Catawba and Lenoir-Rhyne and single wins over High Point and Appalachian. The biggest thrill of the year came in the first outing with Catawba as the Christians won the game 14-11 as they rallied for eight runs in the ninth inning.

The Christians sent thirteen batters to the plate, and the result was five walks, five hits and a passed ball, which left the Indians wishing that there had been only eight innings in the baseball game (Maroon and Gold, May 16, 1951, p. 3).

Elon received another honor for its athletic participation for the 1950-1951 school year when they were presented the John D. Messick Sportsmanship Trophy. The trophy was given each year to recognize the "finest sportsmanship in the North State Conference" by a member institution (Daily Times-News, May 19, 1951, p. 7-A).

As Jim Mallory and the Christian baseball players prepared to defend their conference title for the 1952 season, they were faced with the prospect of rebuilding a mound staff and replacing an all-conference pitcher. On hand, however, were four promising freshmen pitchers: Charlie Swicegood, Luther Conger, Sherrill Hall, and Richard Smith and a freshman catcher named Bobby Jones (Maroon and Gold, March 19, 1952, p. 3). For the first time the North State league was divided into two divisions. Elon would play its sixteen loop games in the Eastern Division (Daily Times-News, March 5, 1952, p. 3-B). The team opened the season rather slowly as it could manage only five wins in its first eleven games. After an opening win over a visiting Springfield College nine by a 4-2 margin, the Christians just could not put together a winning combination. They did, however, win three conference games over Atlantic Christian, High Point, and East Carolina. Conger and Swicegood were the heroes in the win over the Pirates as they allowed the visitors only one run while the Christians tallied twice with the aid of two walks, an error, and a single (Maroon and Gold, April 16, 1952, p. 3). At mid-season Elon was on top of their division as they took a 1-0 win over Guilford. Elon's Richard Smith, one of the seven Elon freshmen pitchers, put down the Quakers on a three-hitter (Daily Times-News, April 24, 1952, p. 3-B). Elon finished the season by winning six of its

last eight conference games. In its final regular season game the Christians took a 17-0 win over Guilford to win the division title (Maroon and Gold, May 21, 1952, pp. 3-4). In the championship series with Lenoir-Rhyne, the team could not seem to get rolling; as a result the Bears won the series in two games. Elon finished the season with a 16-12 record as the ". . . freshman-studded Elon nine came through in fine style as it displayed potent hitting power and fielding in veteran form" (Phi Psi Cli, 1953, p. 90).

Things looked good for the Christians as they prepared for the 1953 baseball season. This was especially true in the pitching department as Hall, Conger, Swicegood, and Smith were all back for a second year of mound duties (Daily Times-News, March 9, 1953, p. 7). With such a talented pitching staff it was little wonder that the Christians shut out their first three opponents. With Swicegood, Conger, and Hall doing the honors, Williams College, Wesleyan College, and Ohio University all met defeat as the Elon pitchers were outstanding (Maroon and Gold, April 8, 1953, p. 3). After losing two games against Wake Forest the team went on a five-game winning streak taking wins over East Carolina, Guilford, and three over Atlantic Christian. Charlie Swicegood was the hero in the Atlantic Christian series as he pitched two wins against the visitors. The second victory was a brilliant no-hitter as the sophomore southpaw ". . . struck out seven and walked only one during the game in which he faced only twenty-three batters" (Maroon and Gold, April 22, 1953, pp. 3-4). The team made it ten in a row as Swicegood pitched a four-hitter to defeat High Point by a score of 9-0. Bobby Stewart, Elon's third baseman, was

Leading the hitters with a .396 batting average (Maroon and Gold, May 6, 1953, pp. 3-4). Elon closed the season by winning its last four regular season games: two each from Guilford and High Point to win the Eastern Division for the second straight year (Phi Psi Cli, 1954, p. 90). In the playoff the Christians again lost to Lenoir-Rhyne; this time in three games, to finish the season with an 18-7 record. The final game was a heartbreaker as the Elon team met defeat in the tenth inning when Lenoir-Rhyne's Jerry Robinson hit a home run to give the Bears an 8-7 come-from-behind win (Maroon and Gold, May 20, 1953, p. 4).

At the end of the 1953 season, Coach Mallory resigned his position as coach of football and baseball at Elon College to accept a position as assistant football coach on the East Carolina staff. At Elon his football team had compiled an excellent 28-10-3 record while his baseball team amassed a slate of 106 wins against 41 losses. His baseball teams had won three North State titles and two Division titles (Daily Times-News, May 4, 1953, p. 4-B).

Graham Mathis Also Coaches Baseball

When the 1954 baseball season started the Elon nine was welcomed by a new coach, Graham "Doc" Mathis. "Doc" had assumed the position when James Mallory left the Elon campus to cast his lot with East Carolina. As the first-year baseball coach started practice, he found he had inherited three famous hurlers: Sherill Hall, Charlie Swicegood, and Luther Conger, who were all back for their junior year. Hank Hamrick, another ace pitcher, had also returned to school to give the Christians four outstanding pitchers (Maroon and Gold, March 24, 1954, p. 3). To open the season the

team took a 4-2 win over Wake Forest as Swicegood and Conger limited the Deacons to only four hits (Daily Times-News, March 13, 1954, p. 10-A). After that victory over Wake Forest the team really started rolling and near season's end the Christians were boasting a 12-7-1 record overall and a 10-2-1 record in North State competition to lead the loop. Those Elon hurlers were outstanding as the Alumni News recorded their fantastic exploits:

In Conference play, the Christian hurlers have held the opposing batters to one hit in three games, two hits in one game, three hits in one game, and four hits in two games (May 1954, p. 10).

After a loss to Guilford, the first to the Quakers in three years, the team won its last six contests to finish the season with a 18-7-1 record. Included in the string of wins were two victories over Lenoir-Rhyne. Their record gave the Christians their first North State title in three years (Maroon and Gold, May 25, 1954, p. 3). When the All-Conference team was named that year, the Elonites gained seven berths on the honor team. Included in the group were Eugene McDaniel, Nick Thompson, Bobby Green, and of course, those Big Four Elon mound men (Phi Psi Cli, 1955, p. 91).

The following year the baseballers started conditioning work in late February as the team prepared to defend its North State crown. Optimism was running high as there were veterans on hand in every position. Also on hand for one last season of chunking were those four fabulous pitchers, Hamrick, Swicegood, Hall, and Conger (Maroon and Gold, February 23, 1955, p. 3). In its first outing the Elonites took a 13-3 win over arch-rival Guilford as Captain Hank Hamrick and right hander Luther Conger shut down the Quakers on four hits. That win was followed by four more victories with

two wins each over a visiting Williams College nine and Atlantic Christian in their park. Swicegood, Hall, and Conger all claimed wins (Maroon and Gold, April 20, 1955, pp. 3-4). As the season continued the talented Christians ran up a remarkable 11-3 record with only one loss to East Carolina in conference play. In its next game against High Point, Elon's Charlie Swicegood put his name in the school record book for the second time as he sat down the Panthers with the second no-hitter of his career (Daily Times-News, May 5, 1955, p. 11-A). The team closed the season with a flurry of conference wins over East Carolina, Guilford, and two from High Point. A loss to East Carolina, however, in the first game of a doubleheader left the two schools in a tie for divisional honors (Maroon and Gold, May 24, 1955, p. 3). The events that followed were outlined in the school's yearbook:

The Elon College baseball season came to an unexpected end when Atlantic Christian forfeited a game to East Carolina, thus breaking the tie between Elon and East Carolina for the championship in the eastern division of the North State Conference and sending the Pirates into a play-off with Western Carolina for the Conference Championship (Phi Psi Cli, 1956, p. 98).

For the 1955 year the Christians claimed a 16-5 ledger with eight members of the team garnering All-Conference honors. These included Hamrick and Swicegood for the fourth time, Thompson and Hall for the third time, Green and Conger for the second time, and first time selections Alton Myers and Homer Hobgood (Maroon and Gold, May 24, 1955, p. 3). Conger, Hall, and Thompson also made the All-State team. It was Hall's third appearance on that coveted squad (Elon Record Book, p. D-35).

As Coach Mathis began his third year as diamond coach, he was working with a squad which contained only six lettermen. Among these, however,

were four All-Conference selections from the year before (Maroon and Gold, March 28, 1956, p. 3). Even though the team lacked experience, the determined Christians opened the season by taking two games from a visiting Williams College nine. Two days later the squad gained their third win over Wittenberg College as the Ohioans were sent home with a 6-4 loss (Maroon and Gold, April 19, 1956, p. 3). After those three non-league wins, the team jumped into loop battles where their lack of experience became evident as they lost 5 of their first twelve games (Phi Psi Cli, 1957, p. 114). In its next game the Christians lost all hopes for conference honors when Catawba scored an unearned run in the eighth inning to give the Indians a 1-0 win. For Elon pitcher Jack Henderson it was a real heartbreaker as the Elon ace had limited the Tribe to just two hits (Daily Times-News, May 9, 1956, p. 10-A). Although the team did not make a run for the title that year, they did have a say in who would be champions as they knocked Lenoir-Rhyne out of the top spot with a 13-1 victory in the last game of the season. The title went to East Carolina. In their final game, All-Conference players Thompson, Hobgood, Myers, and Green all played well; they had led their Christians to a 12-7 record (Maroon and Gold, May 22, 1956, p. 3). James "Nick" Thompson, the team's short stop and leading hitter, also won All-State honors for the fourth time, a distinction held by no other Elon athlete (Elon Record Book, pp. D-32, D-30).

Jack Sanford Takes Over Baseball Program

In the fall of 1956 John D. Sanford was hired by the college as head of the department of physical education, director of athletics, and

baseball coach. Coach Sanford was a graduate of the University of Richmond where he had earned letters in four sports (Maroon and Gold, September 26, 1956, p. 3). The new mentor wasted little time in molding a young squad into a disciplined team. With three good pitchers in Gilbert Watts, Jack Henderson, and Al Lovelace, the first-year coach prepared for the season's opener (Alumni News, June 1957, p. 6). In that opener against the defending Atlantic Coast Conference champion, Duke University, the Elonites suffered a disappointing loss as the Blue Devils came from behind to win the game 8-7 in the tenth inning (Daily Times-News, March 22, 1957, p. 10-A). During the weeks that followed the Christians took five wins against only two losses behind the strong hitting of Buddy Montgomery. The big wins in the series were over East Carolina and Atlantic Christian. The hero in both games was Gil Watts. In the East Carolina win, he shut out the Pirates 6-0 on a four-hitter. Against Atlantic Christian, he hit the homerun that tied the score in the ninth and then proceeded to strike out the side in the tenth to give Elon the win (Maroon and Gold, April 17, 1957, pp. 3-4). Down the stretch the Elonites garnered wins in seven of its last eight games, all against conference foes to finish the season with an excellent 17-5 record overall and 12-3 in conference play. Elon's superstar, Gilbert Watts, was the man of the season as he finished the year with seven wins and only one loss. He also batted at an amazing .519 clip (Phi Psi Cli, pp. 102-114). At the end of the season Elon claimed the North State title when Atlantic Christian beat Catawba to drop the Tribe to the second spot (Maroon and Gold, May 20, 1957, p. 9).

The following year Coach Sanford had a fine nucleus returning to defend the conference crown. The team's ace pitchers Watts and Henderson were both back for another year of mound duties along with some promising freshmen (Maroon and Gold, February 26, 1958, p. 3). The team opened the season like a bombshell as the Christians took their first five starts which included two wins over a visiting Rensselaer Polytechnic team from New York (Daily Times-News, April 3, 1958, p. 10-A). After that the team just kept on rolling as they won nine of their next thirteen games including one tie with Catawba. The winning drive also included a 5-4 win over East Carolina to issue the Pirates their first loss in conference play (Maroon and Gold, May 7, 1958, p. 3). Elon closed the season by winning seven of its last nine games. In the final game of the regular season Catawba and Elon were directed to replay their earlier tie by conference commissioner, Dr. C. R. Hinshaw (Maroon and Gold, May 20, 1958, pp. 3-4). The directive was issued after Catawba was awarded three forfeits and Elon one because of a league ruling that said that all rained out games that affected the conference title had to be played or forfeited (Daily Times-News, May 19, 1958, p. 8). In the title game the Christians won by a 4-3 margin as Gil Watts sat the Tribe down with a one-hitter (Maroon and Gold, May 20, 1958, pp. 3-4).

After the win over Catawba the team advanced to the NAIA baseball tournament in Alpine, Texas. After an opening come-from-behind 10-8 win over Indiana State, the Christians lost their next two games to San Diego State and Indiana State to close the season (Daily Times-News, June 6, 1958, p. 9-A). Although the Christians were disappointed in their defeat

they took great satisfaction in the team's outstanding record and pride in the fact that Coach Sanford received District Coach of the Year honors, and their ace hurler, Gil Watts, was selected to the NAIA All-American squad (Alumni News, December 1958, p. 2; Alumni News, October 1958, p. 17).

When the 1959 season rolled around, Coach Sanford welcomed ten lettermen back from his championship team of the year before. Included among these was Gilbert Watts, 6-1, 178-pound senior, who along with his pitching skills could play both the infield and outfield (Maroon and Gold, March 26, 1959, p. 3). The Christians opened the season by winning ten of their first twelve games. Eight of those games were to non-league opponents. In the conference Elon had a 2-0 record with wins over High Point and Guilford. In the victory over the Quakers, Gil Watts ". . . entered the charmed circle of no-hit, no-run hurlers defeating Guilford 5 to 0" (Alumni News, April 1959, pp. 5, 7). Three games later Watts was at it again, this time with his bat. The school newspaper gave the following account of his performance in the doubleheader against Western Carolina:

Watts was nothing short of sensational in the two North State Conference battles, which saw him blast six hits in 9 trips off the Catamounts pitchers, including four homers and a brace of singles which combined to drive eight Elon scores over the plate (Maroon and Gold, April 30, 1959, p. 3).

As the season grew to an end the team lost four of its last eight games, twice to East Carolina. Those wins gave the Pirates the North State title (Phi Psi Cli, 1960, p. 154). The Christians finished the season in second place with a 20-7 overall record and a 11-4 slate against conference foes (Elon Record Book, pp. D-51, D-65). Pitcher Gil Watts

closed his career by making the All-State team for the third year in a row (Elon Record Book, p. D-35).

The following year March snows forced the team to confine its work to inside drills. That year there were a lot of newcomers in the Elon camp and Coach Sanford himself did not even know who would be in the lineup on opening day. There was one thing for certain, however, and that was that ace pitcher Gary Henson would be counted on heavily (Maroon and Gold, March 18, 1960, p. 3). During the early part of the season it was the inclement weather as well as the lack of experience which spelled defeat for the Christians. In the first seven games the Elonites could gain but two wins as the opposition pounded the Elon hurlers for sixty runs (Maroon and Gold, April 15, 1960, p. 3). During the middle of the schedule the team improved somewhat by winning five games while losing seven conference games to Atlantic Christian, Western Carolina, Guilford, Lenoir-Rhyne, and East Carolina, which ended any hope of gaining North State honors (Elon Record Book, p. D-52). After such a slow start the steadily improving Elonites caught fire and won nine of their last ten games to gain a winning season and salvage some self-respect (Maroon and Gold, May 20, 1960, pp. 3-4). In the final game of the season with Gary Henson pitching in what was referred to as a "masterful fashion" the team took a 13-1 win over Appalachian to gain a respectable 19-11 record. For Gary Henson, it was his eleventh win of the year, which gave the Elon hurler the school record for the most wins in a single season (Daily Times-News, May 19, 1960, p. 3-B).

Tennis Goes Up And Then Down

Along with other sports, tennis was started anew on the Elon campus in the spring of 1946. With Coach Lacy B. Adcox directing the team, the Christians attained a 2-4 regular season record and finished second in the conference standing. Tommy Broyenton, Al Burlingame, and Bill Lowe were among those who scored wins during the year (Phi Psi Cli, 1947, p. 105). The following season J. L. "Jet" Pierce was selected to coach the Elon netters. Under his charge the team compiled a record of 5-6 with wins over Oak Ridge Institute and two victories each over Guilford and Lenoir-Rhyne. The team again finished in the second spot in conference standings. Bill Winstead reached the finals in North State tournament competition, while Lawrence Paige and Frank McCauley reached the semi-finals in doubles play (Phi Psi Cli, 1948, p. 126). The 1948 team returned many of its players from the previous season (Phi Psi Cli, 1948, p. 126). With an abundance of experience on hand, the team finished the season with an impressive 8-3 card. Its only conference loss was to High Point who again took top honors in the North State loop leaving the Elonites in second place for the third straight year (Maroon and Gold, 1948, p. 4).

The following season the Elon tennis program was given a boost with the construction of three new all-weather tenniko tennis courts (Alumni News, October 1948, p. 8). The team played only fifteen of its twenty-two scheduled matches that year as the others were either rained out or cancelled. When regular season was over the Elonites were sporting a respectable 8-7 record which included five conference wins against only

three losses. In the conference tournament which was held on the Elon campus, Bill Winstead made it to the semi-finals as did the doubles team of Walter Temple and Bill Godfrey (Maroon and Gold, May 20, 1949, p. 3).

In 1950 the Elon racketeers brought home their first North State tennis title since World War II. They compiled an excellent 8-3 record for the year (Phi Psi Cli, 1951, p. 113). Against conference competition the team was even more impressive as it carded a 7-1 slate (Daily Times-News, May 18, 1950, p. 9-A). In North State tournament play, Captain Bill Winstead proudly wore the Elon colors as he claimed the singles' title (Maroon and Gold, January 17, 1951, p. 4). The next year as the Christians prepared to defend their title, Coach Pierce could only count two veterans among the tennis hopefuls. Gone from last year's squad was captain and conference singles' champion Bill Winstead (Maroon and Gold, March 21, 1951, p. 3). Without their ace the team floundered and suffered through a disastrous 0-13 season (Maroon and Gold, May 19, 1951, p. 3). The following year was another loser for the Elon netters who managed to win only two of their fourteen matches. Those wins were over Lynchburg and Lenoir-Rhyne by 5-4 scores (Phi Psi Cli, 1953, p. 91). The 1953 net team was greatly improved as they garnered an 8-10 ledger. With Bill Blackstone leading the way, the Elon racket-wielders won five of their last seven matches to finish the season in high gear (Maroon and Gold, May 20, 1953, p. 3; Phi Psi Cli, 1954, p. 91).

During the next five years the tennis program on the Elon campus hit rock bottom as the team compiled records of 3-7 in 1954; 2-15 in 1955; 3-7 in 1956; 0-8 in 1957 before the remainder of the schedule was cancelled;

and 2-13 in 1958 (Phi Psi Cli, 1955, p. 92; Phi Psi Cli, 1956, p. 99; Maroon and Gold, May 22, 1956, p. 3; Maroon and Gold, May 20, 1957, p. 3; Phi Psi Cli, 1959, p. 116).

In 1959 the tennis team finally showed some measure of improvement by gaining three wins over Pfeiffer and one over High Point to complete the season with a 5-6 record (Maroon and Gold, May 14, 1959, p. 4). The following season, however, the netters were less fortunate. They closed out the decade with only a 3-6-1 slate (Alumni News, June 1960, p. 20).

Track Program Takes Two Steps Forward And One Back

The college did not reestablish a track program on the campus until 1950 but the male students at the school initiated a program as early as March 1947. Lacking a track, track equipment, and an official coach, twenty-eight men reported for practice that spring in hopes of starting Elon's first post-war cinder team. With Joe Golombek serving as student coach, many of the track hopefuls started training by running to Gibsonville and back (Daily Times-News, May 6, 1950, p. 6; Maroon and Gold, March 22, 1947, p. 3). It was a full three years later before the college officially fielded a track team. Even though the team did not participate in any regular season meets in 1950, it did run in the North State Conference track meet where it garnered second place behind Guilford by a 58-56 margin. Elon took nine first places in the conference meet; Leonard Greenwood scored thirteen points for the Christians (Daily Times-News, May 6, 1950, p. 6). The following year the Elon tracksters won the North State title as the Christians turned the tables on the Guilfordians and gained a 57-53 victory. Leonard Greenwood again led the

Elon charge by scoring 20½ points (Maroon and Gold, May 16, 1951, p. 3). In 1952 although the college was still not sponsoring a regular season of track, the Elonites finished third in the championship meet (Daily Times-News, May 12, 1952, p. 2). The following year, the Maroon and Gold again finished in the third spot as Mell Bennett, Elon's "sensational freshman," racked up 22 points, while establishing new standards in the high and low hurdles (Maroon and Gold, May 20, 1953, p. 3). The next season it was John Platt's turn as he led Elon to a third place finish in the conference meet. In that event he led all scorers and set a new conference mark in the pole vault with a vault of 10'6" (Maroon and Gold, May 25, 1954, p. 3).

In 1955 the college finally scheduled a regular season for the team. In its dual meets the Christians claimed a 3-1 record. In its final meet of the regular season, the team turned back the Wake Forest Deacons 67-64 (Maroon and Gold, May 24, 1955, p. 3). In the conference meet the cinder-men took top honors. The Elon runners raced to victory on the heels of Horst Mevius when the Christians' ". . . middle distance star from Lubeck, Germany, set two new records as he won both the quarter and half" (Phi Psi Cli, 1956, p. 96). Again in 1956 the tracksters finished the regular season with an excellent 3-1 mark. In its final dual meet of the year the Elonites got revenge for their only regular season loss of the previous year as the Christians' mile relay team came from behind to give the Elon cinder team a 66-65 win over Lynchburg at Burlington Memorial Stadium (Maroon and Gold, May 22, 1956, p. 3). The tracksters were not as fortunate in the North State Conference meet, however, as they finished

second behind a strong East Carolina squad (Daily Times-News, May 14, 1956, p. 7-A).

Larry Gregg, Elon star sophomore, led the Elon harriers during the 1957 season. The Christian cindermen finished the regular season with a 5-4 record. In the conference meet held in Burlington, it was Gregg again leading the Christian charge as he accumulated eighteen points in four events, enabling the Elon team to take runner-up honors for the second straight year (Maroon and Gold, May 20, 1957, p. 3). In 1958 the Christian track team completed the regular season with a perfect 4-0 record. To its credit were victories over Catawba, High Point, Atlantic Christian, and Lynchburg. The East Carolina Pirates won the conference meet, however, while Elon runners grabbed the second spot for the third straight year (Maroon and Gold, May 23, 1958, p. 3). The following year the tracksters finished their regular season with a respectable 5-4 slate (Maroon and Gold, May 14, 1959, p. 4). In the 1959 North State title meet, however, they found themselves relegated to sixth place. The following year the Christians lost their first track meet of the year to Washington and Lee by a 95-47 score. After that loss, the team finished the season with four straight victories over Guilford, Newport News Apprentice, Lynchburg, and Guilford (Alumni News, June 1960, p. 20). In the conference meet the Christians finished in the fifth spot. Eddie Burke took honors in the high and low hurdles (Maroon and Gold, May 20, 1960, p. 3).

Golf Tees Up On The Elon Campus

In 1949 the college fielded its first golf team. Captain Cecil Lilley led a group of club swingers to a less than spectacular 3-7 record.

It was Dave Mondy, however, who gained top honors for the Elon linksters that year when he took the medalist title in the North State tournament (Maroon and Gold, May 20, 1949, p. 3). The following year the team again finished the season with a 3-7 slate against some strong competition. Dave Mondy again led the Christian charge (Maroon and Gold, January 17, 1959, p. 4). The team only won one of its six matches in 1951, but after an off-year Elon ace Dave Mondy again took the top spot in the conference tournament (Maroon and Gold, May 16, 1951, p. 3; Alumni News, October 1951, p. 7). The following year the Elon golfers won it all as the team finished the season with a perfect 8-0 record in conference play (Daily Times-News, May 2, 1952, p. 3-B). In the North State tournament the team continued its good play to give Elon its first North State golf title. Although Mondy did not repeat his feat of the year before, his play was very instrumental in the championship match (Maroon and Gold, May 21, 1952, p. 3). The team could only win two of its ten matches in 1953. It was apparent that they missed their top linkster Dave Mondy (Maroon and Gold, May 20, 1953, p. 3). Things improved the following season, however, as the Christians improved their win column by two and ended the season with a 4-6 record. In the conference tournament the Elonites finished in the second position behind a talented East Carolina team. Elon's ace golfer, Don Smith, had lost the medalist title in a playoff round (Daily Times-News, May 10, 1954, p. 2-B). After a surprising win over Appalachian in their final match the Elon golfers finished the next season with a 7-3 card and a third place finish to their credit in the conference tournament (Phi Psi Cli, 1956, p. 99).

In 1956 the Elon golfers finished the season with a brilliant 12-0 record as the Four L's, Freddie Lloyd, Henry Landress, Bobby Loy, and Jimmy Leighton all played well for the Christians (Maroon and Gold, May 22, 1956, p. 3). In the conference tournament held at the Starmount Country Club in Greensboro the linksters were not to be denied as they captured the title match to give Elon its second golf championship in five years (Daily Times-News, May 9, 1956, p. 11-A).

After the success of the previous season the team was disappointed to finish a distant sixth in the 1957 conference tournament with a regular season record of 8-5 (Maroon and Gold, May 20, 1957, p. 4). The following season the team compiled a 5-3-1 card. Bobby Loy led the Christians to a second place finish in the North State tournament although he lost medalist honors by a single stroke (Maroon and Gold, May 23, 1958, p. 4; Daily Times-News, May 7, 1958, p. 2-D). In 1959 the team won its third title as senior Freddie Lloyd took medalist honors (Daily Times-News, May 13, 1959, p. 10-A). The Elon victory came as a surprise since the Christians had finished the regular season with only a 4-5 record, with losses to three North State teams (Maroon and Gold, May 14, 1959, p. 4). The Elon golfers opened the following season with wins in their first nine matches. In its last four contests, however, the team could only salvage one win and two ties to finish the year with a good 10-1-2 record. Elon's number one player, Eddie Hughes, finished the season undefeated (Daily Times-News, May 13, 1960, p. 11-A). In the conference title match the Elonites finished third (Maroon and Gold, May 20, 1960, p. 4).

Summary

Following the decision to drop the athletic program during World War II the students on campus wasted little time in directing their athletic talents into an extensive intramural program. Although it lacked the glamour of intercollegiate competition, it did give the Elon students an avenue to participate in a sporting endeavor. Thus during those war years the campus was alive with athletic competition.

Following the announcement by the Board of Trustees of the decision to re-enter intercollegiate competition, Dr. L. E. Smith, Elon's President, wasted little time in naming L. J. "Hap" Perry, a former Elon athlete and successful high school coach, to direct the athletic fortunes of the college. Under his direction the Elon athletic teams took great strides to once again become a force to be reckoned with in North State Competition. Although his teams captured only one title his work at the school laid the foundation for a brighter future. In December of 1947 Coach Perry resigned his post at Elon to assume the position as commissioner of the state's high school athletic programs. For his successor the college chose James B. Mallory. Coach Mallory, a Carolina graduate, brought to the athletic program a youthful enthusiasm which gained for the institution a firm post-war footing in the state's athletic circle. Before his departure in 1953 the young Elon mentor had compiled a tremendous record. In football his teams, noted for their explosive offense, compiled an excellent 28-10-3 record. His 1949 team led by All-American Arnold Melvin was his best effort as that team gained an 8-2 slate to garner second place in the North State Conference. It was in baseball, however, where Coach Mallory

gained the most recognition. Under his direction the Elon nine amassed 106 wins against only 41 losses in claiming three North State titles and two divisional titles.

After floundering for a few years after the war, the college's basketball fortunes took a turn for the better when Graham L. Mathis was selected to direct the team in 1949. During his ten-year tenure on the Elon campus his cagers won an amazing one hundred and sixty games, the most wins ever by an Elon coach. His best efforts were in 1952, 1956, and 1957 when his team won district titles and participated in the national championship tournaments in Kansas City. When "Doc" Mathis resigned in 1959, President Danieleley selected William Ralph Miller for the position.

The college did not re-initiate its track program until 1950 and although there was not much emphasis put on the cinder sport, the teams did amazingly well. During the years that followed the team finished near or on the top in the North State track meets no less than nine times, garnering third place three times, second place four times, and capturing the title on two occasions. Its best effort was in 1956 when Horst Mevius led the Christians to the championship as he set new conference records in both the quarter and half-mile events.

Harry E. Varney coached the football eleven during most of the 1950's with only a measure of success. His best efforts were in 1954 and 1957 when his teams finished in second position in the North State Conference. The 1957 team was something special as it finished the season with a perfect 6-0 record. A flu epidemic cost the team the title that year when two conference games were cancelled. The team was remembered as being "Undefeated, Untied, and Uncrowned."

In 1946 tennis was reinstated on the Elon campus. The racketeers gained three second place finishes in conference play during the late forties. The team reached a peak in 1950 when it won the North State title behind the excellent play of star, Bill Winstead, who garnered the loop's singles' title. After that championship season the team received little recognition for the remainder of the decade.

Elon fielded its first golf team in 1949 and it was obvious from the start that the new sport was going to be a good one for the Christians. Two-time conference medalist Dave Mondy led the Elonites to their first title in 1952. The Christians won the title again in 1956 and 1959 to give Elon its third North State Golf Championship in nine years. The team also gained the second position in 1954 and 1958 while finishing third in both 1955 and 1960.

During the mid-fifties "Doc" Mathis served as baseball coach for three years. Under his direction the Christian nine experienced excellent success and captured the conference title in 1954. "Doc" gave up the diamond sport, however, when the college hired John D. Sanford in 1956. Coach Sanford wasted little time in making his presence felt as he led the team to North State titles in both 1957 and 1958. His 1958 team also participated in the NAIA Tournament, a first for an Elon baseball team.

CHAPTER VII
THE DECADE OF THE SIXTIES (1960-1970)

Football

George M. Tucker Builds A Conference Football Winner

As Elon College opened its doors to the decade of the sixties there was a new football coach heading up the gridiron sport. He was George M. Tucker, an East Carolina alumnus. Joining him on the staff were two other East Carolina College graduates, Gary Mattocks and Johnny Wike (Alumni News, October 1960, p. 6).

Commenting on the approaching football season David Marshburn, the school's sports editor, made the following observations in the Maroon and Gold:

It is a sure thing though that Coach George Tucker and his outfit will be going for a better showing for Elon this fall than in some recent years. It is a year of new coaches, a new system, many new players and a new look (September 30, 1960, p. 3).

The Christians opened their 1960 season with two straight victories. The first was over ancient rival Guilford by a score of 19-7. George Wooten, quarterback, ". . . displayed some clever ball handling as the Elon backs broke loose for lengthy gains." Against a visiting Newport News Apprentice eleven the Elon team coasted to a 30-0 victory (Alumni News, October 1960, p. 10).

After the Newport News win the gridgers dropped their next three outings to Appalachian, East Carolina, and Tampa before gaining a remarkable win over a visiting Catawba eleven. The Maroon and Gold gave

the following description of the final fifteen seconds of play in that game:

Hitting one of the high spots in Elon's more than half a century of football history, winged-footed George Wooten really swung into orbit as he grabbed an errant Catawba field goal attempt and sprinted from deep in the Elon end zone on a goal-to-goal touchdown dash to give the Christians a 13-12 victory over the Indians in the Elon Homecoming battle here last Saturday (October 28, 1960, p. 3).

The Catawba victory was followed by a resounding defeat at the hands of the Western Carolina Catamounts by a 41-6 margin (Phi Psi Cli, 1961, p. 88). After that defeat the Christians could gain only one more win in their last three games and that was a 7-0 win over Newberry. Defeats came at the hands of Lenoir-Rhyne and Presbyterian. The Christians finished the season with a 4-6 record (Alumni News, June 1960, p. 22). For his outstanding play quarterback George Wooten garnered All-Conference and All-District honors (Maroon and Gold, December 15, 1960, p. 3).

The following year there was an air of optimism in the Elon football camp as everyone was looking forward to playing in a new conference, the Carolinas Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. There was also a smile on Coach Tucker's face as he looked over the Fighting Christian team.

It was a fine looking squad of more than fifty candidates who greeted Coach Tucker and his staff at the opening practice this fall, with all the boys reporting in seemingly fine physical condition (Maroon and Gold, October 6, 1961, p. 3).

Playing its opener against Guilford in Burlington Memorial Stadium the Elonites had to score two touchdowns in the last four minutes to gain an exciting 12-8 victory. In its next two games, however, against an excellent Wofford eleven and conference foe Appalachian, the team was not as fortunate and met defeat by scores of 20-12 and 23-0 respectively (Maroon and Gold, October 6, 1961, pp. 3-4).

The loss to the Mountaineers was followed by three more setbacks to East Carolina, Tampa, and Catawba as the Christians were sporting a dismal 1-5 ledger (Alumni News, May 1963, p. 22). The team finished the season in high fashion, however, by winning three of its last four games. The victories over Western Carolina, Newberry and a "heavily favored" Presbyterian team resulted in a respectable 4-5 record (Phi Psi Cli, 1962, p. 123).

The most exciting victory of the year came in the homecoming celebration as George Wooten ". . . booted a 30-yard field goal with only two seconds left in the ball game to give the Fighting Christians an almost unbelievable 11 to 9 Homecoming victory over Western Carolina before an estimated 2,000 spectators" (Daily Times-News, October 30, 1961, p. 2B).

Again, as he had the previous season, Wooten received post-season honors and made both All-Conference and All-District. In addition he was selected to the second team NAIA All-American squad (Alumni News, April 1962, p. 13).

In 1962 the Elon football eleven took up where it left off the year before by winning its first two football games. With tri-captains Burl Clements, George Wooten, and Howard Arner leading the way the Elon grid-iron hopefuls took wins over Newport News Apprentice and Guilford by scores of 20-0 and 10-3. In its third game against Appalachian in Boone the team was rendered its first defeat. The Mountaineers dedicated their new ten thousand seat stadium with a 27-12 victory (Maroon and Gold, October 5, 1962, p. 3).

The following Saturday saw yet another Elon setback. This time the loss was to a visiting Carson Newman eleven ". . . by a score of 22-20 in the

first meeting ever held between these teams" (Alumni News, October 1962, p. 20).

After that defeat the Christians found themselves and went on to win five of their last six games with victories over East Carolina, Catawba, Western Carolina, Newberry, and Frederick College in Norfolk, Virginia. The lone loss came against a Lenoir-Rhyne eleven in a game that was played for a share of the conference title (Phi Psi Cli, 1963, p. 84).

The biggest thrill of the season came in the 23-19 victory over East Carolina as Little All-American George Wooten skirted around left end on a "naked reverse" to gain the win. The win was even sweeter as the Elon gridgers had to come from behind after Pirate wingback Jerry Tolley ran 52 yards on a reverse play to give East Carolina the lead (Maroon and Gold, October 19, 1962, p. 3).

For the year the 1962 Christian footballers garnered a 7-3 slate and the runner-up spot in the Carolinas Conference. The seven wins were the most for an Elon grid team since 1950. Post-season awards that year went to seniors Burl Clements, fullback; George Wooten, quarterback; and Cameron Little, junior guard (Phi Psi Cli, 1963, p. 84).

In 1963 the Fighting Christians gained a tie for the conference title with Tri-Captains Dan Kelley, Cameron Little, and Willie Tart leading the charge (Phi Psi Cli, 1964, p. 90).

Elon opened that championship season as if they would not win a game when they suffered one point losses to both Guilford and Emory and Henry. In those two defeats transfers Jerry Rowe, Morris Thomas, and Ed Wheless were still learning Coach Tucker's style of play (Maroon and Gold,

October 4, 1963, p. 3). In their third outing the Christians finally got in the win column with a 28-7 victory on a rain-soaked field in Memorial Stadium as Sonny Pruette and Willie Tart "sloshed" their way into the end-zone (Daily Times-News, September 30, 1963, p. 2-B).

The footballers evened their record at 2-2 when they upset Appalachian by a 16-13 margin. The team ". . . broke a string of five consecutive Mountaineer victories over Elon in a series, and it also shot the Fighting Christians to the top of the heap in the bitter race for Conference laurels" (Alumni News, October 1963, p. 15).

After the great victory over Appalachian the team lost two of its next three games by close scores. A 6-0 loss to East Carolina in Greenville was followed by a 7-6 victory over Carson-Newman to spoil their Homecoming. The following Saturday the Christians traveled to Catawba to face another homecoming crowd. This year, however, it was the Indian graduates who did all the celebrating as the Tribe tallied two touchdowns in the final five minutes to gain the 12-7 victory (Maroon and Gold, November 1, 1963, p. 4). That defeat was followed by a homecoming victory over a visiting Western Carolina eleven by a 19-10 margin as Elon's 1941 Championship football team looked on (Maroon and Gold, November 1, 1963, p. 4; November 15, 1963, p. 4).

The Christians closed out their first championship season since 1941 with two straight wins over Newberry and Lenoir-Rhyne. The championship team was led that year by transfer quarterback Ed Wheless and running back Willie Tart. They, of course, made All-Conference as did Dan Kelly, Joe Berdosh and Cameron Little (Phi Psi Cli, 1964, pp. 90-91).

In an awards ceremony held in May, Dr. J. E. Danieleley, the College President, announced that the college would retire Captain Willie Tart's jersey number "25." The Alumni News gave the following account of the festivities:

This is the first time in the history of the school that a jersey has been retired at Elon.

The following is a review of Tart's honors: All-Carolina's [sic] Conference; All NAIA District Honors; All-State; Outstanding Back in Conference; All-American in the NAIA Squad (June 1964, p. 19).

As the 1964 football season approached most of the papers in the state were picking Elon to win the Carolinas Conference championship with Lenoir-Rhyne offering the strongest competition. The Christian footballers and Coach Tucker accepted the challenge of the preseason prognosticators and promptly won their first game against Emory and Henry in Bristol, Tennessee, by a 14-6 margin. Ed Wheless threw for the two touchdowns. In their second encounter the Christians overcame miscues as well as the traditionally stubborn Guilford defense to win 15-6 at the Quakers' new Armfield Athletics Center. Running back Sonny Pruette ". . . broke through the middle, dodged a pair of tacklers and went off to pay territory on a brilliant 83-yard T.D. sprint" (Maroon and Gold, October 2, 1964, pp. 3-4).

In its next two games the team took wins over Appalachian State by a 28-7 margin and then Camp Lejeune by a 9-7 tally. Ed Wheless and end Rex Harrison led the offense. The Elon defense played well as they held each of their first four opponents to seven points or less. For their good play the team took on the nickname ". . . Commancheros--the meanest men of questionable parentage on the face of the earth" (Maroon and Gold, October 16, 1964, pp. 3-4).

The Christians stretched their winning streak to six games as they were victorious over Carson-Newman and Catawba in Burlington. Against the Tribe, it was once again Ed Wheless leading the offense that enabled the Christians to rally from a seventeen-point deficit to win yet another homecoming thriller (Phi Psi Cli, 1965, pp. 79-81).

In its next game, played in Cullowhee, the Christian gridders as expected took an early 20-0 lead. The lead was short-lived, however. The Catamounts rallied for twenty-one points to gain the one-point victory while the Elon fans voiced concern about the officiating (Alumni News, November 1964, p. 13).

Two weeks later against a visiting Lenoir-Rhyne eleven the Christians gained their first outright football title in twenty-three years when the Bears and Christians played to a 7-7 defensive struggle as 6,500 spectators looked on. The team closed its championship season with a 48-7 victory over Frederick to give the Christians an 8-1-1 record for the year. After the conclusion of the season, Elon's quarterback, Ed Wheless, was named to the All-State and All-Conference teams. He was joined on the All-Conference eleven by five other Christian gridders including fifth-round National Football League draft choice, Rex Harrison (Maroon and Gold, December 11, 1964, pp. 3-4). For his role in leading the famous "Comancheros," defensive end Jerry Rowe, along with his other honors, garnered a berth on the NAIA All-American team (Maroon and Gold, January 15, 1965, p. 4).

On February 5, 1965, after a five-year tenure, George Tucker unexpectedly resigned his position as head football coach at Elon College. Under his direction the football team achieved a record of 21-8-1 and had

claimed the conference championship for the past two years. Upon his resignation Coach Tucker made the following statement:

"Elon has one of the finest small college athletic programs in the nation . . . and I feel that with the loss of only three active players from the 1964 squad by graduation the Elon football fortunes will continue good" (Alumni News, May 1965, p. 10).

Elon Football Program Gets A New Coach

Two days later the college appointed top aide Gary B. Mattocks, a 32-year-old graduate of East Carolina, as Elon's new football mentor. Joining him on the Christian football staff were C. Bennett Williamson, a Wake Forest alumnus, and Alan J. White also a Wake Forest graduate who had joined the staff the previous year (Alumni News, May 1965, pp. 10-11).

With first-year coach Mattocks at the helm the Christians were once again picked to gain conference honors as co-captains Joe Dawson and Morris Thomas led twenty-two lettermen into their opening game against a visiting Emory and Henry eleven. The game ended as expected with the Christians gaining a 15-14 victory (Maroon and Gold, October 1, 1965, p. 3).

After the initial victory the team went on a losing streak which did not end until the last game of the year brought a 28-6 victory over Frederick College. The Daily Times-News gave the following account of the game:

Freshman quarterback Burgin Beale won his spurs at Memorial Stadium Saturday night as he passed for two touchdowns and ran over another to lead the Elon College Christians to an upset 28-6 season-ending victory over Frederick College's Lions before a sparse turnout of less than 1,000 chilled fans (November 22, 1965, p. 2-B).

The following season, 1966, was not any better for the Fighting Christians. Co-Captains Joe Robinson and Macky Carden watched the Elon

team lose their first three games to Emory and Henry, Guilford, and Appalachian, while quarterback Burgin Beale assaulted the Elon College record book with his passing (Maroon and Gold, October 7, 1966, p. 3).

It was a full six games into the season before the Christians could gain a victory and that came in a homecoming explosion over Catawba by a 39-26 score. That outing saw sophomore sensation Burgin Beale pass for 253 yards as freshman Richard McGeorge pulled eight receptions and his senior counterpart Pete Jarvis snared seven (Daily Times-News, November 24, 1966, p. 2-B).

The Christians finished the season with a disappointing 1-9 record. The gridgers garnered some satisfaction, however, in the fact that the team set thirty new all-time football records. Burgin Beale completed 131 of 271 passes, Pete Jarvis caught 51 of those passes, while Richard McGeorge gained 633 yards on his receptions (Maroon and Gold, December 9, 1966, pp. 3-4).

S. S. Wilson Selected As New Grid Coach

After the disasters of the two previous football seasons Dr. J. Earl Danieley, Elon's President, took steps to improve the situation when he selected S. S. "Red" Wilson to replace Gary Mattocks to guide the college's gridiron fortunes. Wilson, who was recognized as one of the top high school coaches in North Carolina, brought with him two of his assistants from Fayetteville Senior High School, Dwight D. "Mickey" Brown and Jerry R. Tolley. Alan J. White, an Elon grid assistant for the past three seasons, was retained (Alumni News, January 1967, p. 12). A few days later Charlie "Choo Choo" Justice, a former University of North Carolina All-

American, joined Coach Wilson as an Associate Coach on a part-time basis (Maroon and Gold, January 27, 1967, p. 2).

In his first meeting with the Elon players the new Elon mentor enthusiastically told his players that ". . . we are going into this football season with a will to win." He also stressed ". . . the necessity for 'pride' in a football team, calling on the squad for 'pride' in performance and pride in appearance" (Maroon and Gold, March 3, 1967, p. 4).

In May of that year assistant football coach Alan White left the Elon staff to take a similar position at Mississippi State University (Maroon and Gold, May 19, 1967, p. 3). To fill his position the college hired Donald K. Kelly, a teacher and athletic coach from Reynolds High School in Winston-Salem (Maroon and Gold, May 31, 1967, p. 3).

When the football season finally rolled around for the 1967 season Coach Wilson gave the Elon fans a new look. The Christian footballers had replaced the traditional T-formation offense with the single-wing. Led by Captains Lee Johnson and Lloyd Kanipe, the fans were not disappointed as the team won their opening game in Burlington Memorial Stadium. That night Burgin Beale completed touchdown passes to Richard McGeorge and Joe Rinaca. The latter was a 41-yarder with only fifty-one seconds remaining in the game resulting in a 28-21 victory over Guilford (Maroon and Gold, September 29, 1967, p. 3).

After four games the team was sporting a 2-2 ledger and a "determined Spirit." Elon was boasting one of the best passing combinations in the conference in Burgin Beale and Richard McGeorge. In the victory against Presbyterian, McGeorge snared eight receptions for 179 yards, an Elon record (Alumni News, November 1967, p. 4).

A loss to Carson-Newman was followed by a fourth-quarter victory over Catawba in what was described as a "wild-and-woolly" offensive battle featuring the Beale-McGeorge passing duo. The game was won, however, when Perry Williams split the up-rights with a twenty-seven yard field goal with only seventeen seconds remaining in the contest to give Elon a 31-29 come-from-behind victory (Maroon and Gold, October 27, 1967, p. 3).

The team did it again the following Saturday with another last-minute victory as 5,000 homecoming fans watched in amazement. With under two minutes remaining in the contest, the Christians mounted a phenomenal rally that saw Beale and company march ninety yards, passing to Richard McGeorge for the touchdown, and split-end Jimmy Walker for the two-point conversion to gain Elon a 20-20 tie with Western Carolina (Daily Times-News, October 30, 1967, p. 2-B).

The Christians closed the season by winning two of their last three games and finished the season with a 5-3-1 record (Phi Psi Cli, 1968, p. 100).

In the game against Lenoir-Rhyne in Hickory which was for a share of the conference crown the Bears outlasted the Christians 42-25 as they turned broken plays into touchdowns. The highlight of the game for the Elon fans was the 100-yard kickoff return by fullback Emory Moore (Maroon and Gold, November 17, 1967, p. 3). At the end of the successful season Elon's Richard McGeorge gained All-Conference and All-State honors as teammates Burgin Beale, Marty Bonnett, and Lloyd Kanipe joined him on the All-Conference team (Maroon and Gold, December 8, 1967, p. 4).

Elon opened the 1968 football season in grand fashion as they handed a visiting Concord eleven a stunning 66-12 defeat. The game featured the

passing of Burgin Beale who completed 15-21 tosses for 368 yards to set a new Elon standard. In its second outing the team did it again, this time on the ground as Emory Moore scored three touchdowns to give the Elon gridders a 21-10 victory over Guilford College in Greensboro (Maroon and Gold, October 4, 1968, pp. 3-4).

Just as everything was looking good for another great season the bottom fell out and the team lost their next four games to Appalachian, Presbyterian, Carson-Newman, and Catawba (Phi Psi Cli, 1969, p. 94). The team did gain a measure of lost respect by winning two of their last three games to salvage a respectable 4-5 season (Alumni News, September 1969, p. 10).

The thriller that year came in the season's finale when the Christians beat a great Lenoir-Rhyne eleven by a 23-21 score to knock the Bears out of the national playoffs. The win was called by many the ". . . biggest upset in the state this season and one of the biggest upsets in the Carolinas Conference history" (Daily Times-News, November 18, 1968, p. 2-B).

Again that year Beale, Kanipe, and McGeorge gained All-Conference recognition as did Pete McDaniels and Emory Moore. McGeorge was also voted the best lineman in the conference (Maroon and Gold, January 17, 1968, p. 3).

But it was Burgin Beale who received the most praise as he finished the season by garnering twenty-three all-time Elon records and ten all-time Carolinas Conference marks. He also gained 5,633 yards in total offense to erase a North Carolina record held by the famous Charlie Justice (Maroon and Gold, December 6, 1968, p. 3).

Elon started the next season on a winning note by gaining three wins in its first four games. The lone defeat came against an Appalachian team while victories were gained over Concord, Guilford, and an excellent Presbyterian eleven (Phi Psi Cli, 1970, p. 93).

At mid-season the Christians lost a heartbreaker in Tennessee to a good Carson-Newman Eagle squad. The Maroon and Gold gave this account of the closing minutes of the game:

With 1:04 left in the game the Elon coach decided to go for the two pointer on the final touchdown. This pass play from Arrington to Rinaca failed and Carson Newman kept the 21-20 lead (October 23, 1969, p. 3).

Elon closed out its season by winning four of its next five games with victories over Catawba, Newberry, Lenoir-Rhyne, and Gardner Webb to give Elon its first championship since 1964. The loss was to Western Carolina (Phi Psi Cli, 1970, p. 93). The victory over Catawba came as a result of a 2-0 forfeit because of the use of an ineligible player (Maroon and Gold, November 13, 1969, p. 3).

The big win, of course, came in the championship game against Lenoir-Rhyne on College Field in Hickory. Elon beat the Bears 29-0 that afternoon as Jimmy Arrington, Richard McGeorge, and Emory Moore led the offense (Daily Times-News, November 17, 1969, p. 12-A). The Elon team's highly touted secondary also contributed to the victory as noted in the Maroon and Gold:

And the Fleet-Footed Four--Tom Jernigan, Larry Raines, Danny Watson and Marty Bonnett--intercepted four Bear passes, the same number L.R. completed. Only 36 yards through the air was yielded by Elon's always stingy pass defense (December 4, 1969, p. 1).

That 1969 edition of the Fighting Christians, under the leadership of head coach and athletic director "Red" Wilson, finished the season with

7-3 overall and a perfect 5-0 record in the conference (Phi Psi Cli, 1970, p. 94).

And what a year for the captain Richard McGeorge! He finished his career with 224 catches, a national record, plus garnering six all-time Elon standards. At year's end the big tight end was selected All-Conference, All-District, All-State, Associated Press All-American, Kodak All-American, NAIA All-American, and Lineman of the Year for the Carolinas Conference. He was also selected to play in the North-South Shrine Game in Miami, Florida, as well as being drafted in the first round of the National Football League by the Green Bay Packers. It is no wonder that Elon decided to retire his number "85" jersey at the close of his career (Alumni News, January 1970, p. 6).

Elon Wrestles With A New Sport

In 1967 Paul G. Sebo, a professor at the college, started the foundation for the wrestling program on the campus (Phi Psi Cli, 1967, p. 85). Then, on December 15, 1968, under the tutelage of Coach Dwight D. Brown Elon College participated in its first intercollegiate wrestling match when the Christian grapplers traveled to Durham, North Carolina, for a contest with the Duke Blue Devils. Although the team lost that match by a 29-5 margin the Christians did not embarrass themselves as Emory Moore and Tom Jernigan both gained points (Maroon and Gold, January 12, 1968, p. 4). After that initial defeat the team went on to achieve a 4-3 record with wins coming over Guilford twice, Methodist College and North Carolina State University (Alumni News, October 1968, p. 21).

The following year the Maroon and Gold did not field a team as the college experienced "difficulties in obtaining a schedule" (Maroon and Gold, February 7, 1969, p. 2).

In 1970 the wrestlers were back on the mat and this time they improved their record to 7-2 and a second place finish in the NAIA District Tournament. From that tournament David Burke, Ken Strickler, and Ed Quinlivan won championships and the right to represent the college in the NAIA tournament in Superior, Wisconsin (Maroon and Gold, March 12, 1970, p. 3). An administrative decision cancelled that trip, however, (Maroon and Gold, March 19, 1970, p. 3).

Basketball

Basketball Continues To Be Strong On The Elon Campus

In his second year as coach of the basketball team at the college, Bill Miller hoped to improve on his 9-17 slate of the year before. He could count nine lettermen returning to what promised to be one of the strongest teams in the North State Conference. Returnees were Ken Smith, Richie Conatser, Dewey Andrew, and Herb Hawks. New players included Jesse Branson, Bill Morningstar, and Roland Miller (Maroon and Gold, October 14, 1960, p. 3). S. J. "Jug" Irvin, a transfer from Burkeville, Kentucky, was also among the returnees (Maroon and Gold, November 23, 1960, p. 4).

The Elon basketeers opened their season on a new and "highly polished" floor in Alumni Memorial Gymnasium against a visiting Pfeiffer team. It was Richie Conatser and "Jug" Irvin both tallying over twenty points who led the Christians to a 74-56 victory. Elon got into foul trouble in

its next outing resulting in a loss to Erskine although Captain Ken Smith led all scorers with twenty-eight points (Maroon and Gold, December 15, 1960, p. 3).

In their next seven games the "Millermen" managed wins over Wofford, Guilford, and Pembroke to carry a 4-5 slate into the Christmas Holiday Tournament at Camp Lejeune. There the team took consolation honors with wins over Georgia Southern and Catawba while a strong Pikeville quint from Kentucky captured the championship. As the season moved past the halfway mark the team's fortunes improved with three straight North State wins over Atlantic Christian, Catawba, and High Point (Alumni News, February 1961, p. 4). That Atlantic Christian victory was a thrilling one as "Jug" Irvin hit a jumper in the final seconds to give the Elonites the 77-76 win. With only eleven games remaining on the regular schedule the Christians were holding a 10-8 record and Irvin was sporting a twenty-plus scoring average (Maroon and Gold, January 23, 1961, pp. 3-4).

After winning ten of its last fifteen games the Christians finished the regular season with a 19-12 record. Perhaps the biggest game of the season came against the league leading Lenoir-Rhyne Bears in the last home game of the season as "Jug" Irvin scored 38 points in the 94-77 upset victory. The Maroon and Gold gave the following account of that game:

It was a cocky crew of Bears that hit the floor of Alumni Memorial Gymnasium, a team which had lost tonly [sic] twice in Conference play and only three times all season, and the invaders utterly unprepared for the atomic blast which hit them from all angles (February 24, 1961, p. 3).

Bill Miller's basketball team suffered two losses even before the season opened the following year as "Jug" Irvin was declared ineligible by

a conference ruling and Ken Smith was injured in an off-season accident. There were, however, some good prospects in the Elon camp since Dewey Andrew, Bill Morningstar, Roland Miller, and Jesse Branson were all returning from the year before (Maroon and Gold, November 10, 1961, p. 3).

As the new basketball season exploded on the scene, so did the Christians. The Maroon and Gold team won their first seven games before suffering a defeat. Three of those wins were in loop play against Pfeiffer, Atlantic Christian, and Guilford (Phi Psi Cli, 1962, p. 128).

They finally met their match, however, when they ran into a pro-laden Fort Lee, Virginia team and came out on the short end of a 76-65 score. That loss was followed by two more defeats, on successive days, to a good Cumberland College team on their court. After those losses the team rebounded to win the Camp Lejeune Tournament by beating a strong Pikeville team in the finals. Elon sophomore Dewey Andrew was presented the Most Valuable Player Award. In its next four contests the Elonites won games over Appalachian, Atlantic Christian, and Pembroke to give the Christians a 13-4 record. Captain Dewey Andrew along with Jesse Branson, Bill Morningstar, and Gary Teague all received praise from their coach (Maroon and Gold, January 16, 1961, pp. 3-4).

Down the stretch the team lost six of its remaining eleven games, five of which were to conference opponents (Phi Psi Cli, 1962, p. 128). In the Carolinas Tournament the Christians opened with a 68-59 victory over Pfeiffer only to lose in the second round to High Point in a "fiercely" fought game by an 80-73 margin. They finished the season with a good 19-11 ledger (Maroon and Gold, March 2, 1962, p. 3).

For the season Dewey Andrew was selected to both the All-Conference and All-District teams while freshman Jesse Branson garnered All-Conference honors. Andrew also set a new Elon scoring record with a 21.2 per game average while freshman Jesse Branson pulled down 459 rebounds, also a record (Alumni News, June 1962, p. 14).

When the 1962-1963 basketball season rolled around everyone on campus was looking for another successful season with Dewey Andrew, Jesse Branson, and Bill Morningstar all returning for another season of competition. It was felt that:

This group of veteran cagers packs both height and speed, with four of the Christian vets standing from 6'6" to 6'8" in height, which means a bulwark of strength under the backboards on both rebounds and tap-in buckets (Maroon and Gold, November 2, 1962, p. 3).

Behind All-Conference Captain Dewey Andrew the Elon cagers hit the court running and won their first seven contests before losing to Navy Subplant by a 75-74 score. Among the wins were conference victories over Pfeiffer, Atlantic Christian, Guilford, and Lenoir-Rhyne. The victory over Atlantic Christian was a thriller as it went right down to the wire with the Christians taking the game in an overtime period by a 83-82 margin (Alumni News, January 1963, pp. 27-28).

After that loss to Navy Subplant the team won its next three outings against Western Maryland, Frederick, and Atlantic Christian with Dewey "Big Duck" Andrew and Jesse Branson providing both the scoring and rebounding power. Those three wins were followed by three conference losses to East Carolina, Appalachian, and Catawba which put the Christians in the backseat in conference play (Maroon and Gold, January 18, 1963, pp. 3-4).

After the Catawba defeat the team regrouped and captured six wins in their next eight contests. Since five of these victories were in conference play, the Elonites gained some lost respect (Phi Psi Cli, 1963, p. 90).

With senior Captain Dewey Andrew nursing a sprained ankle the team lost their last three games. The last one against Lenoir-Rhyne was a close battle as the Bears gained a 56-55 victory and went on to claim the conference title. The Christians finished the season with a 17-9 card. Andrew and Branson led all scorers. Andrew was also selected to the All-Conference team for the second straight year (Maroon and Gold, March 1, 1963, p. 3).

During the 1963-1964 season captains Bill Morningstar and Roland Miller, two senior guards, led the Christians to a 14-1 record as the team passed the mid-season mark. The only loss was in game three by a convincing margin to a good Wofford five in Spartanburg. The victories included seven straight over conference competition to put the Christians on top in the league standings. During a win streak which included thirteen games, the Christians won the Fifth Annual Camp Lejeune Christmas Tournament with Jesse Branson scoring 30, 29, and 28 points on successive nights. In Elon's eleventh game of the season it was Branson doing it again. This time the 6'7" high scoring Christian cager tallied 44 points, a new school record, as the team took revenge on a helpless Wofford team by a 96-74 score (Alumni News, January 1964, pp. 18-19).

After mid-season, wins did not come as easy for the Christian basketeters. They lost six of their remaining games. Some of these were important conference tilts which dropped the team to the third spot in

the final league standings. It was Jesse Branson who led the team in both scoring and rebounding on his way to breaking seven Elon records. Captains Bill Morningstar and Roland Miller closed out successful careers, also (Phi Psi Cli, 1964, p. 98).

Elon saved its best performance until the last regular season game with a 73-67 win over a highly touted Western Carolina quint which ranked number three in the UPI poll. In that great upset win over the Catamounts, once again it was Branson leading the team as he scored twenty-eight points while grabbing twenty-five rebounds. A loss to Guilford in the first round of the tournament gave the talented roundballers a 21-7 slate for the year (Maroon and Gold, March 6, 1964, p. 3). For his record-breaking season Branson was awarded All-Conference, All-District, and All-State honors (Maroon and Gold, March 20, 1964, p. 3). Later in the year he was selected to the NAIA All-American team, the first Elon cager to be so recognized (Alumni News, April 1964, p. 16).

The Elon Christians began the 1964-1965 season minus their two veteran guards of the previous year. The cagers did have six lettermen returning, however, and one of those was All-American Jesse Branson (Maroon and Gold, November 13, 1964, pp. 3-4). The team started slowly due to injuries and erratic play and as the team passed the halfway mark they were holding a disappointing 8-8 record (Alumni News, January 1965, pp. 15, 23).

The team rallied behind the good play of Bobby Atkins, David Winfrey, and Branson to go on a winning rampage by defeating seven of eight opponents. The loss in the series was by one point, 68-67, to the High Point Panthers five, who were ranked number two in the country. The loss came

despite Branson's 41 points and 19 rebounds (Maroon and Gold, February 12, 1965, pp. 3-4).

At tournament time the Christians were reaching their peak and gained wins over Appalachian, Pfeiffer, and High Point to give Elon its first conference cage title since 1956. In the district tournament the team lost in first round competition and finished the season with a 17-12 record (Phi Psi Cli, 1965, p. 85).

The championship season brought to a close the outstanding playing career of Elon's "jumping-jack and eagle-eye shooter" Jesse Branson who had personally rewritten the basketball record book at the college. Along with his All-Conference, All-District, All-State, and All-American selection the big Elon center was honored once more as his number "40" jersey was retired in a ceremony held on the Elon campus (Alumni News, May 1965, p. 13).

There were only four lettermen in camp as the basketeers prepared for the next campaign. There were also two freshmen, Henry Goedeck and Bill Bowes, both of whom showed some promise (Maroon and Gold, November 19, 1965, p. 3). Again that season the youthful cagers were plagued with injuries when Tommy Davis was admitted to the hospital with pneumonia and Mike Meacham was seriously injured in the second game of the season when he fell through a glass door at the main entrance to Alumni Gymnasium after a drive toward the basket. Cuts sustained in the accident required 350 stitches in a three-hour operation (Alumni News, January 1966, p. 16). With these two veteran players out of the lineup, freshmen Henry Goedeck and Bill Bowers performed well; Goedeck carried a 24-point scoring average (Maroon and Gold, January 18, 1966, p. 3).

Down the stretch the team fought hard for a berth in the conference tournament and a chance to defend its title. They achieved their goal but lost out to High Point in the first round of tournament play and ended their injury-riddled season with a 13-11 record (Phi Psi Clj, 1966, p. 84).

The most satisfying win that cage season came in the Gate City Classic in Greensboro when Henry Goedeck scored thirty points as ". . . Bill Miller's injury-ridden quint trounced highly-favored Guilford 80 to 68 in Saturday night's finale (Daily Times-News, December 20, 1965, p. 2-B). When the All-Conference team was selected that year, it was no surprise that Elon's sensational freshman Henry Goedeck secured his place on the team (Maroon and Gold, March 4, 1966, p. 3).

As Bill Miller prepared for his seventh season as head coach at the college he could count five lettermen on the squad. These included junior Captain Tommy Davis, Joe Pendry, Steve Caddell, Bill Bowes, and of course, Henry Goedeck (Maroon and Gold, October 21, 1966, p. 3).

The young Christians opened the season by losing their first two games to Wofford and Guilford before winning their next three over Catawba, Pfeiffer, and Atlantic Christian. That would be the only time during that year that the cagers would show a winning record. In their next eight games they could manage only two wins, these coming over Wofford by one point to avenge an earlier loss and to Campbell by a 83-70 score. Another significant game was one that was hurriedly arranged with the University of South Carolina when the Gamecocks' contest with Duke was cancelled. In that tilt played in the Charlotte Coliseum the Christians led in the early

going but the ". . . taller and more experienced S.C. team took its toll on the smaller Elon players and the final outcome was a 102 to 78 victory for the Atlantic Coast Conference team"(Alumni News, January 1967, p. 15).

At mid-season in a game against Catawba it looked like the Elon team was going to turn its season around as 2,700 fans watched the youthful Christians surprise everyone with a 73-60 victory. Goedeck and Bowes led the cagers in that game grabbing 52 rebounds between them (Daily Times-News, January 16, 1967, p. 2-B).

Elon finished the season on a losing note as they could only manage four wins in their last eleven games. The result was an 11-14 slate. In its final game the team lost to Guilford by a 80-75 score as the Quaker center Bob Kauffman tallied 32 points and pulled down 21 rebounds (Maroon and Gold, March 3, 1967, pp. 3-4).

In the conference tournament the young Elonites won their opener against Western Carolina but lost out in the second round to Appalachian (Phi Psi Cli, 1967, p. 78). Again that year, Henry Goedeck was selected All-Conference and he led all Elon scorers with 479 points (Maroon and Gold, March 17, 1967, p. 4).

Everything looked good as the Christian cagers opened a new season by winning the Cumberland College Pre-Season Thanksgiving Tournament by defeating Georgia Southern and Shorter College on successive nights (Alumni News, February 1968, p. 10). When the team entered the conference play, however, things did not go so well. The cagers dropped eight of their next eleven outings (Maroon and Gold, January 19, 1968, p. 3).

After a disappointing showing in the first half of the season, the team found itself resting in the ninth position in the conference standing

with little hope of making the tournament (Maroon and Gold, February 9, 1968, p. 3).

Down the stretch the basketeers were a different team and ended the season by winning seven of their last eleven games to merit a berth in the tournament. Their loss came in the first round (Phi Psi Cli, 1968, p. 108).

The big win that year was in the last game of the regular season when the Christians took a 93-74 win over the league leading Guilford five. The Christian cagers "out-shot, out-rebounded and out-fought" the visiting Quakers (Daily Times-News, February 26, 1968, p. 2-B).

When the 1968-1969 practice session started the Christians were without the services of their leading scorer from the two previous seasons, Henry Goedeck. Coach Miller and his new full-time assistant Marshall W. Wiggins were counting on returning Captain Bill Bowes, Richard McGeorge, and freshman guard Tommy Cole as the nucleus of a winning team (Maroon and Gold, November 22, 1968, p. 3).

By the time the season actually got underway much to the delight of everyone Goedeck was back in uniform and the Christians promptly won five of their first eight games. With Bowes and McGeorge leading the scoring and rookie guard Tommy Cole beginning to make his presence felt, the team was beginning to look like one to be reckoned with for conference honors (Maroon and Gold, January 17, 1969, pp. 3-4).

At the halfway mark the team had gained conference wins over Atlantic Christian, Lenoir-Rhyne, Catawba, Guilford, and Pfeiffer with the "three big boys" McGeorge, Bowes, and Goedeck the leading scorers and rebounders

(Maroon and Gold, January 31, 1969, p. 3). This was particularly true in the 97-74 win over Catawba (Daily Times-News, January 13, 1969, p. 2-B).

In the middle of January the Elon team went on a twelve-game winning streak that gave the Christians a 19-6 overall record and a 13-4 ledger in conference play. This was good enough for a second place finish in loop competition. After such an outstanding regular season finish, Bowes, McGeorge, and Goedeck all claimed spots on the All-Conference squad. It was Goedeck's fourth appearance on the honor team (Maroon and Gold, March 7, 1969, p. 3).

Elon's winning streak came to a close as the Elonites lost in the semi-finals of both the conference and district tournaments. The Christians closed their season with an excellent 21-8 record (Phi Psi Cli, 1969, p. 97). The highlight of the year came in a first round victory over A & T University in the NAIA district tournament when the team set a national record by hitting 51 straight free throws (Maroon and Gold, March 14, 1969, p. 3).

The Elon College Christian cage squad opened the 1969-1970 campaign by winning its own Burlington Civitan Turkey Classic garnering wins over Western Carolina and arch-rival Guilford. Then during the Christmas break the basketeers won their second Holiday Tournament in Wilmington, North Carolina. Tommy Cole, Noble Marshall, and Tom McGee were voted to the All-Tournament team (Alumni News, January 1970, p. 13).

After the Holiday Tournament the team went in a mild slump and lost four while winning only three games. Two losses to High Point and Catawba by one point margins left the Christians with a 10-5 record overall and a

5-4 ledger in the conference standing (Maroon and Gold, January 29, 1970, p. 3). The Christians closed their highly successful regular season by winning nine of the last ten games before advancing to post-season play (Phi Psi Cli, 1970, p. 99). Down the stretch it was Cole, McGeorge, and rookie Larry Trautwein who led the team to a 19-6 regular season record (Maroon and Gold, March 12, 1970, p. 3).

In the conference tournament the Elon cagers advanced to the finals before losing to Guilford by a 66-61 score. The cagers also lost in the first round in the district tournament to A & T University but a consolation win over UNC-Charlotte gave the Christians a third place finish in that tournament. For the year it was All-Conference selection Tommy Cole who led the team to an outstanding 22-8 record (Phi Psi Cli, 1970, pp. 99, 101).

Baseball

Baseball Maintains Strong Tradition

In the fall of 1960 baseball coach Jack Sanford assumed the athletic directorship at the college. This new appointment did not distract him from his diamond sport, however, as he welcomed thirty-three players including twelve lettermen for fall practice. These included pitchers Jerry Tillman, Roger Knapp, and Jerry Drake (Maroon and Gold, September 30, 1960, p. 3).

In viewing the prospects, it would seem that our Elon baseball team is a combination with fine potentialities this spring, and the Christian baseball squad may well be called the dark horse in the North State Conference race (Maroon and Gold, March 10, 1961, p. 3).

The team started strong that season and gained an 11-2 record against non-league competition (Phi Psi Cli, 1962, p. 132). After losing their

first conference game to Guilford by a 7-6 score the Christians evened their loop record at 1-1 when they sent "three Lenoir-Rhyne pitchers reeling" as the diamond men beat the Bears 13-3. In that win it was Charlie Maidon and Leroy Myers gaining hitting honors; pitcher Jerry Tillman struck out twelve Bruin batters while scattering seven hits (Maroon and Gold, April 21, 1961, p. 3).

After the win over Lenoir-Rhyne the bottom fell out and the baseballers lost their next seven games, six of which were in league play (Alumni News, June 1961, p. 22). During the last third of the season, however, the Christians regrouped and won eight of their remaining eleven games to finish the season with a 22-10 record and a third place finish in the race for conference honors. The twenty-two wins for the single season were the most ever by an Elon diamond team. Credit for much of the team's success went to senior left hander Roger Knapp as he claimed a 7-2 record and Jim Leviner who led all hitters with a .318 average (Maroon and Gold, May 23, 1961, p. 4).

The following year Jack Sanford and his diamond squad hoped to improve on their 22-10 record of the previous season. Everything looked promising as All-State and All-Conference catcher Mike Little was back and so was All-Conference pitcher Jerry Tillman (Maroon and Gold, March 16, 1962, p. 3).

The Christians opened their season with non-league foes and recorded four wins against two losses (Phi Psi Cli, 1963, p. 94). In its next six outings the baseballers broke even with the opposition by taking wins over Atlantic Christian, Williams College, and Campbell, while losing conference games to Pfeiffer, High Point, and Lenoir-Rhyne (Alumni News,

May 1962, p. 4). In the loop opener against Atlantic Christian it was big Jerry Tillman doing the throwing as the ". . . Christians All-Conference moundmen allowed only one hit in the first five innings and scattered the enemy safeties the rest of the way as he cut off all Bulldog threats" (Maroon and Gold, April 13, 1962, p. 3).

As play approached the three-quarter mark the Elon baseballers were sporting a respectable 12-10 ledger but a 4-5 record in league play left the Christians in the eighth slot in league standing. In one of those conference wins the Christians stole a thriller from Guilford as Mike Little's and Jim Leviner's hitting rallied the team for six runs in the final inning to gain the 9-8 win (Maroon and Gold, May 4, 1962, p. 3).

Elon closed the 1962 season by winning six of its remaining eleven games. One of those victories was over an East Carolina nine by a 5-3 margin. In that game Jim Leviner, Elon senior first baseman, hit an inside-the-park grand-slam to give the Christians a 5-3 win. In the season's finale against Appalachian senior Jerry Tillman won his fifth game of the year as the Elonites pushed their record to 16-15 (Maroon and Gold, May 22, 1962, pp. 3-4).

In 1963 the Elon diamonders rode to a 19-15 record on the fine pitching of Charles "Lefty" Everett, Roy Erlandsen, and Jerry Drake. For the year Drake recorded the best record as he won seven of twelve outings. In the hitting department Gary Taylor led all batters and Mike Little finished in the second position (Phi Psi Cli, 1964, p. 100).

It was a "youthful" nine that opened the 1963 season by taking two of three games from a New York University nine as the Christians

". . . showed plenty of stuff both at the plate and in the field" (Maroon and Gold, March 29, 1963, pp. 3-4). In their next eight games the team won five as the Christians took victories over Catawba, Washington and Lee, Guilford, and a doubleheader over the College of William and Mary (Alumni News, May 1963, p. 22). In the double win over the visiting William and Mary team Jerry Drake allowed the visitors from the Southern Conference only four hits. Freshman second baseman Gary Taylor hit for a double and two singles (Maroon and Gold, April 9, 1963, p. 4). After a 7-6 win over Appalachian at mid-season the Christians were boasting an 11-6 record (Phi Psi Cli, 1964, p. 100). In that game against the Mountaineers which went eleven innings the Christians won in a thriller that ". . . saw six pitchers parade to the mound for the Carolinas Conference rivals and a battle which produced no less than 22 hits, 18 base-on-balls, and seven errors" (Maroon and Gold, May 3, 1963, p. 3).

Down the stretch the Christians flashed brilliance at times in winning eight more games and finished in the third spot in both the regular season and conference tournament (Alumni News, May 1963, pp. 19, 22). The baseballers enjoyed their successful season as Danny Hall, Charles "Lefty" Everett, and Mike Little made the All-Conference team and Gary Taylor was selected to the All-District team (Phi Psi Cli, 1964, p. 100).

Bad weather hampered the Christians the following season as their first two games against High Point and Catawba were called because of rain. When the skies finally cleared, however, the team played excellent baseball and won all but two of its first thirteen starts. Among those victories were conference wins over Lenoir-Rhyne, Western Carolina, Guilford,

and two over Atlantic Christian. Pitchers Jerry Tillman, Lefty Everett, Herbie Johnson, and Richard Such were all showing good form. In taking the two shutout wins against Atlantic Christian, Herbie Johnson fired a one-hitter and Richard Such pitched a perfect game for the first perfect game in the history of the college. The Maroon and Gold gave the following account of that performance:

Richard Such, a 6'3" freshman right-hander from Sanford, grabbed himself a space in Elon's all-time diamond annals when he threw a perfect game at the Bulldogs in the second game of the double-header. Not a Bulldog reached first base, and Such faced only 21 men in the seven frames as Elon won 3 to 0 (April 17, 1964, p. 3).

After taking a doubleheader from Newberry with Tillman and Everett claiming the wins, the Christians were posting an excellent 16-6 record. However, losses to Pfeiffer, Lenoir-Rhyne, and Catawba in league play kept the Christians out of first place in the conference standings (Maroon and Gold, May 1, 1964, pp. 3-4). Elon finished its loop schedule with a 12-4 record, good enough for the second spot in the league standing but losses to Pfeiffer and High Point in tournament play left the team without a title but an excellent 23-9 record. At the end of the season Elon placed five on the All-Conference squad including pitchers Tillman and Such; catcher, Phil Cheek; utility outfielder, Carlton Highsmith; and leading hitter, Gary Taylor (Alumni News, June 1964, pp. 18, 20).

Returning All-Conference performers highlighted the 1965 diamond team as Gary Taylor, Carlton Highsmith, Herbie Johnson, and Richard Such were again wearing the Elon colors (Maroon and Gold, March 12, 1965, p. 3).

Elon won its first game that year against a visiting Catawba nine by a 5-4 margin as "sturdy junior left-hander" Herbie Hawkes came in in

relief and pitched and batted the Christians to the victory (Maroon and Gold, March 26, 1965, p. 3). After the Catawba game the Elon bat swingers could manage only three wins while losing five as the talent-laden Christians were posting a disappointing 4-5 record. Finally, the team put it all together and won sixteen of its remaining games and entered the Conference tournament with an enviable 20-10 record (Phi Psi Chi, 1966, p. 88).

In the tournament the Christians played brilliantly only to lose to High Point in the final game by a 2-1 margin after the diamonders had fought their way through the losers bracket (Daily Times-News, May 17, 1965, pp. 2-B, 6-B). Art Davis, the Christians first baseman, led the team in hitting that year and pitchers Richard Such and Herbie Johnson claimed 7-2 and 8-3 records respectively (Maroon and Gold, May 21, 1965, p. 3). All three gained post-season honors as did Pete Crook, Gary Taylor, and Carlton Highsmith. Herbie Johnson topped all post-season award winners as he was also named on the All-State squad (Alumni News, July 1965, pp. 17, 19).

The 1966 team opened its schedule against Pembroke with ace pitcher Herbie Johnson on the mound. Although he allowed only seven hits while striking out ten, the Christians dropped the game to the visitors by a 5-0 score (Daily Times-News, March 21, 1966, p. 2-B).

That disappointing loss should have been an indication of things to come as the Elon batsmen dropped thirteen of their first fifteen games. A string of twelve consecutive losses was finally concluded when sophomore Burgin Beale, "who tosses a nifty football in the autumn months," set down

the Catawba Indians by five runs to one (Maroon and Gold, May 6, 1966, p. 3). After that win the team only won three more games and finished the season with a 6-20 ledger, the poorest record by an Elon nine in forty years (Alumni News, July 1966, p. 20).

In March of that baseball season the officials at the college decided to separate the positions of department head of physical education and Athletic Director and subsequently named Delmar "Dee" Atkinson, a former basketball star at the college, as its new Director of Athletics. The change was to take effect on August first of that year. One month later an announcement by Atlantic Christian President Dr. Arthur D. Wenger gave notice that Dr. John Sanford had been appointed Chairman of the Department of Physical Education at that school. Coach Sanford had served Elon as baseball mentor since 1956 and had led the Christians to twenty or more wins in a season with his only losing effort coming the last season (Alumni News, April 1966, p. 5).

Jerry Drake Succeeds Sanford As Baseball Mentor

After the departure of Jack Sanford from the Elon campus the officials at the college named Jerry Drake, a 1963 graduate of the institution, as its new baseball coach. Drake had been a scholarship baseball player for the Maroon and Gold nine and claimed a 20-11 record as a moundsman (Alumni News, July 1966, p. 23).

With only seven lettermen among the fifty-eight candidates reporting for early drills it was obvious the team was not in for a great season (Maroon and Gold, February 17, 1967, p. 3). The Christians opened play by losing a two game series in South Carolina to a Charleston College nine.

Six days later, however, the Maroon and Gold baseballers gave their first-year coach a win over a visiting Appalachian team by a 5-1 score as freshman moundsman Chris Pecora gained the win (Maroon and Gold, April 7, 1967, p. 3). After that victory over the Mountaineers the Christians could claim but one more win as the team finished the first half of the season with a 2-13 ledger (Phi Psi Cli, 1968, p. 110). That second win was over a visiting Campbell nine in a game which saw the Elonites rally from behind on two occasions to gain a "thrilling" 6-5 victory in the last of the eleventh (Daily Times-News, April 5, 1967, p. 2-D).

After such a slow start the team did finish strong and won six of its last twelve games to garner an 8-20 record on the year (Maroon and Gold, May 19, 1967, p. 4).

The stars that season were few but freshman Chris Pecora did manage threewins as he appeared in thirteen of the team's twenty-eight games and Danny Pendry and Dempsey Herring led all batters with .333 and .324 averages respectively (Maroon and Gold, May 29, 1967, p. 3).

Coach Drake approached the following year with a little more optimism as he had fourteen lettermen returning including five pitchers (Maroon and Gold, March 16, 1968, p. 3). This optimism did not last long, however, when the diamonders lost their first two outings to conference foes Guilford and High Point. In its third game the team rallied behind Burgin Beale's one-hitter to take a win from a visiting Catawba team (Maroon and Gold, April 5, 1968, p. 3).

The team went on to win nine more games that spring and finished the season with an improved 10-16 record. In conference play the team record

was somewhat better as the Christians gained an 8-10 slate (Phi Psi Cli, 1969, p. 101). This record was achieved despite the fact that the team as a whole hit only .196 for the season (Maroon and Gold, February 14, 1969, p. 4).

The following year the Christians finally gained a winning season for Coach Drake as the team posted a 13-12 record. That mark was the best on the Elon campus in four years. The team also led the nation that year in stolen bases percentages. Speedster Joe Rinaca garnered Most Valuable Player honors (Phi Psi Cli, 1970, p. 102).

There were two pitching performances of note that season. The first one was turned in by left hander Joe Byrtus when he shut out a visiting Otterbein College nine 3-0. The Daily Times-News gave the following account of his performance:

Byrtus tossed a tantalizing slow curve at the frustrated Cardinal batters on most occasions and had astonishing success at hitting the corners (March 29, 1969, p. 2-B).

The second game of note was recorded by "stringbean" sophomore right hander Dewey Capps against Catawba as he ". . . put the 'Injun Sign' on the Indians with a sparkling 4-hit pitching job that produced a 1 to 0 win." That victory also saw Joe Rinaca extend his ". . . consecutive game hitting streak to eighteen games when he slashed a single to the gardens in the fourth inning of the contest" (Maroon and Gold, May 9, 1969, pp. 3-4).

Before the 1970 season started Coach Drake was already predicting another winning campaign. To support his claim were returning All-Conference outfielder Mel Cliborne and ace hurler Dewey Capps who during

the past season posted an earned run average of 1.70. The team's main asset that season was again speed. There were many holdovers from the team that had led the nation the year before in bases stolen with a total of forty-one (Maroon and Gold, March 5, 1970, p. 3).

The team could only manage three wins against three losses to open the season, but pitchers Dewey Capps and transfer Gary Brown looked especially good in their wins against Davis Elkin and Catawba. In the 2-0 win over the Tribe, Brown recorded twelve strikes while Capps fanned thirteen in his victory over Davis Elkin (Maroon and Gold, April 9, 1970, p. 3).

A week later Capps shut out the visiting Bulldogs from Atlantic Christian with a one-hitter while facing only twenty-nine batters in a 10-0 win. The victory evened the Christians' record at 4-4. In commenting about Capps' performance and the team's win, Coach Drake made the following statement:

Capps pitched one of the finest ball games I've seen at Elon, and our hitting was a little better than usual (Daily Times-News, April 3, 1970, p. 2-B).

Later in the season after taking two games from Lenoir-Rhyne, the Elonites had gained a 10-5 record as the team prepared for the final games (Phi Psi Cli, 1971, p. 104). In that first victory over Lenoir-Rhyne, Dewey Capps held the Bears to three hits while Terry Williams, Elon "rookie" second baseman, hammered out four hits in five trips to the plate to lead the team to a 13-0 win in the second game (Maroon and Gold, April 30, 1970, p. 3).

Elon finished its regular season by winning four of its last five games and closed the season with a 14-8 ledger as ace moundsman Dewey

Capps posted a 6-2 record (Maroon and Gold, May 14, 1970, p. 7). In the conference tournament the team was not so fortunate. They lost to both Catawba and High Point (Elon Record Book, p. D-57).

Tennis Program Serves No Aces

In the early sixties the Elon tennis team struggled through five years under Coach Bill Miller before they finally won a match. This unenviable record had its beginning in 1961 when the college did not field a squad (Maroon and Gold, April 13, 1962, p. 3). The following year the team competed in seven matches, losing all seven (Alumni News, June 1962, p. 15). Again in 1963 the college was not represented by a team (Phi Psi Cli, 1965, p. 91). In 1964 even the renovation of the tennis courts could not improve matters as the team again recorded an 0-7 record (Maroon and Gold, March 20, 1964, p. 3; Phi Psi Cli, 1965, p. 91). The next year the Elon netters once more recorded an 0-7 ledger (Alumni News, July 1965, p. 19).

In 1966 the Christian tennis team finally won a match as they beat a Guilford squad by a 4-3 margin. Sandy Carrington, Mike Meacham, and Henri Descheemaeker all chalked up single wins and Descheemaeker joined Don Weed to take a victory in doubles (Maroon and Gold, April 22, 1966, p. 3). Another win over the Quakers and one over Ferrum gave the Elon squad a 3-11 record for the season (Phi Psi Cli, 1967, p. 86). The tennis team won three more matches the following season while losing seven (Phi Psi Cli, 1968, p. 112). In 1968 the netmen finished the season with a 6-4 record, the best at the college since 1950. Sandy Carrington, Jim Ellington, and Don Weed all won first round matches in the conference tournament (Maroon and Gold, May 23, 1968, p. 3). Marshall W. Wiggins coached the

racketeers in 1968 (Maroon and Gold, March 21, 1969, p. 4). Under his charge the team again faltered, recording a 1-7 card in what was billed as a rebuilding year (Maroon and Gold, May 16, 1969, p. 3).

In 1970 the tennis program again had a new coach. This time the college selected Jerry Tolley to guide the racket fortunes at the school. With John Walton, Mel Pierce, and Jim Ellington all returning the new coach made the following comments:

"There is much interest and enthusiasm this year that may have been lacking in previous years. We have purchased new uniforms and equipment, and even pre-game warmup clothes that the players have never had before" (Maroon and Gold, March 5, 1970, p. 3).

With the added interest and enthusiasm working among the players the team finished the season with an excellent 10-3 record (Phi Psi Cli, 1970, p. 107).

Elon's Track Teams Run Into Hard Times

When first year Coach Gary Mattocks opened the 1961 cinder season hurdler Eddie Burke, the defending champion in both the high and low hurdles, was back to lead the Christian track hopefuls (Maroon and Gold, March 24, 1961, p. 4). Burke wasted little time in making his presence felt in the North State Conference as the senior hurdler garnered both ". . . timber topping events" as Elon finished behind the winner East Carolina in a triangular meet (Maroon and Gold, April 21, 1964, p. 4). His performances were not enough to gain his team a victory, however, as the Christians finished the season with a 0-4 slate and a fourth place finish in the conference meet (Alumni News, May 1963, p. 22).

Elon opened the following season with a win over Atlantic Christian and High Point in a three-way meet which saw Elon's Dick More pull the

"... hat trick of track when he grabbed three first places in the shot, discus, and javelin for a total of 15 points" (Maroon and Gold, April 13, 1962, p. 3). It was Roland Miller providing the thrills in the last meet of the season as he recorded a 9:56:3 time in the distance race to become "... the first two-miler in the history of the North State and Carolinas Conference to break the 'Magic Ten' on the two-mile event" (Maroon and Gold, May 4, 1962, p. 3). Behind the exploits of Miller and More, the Elon tracksters gained a 2-3 record and a third place finish in Carolinas Conference meet (Alumni News, June 1962, p. 15).

The 1963 track squad lost its first six outings before gaining a victory against a Guilford squad by a five-point spread in its final meet of the year. Although the team suffered through another disappointing season individual performances were good as Roland Miller and Willie Tart both set Elon standards in the mile and quarter-mile respectively (Phi Psi Cli, 1964, p. 101).

During the next three years the Christian cinder men managed only one win each season as the opposition tallied a total of twenty-one (Phi Psi Cli, 1965, p. 90; Alumni News, July 1965, p. 18; and Phi Psi Cli 1967, p. 87). In 1965, however, in a meet won by Catawba, Elon's Bobby Ferrell "... stole the show when he broke the Elon record in the shot with a heave of 45 feet 9 inches" (Maroon and Gold, March 26, 1965, p. 3).

The following year track practice started late on the campus as new track coach Jerry Tolley was still involved with spring football practice (Maroon and Gold, April 7, 1967, p. 3). Despite that late start the Christians gained a respectable 3-4 record (Alumni News, July 1967, p. 36). In 1968 the Christians suffered yet another losing season as the team

finished the year with a 2-6 slate. While few wins were recorded the team did have some excellent performances when Donald Crews, Ralph Moore, Ron Bolton, and Joe Freve all set Elon records in their specialties. Tom Jernigan, Joe Rinaca, Don Crews, and David Oliphant also set a new mark in the 440 relay (Maroon and Gold, May 23, 1968, p. 3).

In 1969 the Elon track team finished the year with a perfect 5-0 mark to record for the college its first undefeated cinder season as the tracksters broke four Elon records. They included:

The mile relay team composed of Joe Freve, John Austin, Phil Cook, and Bruce McFerren, who compiled a time of 3 minutes 32.4 seconds, Ronald Bolton with a leap of 43'5" in the triple jump; a vault of 12'9½" by Rex Davis in the pole vault and a heave of 184'5" in the Javilin [sic] by Jerry Younger (Phi Psi Cli, 1970, p. 105).

In 1970 Coach Clayton Johnson succeeded Tolley as Head Track Coach (Maroon and Gold, April 23, 1970, p. 3). Under his charge the tracksters won one while posting 4 losses (Phi Psi Cli, 1971, p. 102).

Golf Team Has Its Pars, Bogeys, And An Eagle

After a 10-1-2 record in 1960, first-year Coach George Tucker was expecting to challenge for North State honors as number one player Eddie Hughes returned along with lettermen Buddy Briggs, Frank Lawrence, Frank Ciamillo, and Bill Palkovics (Maroon and Gold, March 24, 1961, p. 3). The Christian golfers did not take the title, however, but they did claim a 7-4 record and the number four position in the Conference Tournament (Alumni News, June 1961, p. 22).

The following season the linksters looked forward to another fine season as new Coach Johnny Wike led the team. He welcomed back five

lettermen (Maroon and Gold, March 2, 1962, p. 3). Elon opened the 1962 season with a win over Pfeiffer as Bobby West fired a 73 and Buddy Briggs fired a 74 (Maroon and Gold, March 30, 1962, p. 4). With outstanding play by Briggs and West all year the Christian golfers finished the season with an outstanding 15-1-1 record (Alumni News, June 1962, p. 15). In the Conference Tournament the Christians tied for second with Pfeiffer behind a strong Appalachian team as Elon's Bobby West finished in the third position for medalist honors (Daily Times-News, May 16, 1962, p. 2-B).

The following year the golfers were facing a rebuilding year with only one letterman returning and number one club swinger, Bobby West, departing the team for academic reasons (Maroon and Gold, March 15, 1963, p. 3). The team responded well to the adversity, however, and posted an excellent 7-3 conference slate with Frank Lawrence, Gordon Cox, and Frank Ciamillo recording ". . . several fine victories" (Phi Psi Cli, 1964, p. 102). In 1964 the team posted a poor 2-12 record (Maroon and Gold, May 19, 1964, p. 4).

The next year Alan J. White was coaching the Christian golfers. In early matches the team exceeded all expectations by posting a 6-4 overall and 5-1 record in conference play as Bobby West and Robbie Pate led the charge (Maroon and Gold, May 21, 1965, p. 4). As the season concluded the team faltered and finished with a 9-6 record (Phi Psi Cli, 1966, p. 89). The next year the club swingers had yet another coach, Gary Mattocks. Under his charge the team finished the season with a 6-7 record and a seventh place finish in the conference tournament (Phi Psi Cli, 1967, p. 86). In 1967 the Christians showed some improvement as they posted a 7-5-2 card

(Alumni News, July 1967, p. 36). The Christians had a break-even season in 1968 as the team won eight and lost the same (Phi Psi Cli, 1969, p. 105).

In 1969 the team gained its first golf title in ten years. Elon's Bick Long gained medalist honors in leading the linksters to a first place finish in the District Tournament and thus qualified to participate in the NAIA National Golf Tournament in Fort Worth, Texas (Daily Times-News, May 7, 1969, p. 2-B). In that tournament the team played well and finished in a tie for tenth place (Daily Times-News, May 12, 1970, p. 3-A). The following year the team was coached by Marshall W. Wiggins and recorded an 11-3 record with eight wins in the conference against only one defeat. Much of the team's success was attributed to the outstanding play of Charles Woody (Maroon and Gold, May 14, 1970, p. 7). In the district tournament the linksters faltered while Catawba won the right to go to the Nationals (Daily Times-News, May 12, 1970, p. 3-B).

Summary

In 1960 the college opened its doors with a new football coach, George Tucker, to guide its gridiron fortunes. Under his leadership the football program at Elon improved vastly and before his resignation in February of 1965 his teams had recorded a 21-8-1 slate including two conference titles the two previous seasons.

Gary Mattocks succeeded Tucker as football coach and under his charge the team faltered and could win only three games in two years.

In the late sixties Dr. J. Earl Danieleley, Elon's President, hired S. S. "Red" Wilson to rebuild the college's football program and the new coach wasted little time in doing so. In his third year as Elon's head

football coach his Christian gridders claimed a perfect 5-0 record in Carolinas Conference play to claim the championship.

In 1968 Elon participated in its first intercollegiate wrestling match as Coach Mickey Brown guided the grapplers. Under his coaching the team garnered a 11-5 record over two years.

Bill Miller was in his second season as head basketball coach as the team opened play for the 1960-1961 season. That year the Christian basketballers recorded an excellent 17-13 record. As the sixties moved on the Miller-coached squad gained six more winning teams including a conference title in 1965 as big Jesse Branson assaulted the Elon college record book. The Christian cagers closed out the decade with back-to-back 21-8 and 22-8 seasons. In the 21-8 season of 1968-1969 the roundballers set a national free-throw record in a game against A & T State University when the "Millermen" tossed in fifty-one straight from the charity line without a miss.

In the sixties the tennis program at the college suffered greatly as it went through five straight seasons without recording a win. Finally in 1966 the team won three matches to give the netters a 3-11 record. Two years later the tennis team gained a winning season as it did again in 1970.

The baseball team at the college continued its winning tradition under the coaching skills of Jack Sanford. During the first half of the sixties his teams garnered five winning seasons and tallied a 103-61 record before a disastrous 6-20 season in 1966. After that campaign Dr. Sanford left the Elon campus to take a position at Atlantic Christian College.

The decade of the sixties was a disappointing one for the track program as Elon's cinder teams managed only one winning season while recording an

overall slate of only seventeen wins against forty-eight losses. The 1969 season was a banner one, however, as the Christian cindermen recorded a perfect 5-0 record, the second undefeated track team in the school's history. Individual performances were not lacking during the decade, however, as many new records were established.

The golf team continued its winning ways during the sixties and claimed winning seasons in six of those years. The highlight of the ten-year span was the 1969 season when Gary Mattocks led the linksters to a first place finish in the District 26 Tournament to advance the Christians to the national tournament. In the nationals the team finished in a tie for the tenth position.

When Jack Sanford left Elon, Jerry Drake was selected to head up Elon's baseball program. Under his leadership the Christian diamonds showed improvement each year and gained a 14-10 record in 1970.

CHAPTER VIII
THE DECADE OF EXCELLENCE (1970-1981)

Football

Football Teams Gain National Recognition

The Elon football team opened the doors to the new decade with all expectations of winning its second straight Carolinas Conference football title. These hopes were greatly diminished, however, when the Christians' number one signal caller, Jackie Green, was lost for the season in the conference opener against Guilford. Elon lost that battle 10-7. That defeat was followed by three more defeats including a 21-0 loss to Appalachian in Boone in the first football contest played on "Poly Turf" in North Carolina (Phi Psi Cli, 1971, pp. 92, 94).

Victory finally came to the defending conference champion team in its homecoming game against a highly favored Catawba Tribe eleven by a 10-7 margin. The Alumni News gave the following account of the winning touchdown:

Freshman quarterback Jimmy Twisdale threw a 40-yard pass to end David Rudder who caught the ball in the end zone for the score (February 1971, p. 4).

After that great homecoming victory the 1970 Christians won two of their remaining games over Newberry on Parents Weekend and Garner Webb to close out the season with a disappointing 3-7 record (Phi Psi Cli, 1971, p. 95).

As the Christians prepared for the 1971 season Coach Wilson and his Elon footballers conducted some of their preseason drills at the Quantico

Marine Base in Quantico, Virginia. At the end of those summer workouts the popular Elon coach declared, ". . . the Christians are a better football team this year" (Communicator, September 7, 1971, p. 2). And better they were as they rolled over four of their first five opponents including Wofford, Guilford, Gardner Webb, and Presbyterian (Alumni News, September 1971, p. 3). In its opener against Wofford College Elon's substitute quarterback, Joe West, fired a nine-yard pass to tight end Ken Morgan in the closing minutes of play to give the Christians a 7-6 win over the nationally ranked Terriers (Daily Times-News, September 13, 1971, p. 2-B). The Christians finished as strong as they started and garnered an excellent 8-3 slate including wins over two more nationally ranked teams, Newberry and Presbyterian. A 14-10 victory over Lenoir-Rhyne gave Elon a perfect 5-0 record in league play and its second conference title in three years. Much of the team's success that year was attributed to junior running back Mike Lawton as he set a new single season rushing record (Alumni News, December 1971, p. 1).

For his achievements Lawton was selected All-State, All-Conference, and Player of the Year in the league. He was joined on the All-State team by Sam Key, Elon's big defensive end. For his outstanding coaching job Coach Wilson gained Coach of the Year honors in the conference (Communicator, November 30, 1971, p. 1).

The following season the Christian gridiron eleven did it again. This time the hard way, as they lost their first two games to Troy State College from Alabama by a 28-24 margin and North Carolina Central by a 41-21 deficit. After those losses the Christians went through the conference

undefeated, but a 14-14 tie with Presbyterian left Elon sharing the conference crown with those Bluehose (Athletic Publications, Fall Sports, 1973, frontispiece).

Elon's greatest victory that season was not in conference play, however. It came against a Carson-Newman team which came to Burlington Memorial Stadium as the number two ranked team in the NAIA. In that game All-State running back Mike Lawton scored two touchdowns, one on a 65-yard run, and gained 156 yards rushing for the night. Elon won 16-9 (Daily Times-News, October 16, 1972, p. 3-B).

In its last conference game of the year the Christians clinched the title when they beat the Lenoir-Rhyne Bears 58-19. The 58 points were the most ever scored against Lenoir-Rhyne and the margin of victory was also the greatest ever achieved against the powerful Bears (Alumni News, November 1972, p. 5).

At season's end the team was sporting an excellent 7-3-1 slate. Their "All Everything" senior running back Mike Lawton again rushed for over a thousand yards and also finished the season as the number two point scorer in the nation. He was also named to the All-State and All-Conference teams. He was joined on the All-Conference team by Nick Angelone, Steve Yuskevich, Brent Sexton, Scott Rush, Glen Ellis, Joe West, and Curtis "Gigi" Leary. Coach Wilson again garnered many coaching awards including Kodak Area VII Coach of the Year (Athletic Publications, Fall Sports, 1973, frontispiece).

In 1973 Captains Nick Angelone, Buddy Thomas, and Craig Gill led the Christians to a 12-1 record and a second place finish in the NAIA final

football poll. In gaining an 11-0 record during the regular season the Christians became the first team in North Carolina to win eleven games in one year. In gaining the conference championship the Christians were led by an outstanding defense which gave up only thirty-three points to league opponents (Phi Psi Cli, 1974, p. 123).

One of the many highlights that year came in a contest billed as the "Game of the Decade." That game, which was played in Burke-Tarr Stadium in Jefferson City, Tennessee, pitted the number-two-ranked Christians against the Carson-Newman Eagles who were holding the number one spot nationally. After the dust had settled the Christians had gained a 40-8 victory and the top spot in the national polls (Daily Times-News, October 15, 1973, p. 3-B).

The Christians took their number one rating into the national championship series against the University of Wisconsin at LaCrosse when the team hosted its first NAIA Championship Bowl Playoff Game in Burlington on December 1, 1973. Elon won that first playoff game by a 35-24 margin. Senior flanker Curtis Leary, voted the outstanding offensive player of the game, was on the receiving end of four Joe West touchdown passes. The following week the Christians traveled to Shreveport, Louisiana, only to lose to a powerful Abilene (Texas) Christian eleven. That loss brought to an end Elon's most successful football season ever (Alumni News, February 1974, p. 1).

With such an outstanding football year it was no surprise that the Elonites garnered a total of five All-American honors including Glen Ellis, Nick Angelone, John Muir, and Fred Long. John Peter Rascoe was named to

an Academic All-American team (Alumni News, July 1974, p. 8). All-State selections included Glen Ellis, Brent Sexton, and Steve Yuskevich (Communicator, December 7, 1973, p. 1).

Elon College opened the following season determined to win its fourth consecutive Carolinas Conference football title and to make another bid for a national championship. After five games the Christians were well on their way, boasting a perfect 5-0 record and a defense that had allowed only one touchdown (Athletic Publications, October 19, 1974, p. 27). After recording shutouts in its first three games against Mars Hill, Savannah State, and Guilford, a visiting Carson-Newman Eagles eleven penetrated the ". . . Elon goal line but the home team prevailed again to a 21-7 victory" (Pendulum, October 14, 1974, p. 4).

At mid-season Elon lost to an impressive Presbyterian team by a 23-21 margin. The Christians might have won that one in the fourth quarter, but an attempted field goal ". . . floated toward the goal and hit the upright and bounced away from the goal" (Pendulum, October 30, 1974, p. 4).

After that loss to Presbyterian the Elonites finished the regular season with a 10-1 record and another conference crown. The clincher came with the 28-14 victory over Lenoir-Rhyne. For the season the talented Christians scored 288 points while giving up only 77. The defensive unit again led the conference in total defense, marking the fifth straight year it had gained that distinction. On the basis of their impressive record the Christians advanced to the national playoffs only to lose this time to the visiting Henderson State Reddies by a 21-7 margin (Pendulum, December 19, 1974, p. 8).

For the year, defensive tackle Randy Oxendine and defensive back Don McLaughlin made the All-State team (Elon Record Book, p. IIA-38). They were joined on the All-District team by Prince Deese, Tommy Spoon, Paul Pope, and Brent Sexton (Pendulum, December 19, 1974, p. 8). Sexton, the team's talented defensive back, also garnered All-American honors and was drafted in the fifth round of the National Football League draft by the world champion Pittsburgh Steelers (Magazine of Elon, March 1975, p. 11).

When the 1975 season rolled around the football Christians found themselves in a new league, the South Atlantic Conference. As expected, Elon was the preseason pick to take the title in what was commonly referred to as the Sac-8 because of the eight teams which comprised it (Athletic Publications, September 13, 1975, p. 3).

This was not the case, however, as the team suffered through a 5-6 season which saw the gridgers lose five games by a total of twelve points. The offense was led by All-Conference running back Howard Ferguson who rushed for over one thousand yards during the season. The defense was led by All-Conference performers Dave Baily, Ricky Locklear, and Don McLaughlin. McLaughlin also garnered All-State honors for the second straight year (Phi Psi Cli, 1976, pp. 81-82).

Captains Ricky Locklear and Prince Deese had the honor of leading the Elon football team in 1976, a squad characterized by Coach Wilson as experienced, talented, and possessing a good attitude (Pendulum, September 9, 1976, p. 4).

The Christians opened their season with a 3-0 upset win over nationally ranked Norfolk State University in Norfolk to record for Coach

Wilson the two hundredth win of his coaching career. The margin of victory was gained when freshman Mitch Rippy kicked a record-setting 48-yard field goal with only four seconds remaining in the first half (Pendulum, September 23, 1976, p. 4).

That win was followed by ten more as the Elon football eleven finished their second undefeated season in three years. At homecoming the team's record was 5-0 and the Christians took yet another win by a 14-0 margin over Wofford when Chuck Lindsay ". . . brought the crowd to its feet with an electrifying 72-yard punt return for a score" (Magazine of Elon, November 1976, p. 12). Five games later it was Elon's three outstanding running backs who thrilled the crowd as Prince Deese, Howard Ferguson, and Alexander McMillan all broke the century mark in rushing in a victory over winless Lenoir-Rhyne (Pendulum, November 18, 1976, p. 4).

At season's end Elon was again in the playoffs, this time against the visiting University of Central Arkansas. The Christians trailed 7-0 with only minutes remaining in the game. At that point third-string quarterback Mike Currin entered the game and promptly connected with Keith Richardson for the tying touchdown as ". . . nine thousand people went completely out of their minds with joy." The joy was short-lived, however. In a sudden-death overtime period the visiting Bears won the game on a field goal (Phi Psi Cli, 1977, p. 96).

For the year Captain Ricky Locklear, offensive tackle Danny Bass, and star running back Howard Ferguson all gained All-American honors, while Wes McLaughlin joined them on the All-State team. In all, Elon had nine players who made all-star selections that season (Magazine of Elon, February 1977, p. 9).

Melvin Shreves Gets A National Award

Much of the credit for Elon's abundance of all-stars in 1976 was given to the college's Sports Information Director Melvin L. Shreves, Jr. It was his hard work that placed many of the recipients' names in nomination for the various awards. For his "outstanding achievements in the promotion of sports activities on campus, throughout the community served by the institution, and in the NAIA" Mr. Shreves won the first Clarence "Ike" Peason Award presented at the awards luncheon on March 11, 1977, in Kansas City (Magazine of Elon, April 1977, p. 11).

In June of 1977 Coach Wilson resigned as head football coach to pursue other interests. During his tenure as football mentor on the Elon campus the popular redhead compiled a 72-34-2 record including conference titles in 1969, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, and 1976. Two of his Christian grid teams were undefeated in regular season, while three played in the national playoff series with his 1973 squad advancing to the finals (Daily Times-News, June 17, 1977, p. 2-B).

Two days later the college chose Jerry Tolley, an assistant coach on Wilson's staff for the past ten years, as Elon's new head football coach. Melvin Shreves, Elon's business manager of athletics, was selected as athletic coordinator (Daily Times-News, June 19, 1977, p. 1-C).

Jerry Tolley Continues Quest For National Title

Elon opened its new season under first-year head coach Jerry Tolley with few if any changes. The offense and defense were the same and so was the coaching staff, except for the addition of Macky Carden, an Elon graduate. Captains that year were Wes McLaughlin, Bill Devaney, and Keith

Richardson (Athletic Publications, September 24, 1977, pp. 25, 29).

In its first game the Christians suffered a stunning 24-14 defeat at the hands of Wofford College in a hard-fought, rainy-night game which saw Elon fumble six times (Pendulum, September 15, 1977, p. 4). In its next outing against Liberty Baptist the team gained a win and found a much needed running back. In the 38-14 victory freshman Bobby Hedrick showed splendid running talent as the 6-1, 180-pounder gained 147 yards and scored three touchdowns (Pendulum, September 22, 1974, p. 4).

With Bobby Hedrick leading the offense and a defense led by Captain Wes McLaughlin, the team went on to record a 9-2 record which was good enough to give the Christians the conference title and a number six national rating (Magazine of Elon, February 1978, p. 12). In its final game against Carson-Newman, running back Bobby Hedrick broke the single season rushing record totaling 1177 yards for the year. Mike Currin, Elon's talented quarterback, also led the district in passing as the Christians finished the season just ". . . inches short of making the 1977 NAIA playoffs" (Pendulum, December 1, 1977, p. 6). After the season was concluded offensive tackle Danny Bass was named to two All-American squads and he also joined Captain Wes McLaughlin on the All-State team (Magazine of Elon, February 1978, p. 12).

The following year the Christians opened their season with wins over Elizabeth City State and Mars Hill. The team felt they were on their way ". . . to a national championship, something never before brought home to Elon" (Pendulum, September 21, 1978, p. 6). After those opening victories the team continued to win and finished the regular season with a 9-1-1 record and a third straight conference title. There were many close games

that season, but none were closer than the homecoming game against Newberry and the thriller against Lenoir-Rhyne in Hickory. In the homecoming victory it was junior quarterback Mike Currin's last-minute touchdown pass to split end Jimmy Davis that spelled defeat for the Indians. Against Lenoir-Rhyne, Mitch Rippy booted a field goal with only nineteen seconds left in the game to again provide the winning margin (Phi Psi Cli, 1979, p. 92).

Elon's 9-1-1 record was good enough to merit its participation in the NAIA playoff series for the fourth time in five years. This time the Christians made it to the finals. In route to the title game the team won over Concord College of West Virginia by a 21-14 score, and then took Grand Valley State University from Michigan to task 13-7. In the championship game in McAllen, Texas, the Christians played hard, but costly turnovers in the second half led to their defeat (Pendulum, February 15, 1979, p. 6).

Much of the credit for the 11-2-1 record that season went to Bobby Hedrick, Elon's sensational running back. For his outstanding play he was named to All-American and All-State teams. He was joined on the All-State team by Bryan Burney and Johnny Richardson (Phi Psi Cli, 1979, p. 92).

The following season the Christians were hoping for a return trip to McAllen and another shot at the national title. This was especially true for new Elon aide Linwood Ferguson, who joined the team following the departure of Coach Mickey Brown (Athletic Publications, September 22, 1979, p. 11).

To the disappointment of Coach Ferguson and everyone else on campus the gridgers never could put it all together, and finished the season with

a 5-5 record. Many felt that injuries to quarterback Mike Currin and Captain Jimmy Riddle had a lot to do with the disappointing season (Magazine of Elon, July 1980, p. 9). A high point of the year, however, was defensive back Bryan Burney's selection to the Academic All-American team (Magazine of Elon, February 1980, p. 2).

In 1980 the football team was captained by Bobby Hedrick, Chris Worst, and Donovan Brown. Coach Tolley, in announcing their selection to the Pendulum, made the following comments:

"These guys must turn us around and show everyone that we have a goal to work for. . . . This year we have tremendous talent, but our success will depend on the guys being mentally ready to play every game (April 24, 1980, p. 8).

And ready they were as the Christians went on to garner a 13-1 record and the NAIA national championship, a title they had been seeking since 1973. The lone defeat was at the hands of Mars Hill College by a 23-11 margin in the second game of the season. That defeat was followed by twelve straight wins including playoff victories over Concord College, East Texas State University, and Northeastern Oklahoma (Magazine of Elon, February 1981, pp. 1, 4-5).

There were many stars on that team, but none shone brighter than Elon's sensational running back Bobby Hedrick, who personally rewrote the Elon record book. The Elon All-American, among countless other achievements, rushed for over 5,000 yards during his collegiate career. For his outstanding career the college retired his jersey #44 in a ceremony held in Alumni Gymnasium (The Quest, 1980, p. 24). Joining Hedrick on the All-American team was tri-captain Chris Worst. Those two along with fourteen other Fighting Christian football players won berths on the All-Conference



National Football Champions, 1980

team (Magazine of Elon, February 1981, p. 3). For his good work in directing the team, Coach Tolley gained National Coach of the Year honors (The Quest, 1980, p. 25).

Soccer Gets A Kick As An Intercollegiate Sport

In the fall of 1972 soccer took root on the Elon campus when Coach Charlie Harris formed a team from a ". . . glimmer of talent and a blaze of enthusiasm." That first soccer team won its initial match, but then suffered defeats in its remaining four contests (Alumni News, August 1973, p. 2). In that first match against a visiting Greensboro College team the victory was secured as ". . . Aiah Gbakima scored Elon's first goal on a penalty kick, and Don Carlson scored on an assist from Gbakima" (Communicator, October 17, 1972, p. 1).

With a year of experience to their credit and top offensive player Aiah Gbakima returning, Coach Harris and his Christian soccer players looked forward to another season (Athletic Publications, Fall Sports, 1973, p. 24). Again in 1973, however, the team only won one match, this time over a Pfeiffer team, enroute to a disappointing 1-6-2 record (Phi Psi Cli, 1974, p. 131).

The following fall a much improved soccer squad lost to High Point in the district playoffs in a cold and windy match, as seniors Co-Captain Steve Rutledge and goalie Don Carlson played their last collegiate match (Pendulum, December 12, 1974, p. 8). The team finished its third season with a respectable 4-6-2 slate (Alumni News, July 1975, p. 13).

In 1975 the booters' record dipped to 2-8 as the youthful Christians could only manage wins over North Carolina Wesleyan and Greensboro College

in what was termed a disappointing season (Pendulum, November 20, 1975, p. 4). A year later, however, the team garnered its best record ever as Coach Harris did an excellent job of meshing new players with veterans to gain a 6-6 record. At the end of the season sophomore Greg Hamilton, the team's leading scorer, was given the Most Valuable Player Award (Phi Psi Cli, 1977, p. 99).

In 1977 the soccer team experienced a disastrous season. It garnered only two wins in twelve outings (Magazine of Elon, August 1978, p. 12).

The following season the soccer team had a new coach, Steve Ballard. Under his leadership the team claimed a dismal 2-11-1 record (Phi Psi Cli, 1979, p. 116). In his second season as head coach, Ballard led the booters to an 8-6-2 ledger to record for the college its first winning season. It was senior George Bakatsias who led the way. He gained All-District and All-Conference berths and Coach Ballard was named District 26 Coach of the Year (Phi Psi Cli, 1980, p. 109).

In 1980 the soccer team came of age and won for the college its first title as the booters beat Guilford to clinch a tie with High Point for the Carolinas Conference Championship.

"We went bonkers," says freshman midfielder Jim Burton summarizing the moments following Elon's 2-1 soccer victory over Guilford. "Players were hugging and jumping on top of each other. The Team picked up Coach Ballard and threw him into the mud" (Phi Psi Cli, 1981, pp. 94, 96).

Elon Gives Cross-Country A Run

As early as 1970 there was interest on campus in organizing a cross-country team. The following announcement was made in the Communicator:

All persons wishing to help form a cross-country track team meet in New Gym 218 on October 14 at 4 PM (October 13, 1970, p. 2).

It was two years later, however, before track coach Clayton Johnson, with the assistance of Professor Fred Watts, organized the college's first cross-country team. In its maiden season the team did amazingly well and placed two runners on the All-District team--Keith Carlson and Rusty LaMar (Athletic Publications, Fall Sports, 1973, p. 24). The following season the team won its first meet ever as Jim Mantanzo paced the team to a 25-30 win over Rockingham Community College (Communicator, November 2, 1973, p. 1). In 1974 the college did not field a team (Athletic Publications Yearbook, 1976, p. 17). After a year's layoff, Coach Watts had his men running again and although victories were few, ". . . all agree that the time and effort put in by Coach Watts and each team member were important and meaningful" (Pendulum, November 6, 1975, p. 4).

During the next few years the team struggled for lack of participation and finally was phased out. The harriers ran their 1978 meets unofficially as the team was two runners short of the required five (Athletic Publications, September 18, 1976, p. 46; Pendulum, September 28, 1978, p. 6).

Wrestling Continues Strong On The Elon Campus

In 1970-1971 the wrestling team continued under the guidance of Coach Mickey Brown. That season the team gained wins over Campbell, Guilford, and North Carolina State and finished the season with a 3-2 record (Phi Psi Cli, 1971, p. 103). Four of the grapplers that year participated in the National NAIA Tournament in Boone. They were David Burke,

David Tew, Ed Quinlivan, and Ed Kaplan (Communicator, March 9, 1971, p. 2). The following year the team surprised everyone and finished the season with an impressive 7-2 record (Phi Psi Cli, 1972, p. 164). The team could not advance into post-season play as the district tournament was not held (Alumni News, February 1973, p. 3).

The Elon wrestlers improved their record to 9-2 the next season and won the NAIA District 26 championship (Athletic Publications, Basketball, 1974, p. 41). Coach Brown was chosen District Coach of the Year, and Billy Starks, Ricky Sims, Joe Harrison, and Buddy Thomas all won district titles and advanced to the national tournament in Sioux Falls, Iowa (Communicator, March 6, 1973, p. 1).

The grapplers garnered a disappointing 4-5 regular season ledger during the 1973-1974 year, but redeemed themselves by winning the district tournament for the second year in a row. In the NAIA Area VII Tournament, which was held in conjunction with the district match, the Christians finished fifth as Eugene Mills and Lef Hall gained runner-up spots (Phi Psi Cli, 1974, p. 113; Communicator, March 1, 1974, p. 2).

The following season the team was once again back on the winning trail as the Elonites claimed a 5-4 record. The team was led by heavyweight Danny Bass, who was undefeated in fifteen matches and won the NAIA Area VII championship, which was held on the Elon campus (Athletic Publications Yearbook, 1976, p. 22; Pendulum, February 18, 1975, p. 4).

The 1975-1976 wrestling team was again led by junior heavyweight Danny Bass who finished his third undefeated regular season of competition. The grapplers posted an excellent 9-2 record (Athletic Publications,

September 18, 1975, p. 50). Individual honors went to Danny Bass and Gene Mills as they won both the district and area titles to advance to the nationals (Pendulum, March 11, 1976, p. 4). The following season the Christians won the District 26 title again as the team posted a 7-5 record. Once more Elon's Danny Bass advanced to the nationals where he finished seventh in the unlimited class (Magazine of Elon, April 1977, p. 1).

Coach Macky Carden was coaching the wrestling team the next year and after a rocky start his matmen took the second position in the conference tournament (Magazine of Elon, August 1977, p. 12). The 1978-1979 team was led by Captain Keith Byrd. Under his leadership the youthful and inexperienced team finished fourth in the A & T Tournament and also showed well in the Catawba Tournament (Phi Psi Cli, 1979, p. 108). In the conference tournament the Elon captain took the championship in his weight class (Pendulum, February 22, 1979, p. 4).

Elon finished second in the conference in 1980 following a 4-7 slate recorded during the regular season (Pendulum, February 21, 1980, p. 7). The wrestler of note that season was Mike Farrish who gained the championship in the Catawba, Pembroke, Carolinas, and District tournaments. For the season he garnered a 22-2 record and advanced to the national tournament (Pendulum, March 6, 1980, p. 7).

The following year the grapplers finished the season with a 4-5 ledger. In the conference tournament, however, the team fared better and gained the third position. Jay Lineberry, a University of North Carolina transfer, proved to be the best wrestler on the team (Magazine of Elon, April 1981, p. 10).

Basketball

Bill Miller Continues As Basketball Coach

The Fighting Christian cagers started their 1971 season with little fanfare as they finished in the third position in both the Civitan Turkey Classic and the Greensboro Jaycees Triad Classic (Alumni News, February 1971, p. 5). Before the season was over, however, the roundballers had won both the regular season and Carolinas Conference Tournament championships. The team finished their championship season with a 11-2 conference slate and a 21-8 overall mark (Alumni News, April 1971, p. 2).

The regular season championship came with an 85-62 win over Pfeiffer in Misenheimer. That title was a long time coming, too, as the Christians last claim to the regular season title was three decades earlier in 1941 (Daily Times-News, February 11, 1971, p. 1-D).

In the finals of the Carolinas Conference Tournament the team beat Guilford in a thriller by a 58-57 margin, as Elon's Tommy Cole provided the winning point. It was Elon's first conference tournament title since 1965. The Daily Times-News gave the following description of Cole's winning free throw:

Cole sent the basketball goalward. It hit the front of the rim, skipped to the back, rang off both sides and dropped through the net (March 1, 1971, p. 2-B).

When the fabulous season was over Coach Miller was selected Conference Coach of the Year. Tommy Cole, "Elon's Mr. All-Everything," among other honors was voted All-Conference, All-District, All-State, and All-American (Communicator, March 23, 1971, p. 1).

The Elon cagers started the next season on the same note they had closed the last one, by winning a tournament. This time it was their own, the Civitan Turkey Classic. The tournament's Most Valuable Player, Tommy Cole, led the Christians to victories over the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and Lenoir-Rhyne College (Alumni News, December 1971, p. 2).

In conference play the team was in the thick of things until a 72-64 loss to Catawba in Salisbury eliminated the Christians from all title hopes (Daily Times-News, February 14, 1972, p. 2-B). In the conference tournament held in Elon's Alumni Gym, however, it was a different story. Behind the outstanding play of Tommy Cole the team took wins over High Point, Catawba, and Guilford to gain its second straight Carolinas Conference Tournament championship (Communicator, March 7, 1972, p. 1). Elon finished the season by losing out in the district playoffs, but for the season claimed a rewarding 21-8 ledger (Phi Psi Cli, 1972, p. 148). Tommy Cole, of course, made the All-Conference team as did center Larry Trautwein (Communicator, March 7, 1972, p. 1). Cole also gained All-American honors for the second year in a row to close out a brilliant career (Communicator, April 5, 1972, p. 1).

Before the season started the following year the college had hired Bill Morningstar, a 1964 graduate of Elon, to assist Coach Miller with the Elon basketball program (Alumni News, September 1972, p. 4).

The team got off to a rough start that fall, but by mid-season the situation had improved and the Christians were sporting a 10-4 record overall and a 5-2 slate in league play. Much of their success was

attributed to the outstanding play of Larry Trautwein, Diffy Ross, and rookie Thomas Moore (Alumni News, February 1973, p. 3).

Two of the biggest wins of the season came in back-to-back one-point victories over Lenoir-Rhyne and Guilford. Against the Bears it was Thomas Moore's two free throws with the time expired that gave the cagers a 77-76 win. That game also saw senior Larry Trautwein score the 1500th point of his career to place him number six on Elon's all-time scoring list. In the 64-63 win over Guilford it was Diffy Ross who provided the leadership as he hit nine field goals and nine of ten from the line (Communicator, January 23, 1973, p. 1).

In the final regular season game the Christians beat a visiting Atlantic Christian team behind the brilliant play of forward Diffy Ross to gain a 20-8 record (Daily Times-News, February 26, 1973, p. 3-B).

In the tournament the team's performance was tremendous as it took a thrilling 48-47 win over High Point in the opening round. Against Guilford in the semi-finals, however, the Elonites lost a heartbreaker in a "heated double overtime" contest by a 79-76 margin. Although the team did not win any titles that year, they did boast an excellent 21-9 record. For their outstanding season both Larry Trautwein and Diffy Ross were selected to the All-Conference quint (Communicator, March 6, 1973, p. 1).

Coach Miller was well pleased with the prospects for the 1973-1974 season as returnees Elbert Outlaw, Diffy Ross, Wayne Ellington, and Thomas Moore were joined by freshmen Brad Ballou and Chris Matthews. Included in his preseason remarks were, "We'll have a good team and a good season" (Communicator, November 16, 1973, p. 2).

Elon, a preseason pick for conference honors, started the season with a victory in the Civitan Turkey Classic. The tournament's Most Valuable Player, Diffy Ross, led the Christians to victories over High Point and Belmont Abbey (Communicator, November 30, 1973, p. 2). At mid-year the team was still playing good basketball and sported a 7-2 league record and a 13-5 mark overall. Diffy Ross, the team's top player, also led the conference in both scoring and rebounding (Communicator, January 25, 1974, p. 1).

In their last regular season game the Christians clinched the regular season conference title with a 61-59 victory over Atlantic Christian in Wilson. In that game Elon's star forward, Diffy Ross, sat out most of the contest because of foul trouble (Daily Times-News, February 25, 1974, p. 3-B).

In the tournament the Christians took a 49-47 opening-round victory over High Point as Elbert Outlaw sank a fifteen-foot jumper ". . . with :02 left on the clock" (Communicator, March 1, 1974, p. 1). The following night, however, the cagers lost by a 73-71 margin to Lenoir-Rhyne. It was their third loss to the Bears that season (Daily Times-News, March 2, 1974, p. 3-B). Elon finished the season with an excellent 23-7 record, good enough to gain Coach Miller Conference Coach of the Year honors and Elon's star forward, Diffy Ross, the Conference Player of the Year award (Communicator, March 8, 1974, p. 1).

The following season was a rebuilding one for the Elon basketeers. The starting five consisted of two freshmen, one sophomore and two juniors. The team started slowly, but improved its record to 13-13 with the close of the regular season and a fifth place finish in the conference standing.

Brad Ballou, Elon's outstanding junior forward, was named to the All-Conference team (Magazine of Elon, March 1975, p. 11). Elon ended the year with a two-point loss to High Point in the conference tournament as Elon's youthful Christians finished the season with a 13-14 record. It was the Christians' first losing season in seven years (Daily Times-News February 27, 1974, p. 1-D).

When the 1975-1976 cage season arrived Coach Miller had a few surprises in store as he had installed a new "run and gun" offense. With veterans Brad Ballou, Thomas Moore, Duke Madsen, and Chris Matthews joined by newcomers Gary Treece and Larry Scott, it was hoped that the Christians could rebound from their losing record of the previous season (Magazine of Elon, December 1975, p. 10).

The team had some difficulty adjusting to their new fast-running offense in the early going, but the team rallied at the end of the season and won its last five games including a 94-83 victory over a nationally ranked Campbell College quint. In that contest as they had done all year, Thomas Moore and Brad Ballou led the cagers with twenty-two and twenty points, respectively. The Christians finished the regular season with a 12-10 record (Pendulum, February 26, 1976, p. 6).

After a win over Atlantic Christian in the opening round of the conference tournament the team lost in the semi-finals to Catawba by three points to give the basketeers a 13-11 record (Pendulum, March 11, 1976, p. 4).

After an excellent 5-2 start the next season disaster hit the Fighting Christian cagers as three of Coach Miller's starters ". . . were

sidelined by injuries and his squad had dwindled to eight healthy bodies" (Magazine of Elon, February 1977, p. 9). The team became known as the "Fighting Cripples" and even with all the adversity the team, led by senior Captain Chris Matthews, gave Coach Miller his 300th victory in an overtime game against Lenoir-Rhyne in Alumni Gymnasium (Phi Psi Cli, 1977, p. 104). In the year-end tournament the Christians lost in the first round to finish the season with a 10-14 ledger as Chris Matthews garnered a berth on the All-Conference team (Pendulum, March 10, 1977, p. 7).

Things looked good for the Elon cagers the following season as top freshmen recruits Lee Allison and Clarence Dickerson joined a bevy of veterans including Duke Madsen, Charlie Williamson, Larry Scott, and Gary Treece (Pendulum, October 27, 1977, p. 6).

In a preseason exhibition game the Christians defeated the touring Scotland National Basketball Team by a 107-71 score. After a slow pre-Christmas start that included one contest snowed out and another one cancelled, the Elonites won the Fidelity American Bank Christmas Classic. That was Elon's first tournament title in three years and gave the team a 4-3 record (Magazine of Elon, February 1978, pp. 12-13). As the season progressed the team was struck by "academicitis" as players missed fourteen games because of grade difficulties (Pendulum, February 9, 1978, p. 6).

Down the stretch the team continued to have its ups and downs, but finished the season with a winning 15-11 record and a fourth place in the conference standings (Magazine of Elon, August 1978, p. 12). Two

cagers gained berths on the All-Conference team that year--Larry Scott and freshman sensation Lee Allison (Pendulum, March 16, 1978, p. 6).

There was a mixture of youth and experience on the basketball team as the Christians opened their 1978-1979 season. It was thought that this combination might enable the team to improve its record of the previous year (Athletic Publications, September 9, 1978, p. 45). This was not the case, however, as the team lost its first eight games on its home court before taking a 72-71 victory over the Catawba Indians. That win gave the Christians an 8-13 record overall and a 4-6 conference ledger as the team entered the last part of the season. The high point thus far for the cagers was winning the Fidelity American Bank Basketball Tournament for the second year in a row (Pendulum, February 8, 1979, p. 5). The team closed out its disappointing season by losing four of its last six games and finished the year with an 11-17 record, the poorest ever by a Bill Miller coached team (Elon Record Book, p. B-37). Elon's two fantastic sophomores, Clarence Dickerson and Lee Allison, did, however, gain All-Conference honors (Pendulum, March 1, 1979, p. 6).

Dr. Alan J. White Is Elon's New Athletic Director

During the summer of 1979, Dr. J. Fred Young, President of Elon College, appointed Dr. Alan White as the Athletic Director. The position had been vacant for two years, since the departure of Coach S. S. "Red" Wilson. Dr. White, a Wake Forest graduate, had coached football on the Elon campus during the mid-sixties before he left to take a similar position at Mississippi State University, the institution from which he received his Ed.D. degree. He had returned to Elon as the Physical Education

Department Chairman in 1974. Melvin Shreves, Coordinator of Athletics, was elevated to the position of Associate Director of Athletics (Athletic Publications, September 22, 1979, p. 7).

Before the college opened its doors for the fall, Coach William R. "Bill" Miller had resigned as head basketball coach. Under his guidance, the Christian cagers had won the conference championship in 1965, 1971, 1972, and were regular season champions in 1971 and 1974. In his twenty seasons at Elon, Miller's teams garnered a record of 329-224 (Pendulum, September 6, 1979, pp. 7-8).

William Morningstar Takes Over Basketball Program

With the departure of Bill Miller from the Elon campus, Athletic Director Dr. Alan White announced that top aide T. William Morningstar, Jr. had been selected as the new head basketball mentor (Pendulum, September 6, 1979, pp. 7-8).

As the new coach viewed his new position he found two things not to his liking. First, Clarence Dickerson, an All-Conference selection the previous season, had transferred to the University of Hawaii; and secondly, the Christians' first nine games were all on the road (Pendulum, November 8, 1979, p. 8).

After a slow start the team won four in a row over Guilford, Wingate, Catawba, and Pfeiffer, to gain a 7-8 record by mid-January (Pendulum, January 24, 1980, p. 4). At the end of the regular season the basketeers had improved their record to 14-11 overall and took a 9-5 conference ledger into the tournament (Pendulum, March 6, 1980, p. 8). After a loss to Pembroke in the conference tournament, the cagers advanced to the district

where they took an opening round victory over Johnson C. Smith before losing in the semi-finals. The team ended the season with a 15-13 record (Elon Record Book, p. B-37). For his good work, Elon's new basketball coach, Bill Morningstar, was voted Carolinas Conference Coach of the Year; and Lee Allison, the team high scoring forward, garnered a berth on both the All-Conference and All-District teams (Phi Psi Cli, 1980, p. 101; 1981, p. 90).

Before Coach Morningstar opened practice for his second season as Elon's basketball coach, he had secured a full-time assistant, Danny Morrison, the successful Walter Williams High School coach, from Burlington, North Carolina (Athletic Publications, Basketball, 1980-1981, p. 5).

There was something special in store for the players and coaches that season as the team was scheduled to play four of its games in Hawaii. Before the Christians departure for Hawaii, they secured a respectable 4-4 conference slate and a 7-8 record overall (Pendulum, January 22, 1981, pp. 3-4).

While in Hawaii it was speculated that the team spent a lot of time on the beach as the Christians were only able to win one of their four games, that one coming in the 67-61 victory over Chaminade (Pendulum, February 12, 1981, p. 8).

After such a poor start the cagers saved the best until last as they won four of their final six games to gain a 14-16 record for the season. In their last regular season contest the Christians took an 81-65 win over a visiting Guilford squad as senior Lee Allison hit for thirty-two points to end his spectacular career at Elon (Pendulum, February 26, 1981, p. 8).

Allison, of course, made All-Conference, a recognition he had received for four consecutive seasons; and Drew Van Horn, Elon's heady point guard, secured a place on the COSIDA Academic All-American team (Elon Record Book, p. B-15; Pendulum, April 2, 1981, p. 8).

Baseball

Coach Drake Takes Diamonders To Title

After a disappointing 9-16 record in 1971 Coach Drake looked to the next season with great anticipation as his Christians had finished the season with four straight wins (Phi Psi Cli, 1972, p. 155). The next year the diamonders got off to a great start by winning their first twelve games before losing to Pfeiffer by a 3-1 margin. The team led the nation in fielding at that point with a .974 average, while its pitching staff, led by ace pitcher Bill Shultz, was rated number seven (Communicator, April 25, 1972, p. 1). During the second half of the season the team could not keep its momentum and lost eight of its remaining fourteen games to finish the regular season with an 18-8 record (Athletic Publications, September 16, 1972, p. 29). In the conference tournament the team finished second behind High Point as star pitcher Bill Shultz posted an 8-1 slate, the best won-lost performance since Gary Henson's 11-3 mark in 1956 (Communicator, May 16, 1972, p. 1). For his outstanding season, Shultz was selected to the All-State team (Alumni News, June 1972, p. 4).

The following season the baseball team was rained out of its first four games. When the rain subsided, however, the team posted two wins over Wake Forest University on successive days. In the first win, Elon's Bill Shultz pitched the 9-2 win, and Drew Coble, Terry Williams, and Bill

Dunn all hit homeruns. Elon took the second game 4-3 (Communicator, March 22, 1973, p. 1). Those two wins should have been an indication of things to come because when the season was over, the Christians had won twenty-four of their thirty-five games. After finishing in the second spot behind High Point in the conference tournament, the Elonites beat the Panthers for the district championship. With that title win, the Christians advanced to the NAIA Area VII playoffs and finished second behind a pitcher-laden Pembroke nine. Those twenty-four wins were the most ever recorded by an Elon baseball team. Elon had two All-State players that year as catcher Drew Coble and outfielder Wayne Ellington gained positions on the team. Coach Drake was voted Coach of the Year in District 26 (Alumni News, June 1973, p. 1). He was also voted Area VII Coach of the Year (Communicator, October 26, 1973, p. 1).

the [sic] team was so good in all respects that the bat girls were even ranked as the fourth top of all colleges and universities in the nation. the [sic] 1973 baseball season was a winning one in every sense (Phi Psi Cli, 1974, p. 137).

After the excellent record of the previous season Coach Drake had fifty-two candidates trying out for the team in 1974. The number was so great that the Elon mentor had to conduct his fall practice in shifts (Communicator, September 11, 1973, p. 1).

That spring Elon won its first conference crown since 1958 when the Christians beat High Point in the finals of the Carolinas Conference Tournament. In the district tournament the Panthers gained revenge, however, and beat the Elonites. Even in defeat the diamonders celebrated their second championship season with an enviable 22-7 record (Phi Psi Cli, 1975, pp. 28, 31).

There were many pleasant memories that season, but none more gratifying than Mike Osborne's no-hitter against Catawba to record the first no-hitter for the college in the past decade (Communicator, April 26, 1974, p. 1). The Daily Times-News gave the following details of that performance:

The husky southpaw faced only 32 batters. He walked three and two reached [sic] via errors as the Fighting Christians scored a 1-0 triumph before over 400 spectators (April 20, 1974, p. 3-B).

Osborne made the All-State team that year as did Doug Williams, who was also selected to the AACBC All-American team. Coach Drake won District Coach of the Year honors for the second straight season (Athletic Publications, Spring Sports, 1974-1975, p. 2). After that great championship season Coach Drake left the college amid rumors of insufficient financing and lack of overall support for the baseball program (Pendulum, October 21, 1976, p. 6).

Baseball Team Has Two Coaches In Two Years

With Coach Drake's departure, the college chose basketball coach Bill Miller to direct the baseballers. He was assisted that season by three-time All-Conference pitcher Mike Osborne, as a student coach (Magazine of Elon, March 1975, p. 11). Under their new coach, the team did not win any titles, but it did post a winning 14-11 ledger. Much of the team's success that season was due to the hitting of David Vaughn and Doug Williams, who were vying for hitting honors all year. Vaughn finally won out by a one-point margin with a .356 average. Pitcher Scott Gorman made the Academic All-American team for his ". . . outstanding pitching season and scholastic achievements" (Phi Psi Cli, 1976, p. 113). Although Doug Williams lost

out for the hitting title, he did garner All-State honors (Elon Record Book, p. D-32).

In 1976 Bobby L. Jones, an Elon graduate and former baseball player, was selected to coach the diamonders on a part-time basis (Pendulum, September 10, 1976, p. 4; October 31, 1976, p. 6). Under his tutelage the Christian batters were hitting at a torrid .334 pace in mid-April and the team record stood at an impressive 12-8 (Pendulum, April 15, 1976, p. 6). The Elon batsmen could not keep it up, however, and finished the year with only a .299 average as the team fell to last place in the conference race with a 15-14 slate. Again that season Doug Williams paced the team as he placed two new standards in the Elon Record Book. These were: most homeruns, with eighteen and most stolen bases, with fifty-four. Junior catcher, Charlie Gamble, also helped the team gain its winning season as he led all batters with a .425 average (Pendulum, May 13, 1976, p. 4). For his good work with the bat and behind the plate, Gamble was an All-State choice (Elon Record Book, p. D-31). After just one year as diamond coach at Elon, Bobby Jones was forced to resign his part-time position to spend more time at his regular job with Wilson Freight Trucking Company (Pendulum, October 21, 1976, p. 6).

New Baseball Coach Upgrades Program

In selecting a successor to Coach Jones, the college chose Robert D. McBee, a doctoral candidate and assistant baseball coach at Southern Mississippi (Magazine of Elon, February 1977, p. 9). Coach McBee wasted little time in returning the Christians to the top among small colleges in the state. In his first year the team won an incredible thirty games while

losing only eighteen. For the season the team finished second in the conference tournament and won the district event with two straight wins over High Point. In the district title game the Christians beat the Panthers 19-11 and advanced to the Area VII playoffs. There the Christians lost two of three outings to Newberry College to finish second. Many new records were set that year: most victories, 30; most stolen bases, 136; and most strike outs by a pitcher in one season, 113, as Ronnie Johnson broke Bunn Hearn's record of 109 set in 1910 (Phi Psi Cli, 1978, pp. 52-53). After finishing in the top sixteen in the national NAIA standings, Coach McBee garnered District Coach of the Year honors, while senior catcher Charlie Gamble made All-State for the second year in a row. Gamble was joined on that team by shortstop Kelly Miller (Magazine of Elon, July 1977, p. 8; Elon Record Book, p. D-31).

The following year the baseball team suffered through a disappointing 19-24 season as the lack of effective pitching was obvious in many games. Freshman pitcher Eric Smith, however, did turn in some excellent performances and finished the year with a perfect 5-0 ledger. Jimmy Davis turned in the pitching gem that season as he shut out Mars Hill with a no-hit performance to gain a 3-0 win on the last day of the regular season. Also contributing to the losing effort was the fact that the team had scheduled a total of fourteen Division One NCAA schools (Athletic Publications, Baseball, 1979; Pendulum, May 11, 1978, p. 6).

The big event of the season was the dedication of the new baseball facility which was made possible through the generous gift of Jessie and Webb Newsome. Mr Newsome, a 1936 graduate of Elon, donated the funds

for the new baseball stadium to fulfill a promise he made to Elon's president, Dr. L. E. Smith, at an awards banquet during his senior year. The new diamond facility was named, of course, Newsome Field (Daily Times-News, April 30, 1978, p. 4-C).

In 1979 the Elon baseball team was back near the top as senior outfielder and captain Phil Baskerville supplied both leadership skill and playing talent to garner for the Christians a 29-10 record.

Baskerville left Elon with career records in runs batted in (88), most triples (23), and most hits (148). For this fine season, he was named to the NAIA All-American team (Phi Psi Cli, 1980, p. 104).

The team also had many other talented players including some excellent pitchers. The pitching staff was led by Hughes Crisp, Eric Smith, and Stan Queen. They combined their efforts to record a 15-1 record. Queen's 0.70 earned run average was good enough to gain him the top spot in the nation in that department (Athletic Publications, Baseball, 1980, p. 43; Phi Psi Cli, 1980, p. 104). There were no-hit performances by Hughes Crisp who turned back Lenoir-Rhyne 1-0 and by Eric Smith who did the same against Pembroke by a 3-0 margin (Daily Times-News, May 5, 1979, p. 2-B; March 22, 1979, p. 2-B).

At the end of the regular season the team was on top in both the conference and district races, but poor performances in those tournaments left the Christians with an excellent 29-10 record but no championship (Pendulum, April 26, 1979, p. 6; May 10, 1979, p. 6; Athletic Publications, Baseball, 1980, p. 56).

The Elon diamond team started its next season with the hope of capturing the championship as their three ace pitchers of the previous season, Hughes Crisp, Stan Queen, and Eric Smith, were all back for another

year of pitching duty (Pendulum, February 28, 1980, p. 8). When the season opened, however, things just would not fall into place and the team recorded losses in five of its first six games. After such a poor start the Elonites struggled for the remainder of the season and completed their schedule with a disappointing 14-19 slate (Phi Psi Cli, 1981, p. 98). In the Carolinas Tournament the team almost pulled the upset of the year before losing in the finals to High Point by a 2-1 score. For their good play in that tournament Joey Hackett, Billy Freeman, Andy Stickle, and Hughes Crisp were selected for the All-Conference team (Pendulum, April 24, 1980, p. 8). Alan Pritchard led the pitching staff as he posted a 4-1 record with a 0.28 earned run average. He, along with teammate Craig Newton, received the Most Valuable Player Awards at the end of the year (Pendulum, May 8, 1980, p. 8).

Members of the 1981 baseball team found a new athletic complex waiting for them when they started practice for the upcoming season. The facility was provided by funds given by Ernest and Maurice Koury to honor their father, Mr. John A. Koury. Named the John A. Koury Field House, it was:

To be used primarily for football and baseball teams and their coaches, the building contains an athletic training room and a coaches' dressing area. The basement, three-quarters as large as the main floor space, will be developed for additional dressing facilities (Pendulum, February 5, 1981, p. 3).

With the excitement generated by the new field house, the team appeared to be playing its games with added determination. So determined were they that as the team approached the halfway mark they were boasting a 19-2 record and a high national rating. In gaining their winning record Joey Hackett, Greg Booker, and Craig Newton all carried big bats to

". . . form their own version of the New York Yankees famous 'murderers row'" (Pendulum, April 2, 1981, p. 8).

In April the Christians lost the championship crown to Wingate with a 10-7 defeat in the conference tournament (Pendulum, April 23, 1981, p. 8). After the second place finish in that event the team went on to post a 39-8 regular season record on the strength of its .322 team batting average. Pitchers Hughes Crisp, Alan Pritchard, and Eric Smith were also doing their share as they combined for a 20-3 ledger (Daily Times-News, May 7, 1981, pp. 1-C, 3-C).

Elon was ranked sixth in the NAIA but lost to High Point in the first round of the district tournament. Eric Smith, the Christians' senior right hander, set down Pembroke with the second no-hit performance of his career. His first no-hitter had come during his freshman year against that same Pembroke nine (Daily Times-News, May 10, 1981, pp. 1-C, 6-C). The Elonites then took a 5-4 comeback win over High Point before losing its second championship title of the year to Wingate by only one run. Although disappointed at losing the championship, the team claimed an excellent 41-10 slate to give the Christians their most wins ever (Daily Times-News, May 11, 1981, p. 12-A). During that season outfielder Joey Hackett set a single season and career homerun record with seventeen and thirty-four, respectively. For those achievements he was chosen to the second team NAIA All-American squad. Teammate David Whitley gained a berth on that association's Academic All-American team (Elon Record Book, pp. D-72, D-36).

Men's Tennis Serves Up In The Seventies

Elon's tennis record slipped to 3-7 in 1971 as Jerry Tolley remained as coach. In that disappointing season the Christians took a single win over Gardner Webb while gaining two wins over Catawba (Elon Record Book, p. G-5). The following season Coach Tolley took steps to improve the tennis program when he recruited three players. They were Umberto Aguiar from Brazil, Mukesh Shretta from Kenya, and Tony Wong a Chinese-American from New York City (Communicator, March 21, 1972, p. 1). Behind their good play the team finished the season in third place in both the conference and district, while compiling an impressive 9-3 record (Athletic Publications, September 1972, p. 29). Aguiar gained All-District honors that season when he finished second among the forty players who participated in the tournament (Communicator, May 16, 1972, p. 1).

Aguiar left Elon before the 1973 season began, but even without its former star the team improved its record to 10-3 (Phi Psi Cli, 1974, p. 141). The Christians ended the regular season with an impressive 7-3 conference slate, but a poor performance in the year-end tournament hurt their chances in the playoffs (Alumni News, August 1973, p. 2).

The next spring the tennis team was playing on new courts. Perhaps the new facilities inspired the players. Whatever the cause they went on to gain an 11-3 slate, recording the best record since 1937 (Communicator, March 22, 1974, p. 1; April 26, 1974, p. 1). Elon started that excellent season with seven straight wins, as the team won fifty-eight of its first sixty-one individual matches (Communicator, April 5, 1974, p. 1). In the district and conference events the Christians finished third and fourth,

respectively. That year the team was led by Glen Smith, Robert Strange, Eddie Berryman, and Barry Baucom (Phi Psi Cli, 1975, p. 31).

In 1975 Coach Don J. Kelly substituted for Coach Tolley and led the team to its best record in almost forty years. Behind the outstanding play of number one player Glen Smith, the team won fourteen of its seventeen matches. Smith personally recorded a 13-4 regular season ledger. The team finished the season with the third spot in the conference tournament, while garnering second place in the district (Phi Psi Cli, 1976, p. 104). In the awards program held that spring, Captain Glen Smith and his doubles partner Robert Strange both received awards for their outstanding play (Pendulum, May 8, 1975, p. 7).

The following year Tolley returned as coach of the tennis team and the Christians went on to record a 12-3 ledger. Many people had hoped the team would go on to the nationals, but a second place finish in the district tournament spoiled its chances. Coach Tolley, however, did receive Coach of the Year honors (Phi Psi Cli, 1977, p. 89).

The tennis team could only manage a 7-9 slate the following season and finished a disappointing fifth in the conference tournament (Magazine of Elon, July 1977, p. 8). In 1978 Coach Kelly again directed the tennis team which posted a 4-7 record (Elon Record Book, p. G-4). The following year the team did little to improve its record in what was termed a "rebuilding" season (Phi Psi Cli, 1980, p. 94). In 1980 the team's record fell to a dismal 3-8 and prompted college officials to hire a new coach (Magazine of Elon, July 1980, p. 9; Phi Psi Cli, 1981, p. 111). The new tennis mentor was Danny Morrison. Under his direction the team achieved

its first winning season in five years, with a 10-8 record and hope for a future championship (Athletic Publications, October 31, 1981, p. 45).

Track Program Challenges For Conference Title

Elon College opened its 1971 track season with three straight wins as cinder coach Clayton Johnson watched his tracksters garner victories over Atlantic Christian, Gardner Webb, and Campbell. The Christians were not as fortunate in their remaining two meets and ended the season with a 3-2 slate (Phi Psi Cli, 1972, pp. 162-163). The following spring the track team was on the road for most of its meets and finished the year with a 3-3 ledger as Derring Price garnered eighty-nine points for the season to establish a new Elon standard (Athletic Publications, September 16, 1972, p. 29). In the Carolinas Conference meet the team finished third (Communicator, May 9, 1971, p. 1).

The cinder team lost its first match to a strong Catawba squad in 1973, but then won its next four meets by convincing margins. The tracksters went into the conference meet with a 4-1 mark, but could only gain a fifth place in that event (Phi Psi Cli, 1974, p. 139).

In 1974 the tracksters could only gain one victory in four outings with that lone win coming in their first meet against Guilford (Phi Psi Cli, 1975, p. 24). The following year the team improved its record to 3-3 and a fourth place finish in the conference as All-Conference sprinter Harold Carver set a new record in the one-hundred-yard dash. Shot-putter Paul Pope also established a new measurement in his specialty (Phi Psi Cli, 1976, p. 109; Pendulum, May 8, 1975, p. 8). A first place finish in a quaternary meet with St. Andrews, Atlantic Christian, and Methodist College

was the highlight of the season in 1976. The Christians were also impressive in the conference meet as they gained the third position (Phi Psi Cli, 1977, p. 86).

The next year the Elon cindermen went through their regular season with a perfect 5-0 mark and again garnered third place in the conference tournament. Much of the credit for the team's excellent season went to the record breaking performance by Bryan Burney, Larry Scott, and Tim Rose. Freshman Bryan Burney was also voted the Most Valuable Player in that year's Carolinas Conference meet when he scored an amazing thirty-one points (Pendulum, May 12, 1977, p. 7). Again in 1978 the track team went through the regular season undefeated with a 3-0 slate. Bad weather caused the cancellation of many meets. In the conference meet the team rated second behind a nationally ranked Pembroke team. Bryan Burney was once again voted the Most Valuable Player in that year-end event (Pendulum, May 11, 1978, p. 6; Magazine of Elon, August 1978, p. 12).

The following season was another successful one for the Elon trackmen. The highlight of the season was the winning of the Gardner Webb Invitational Meet in which the cindermen bettered nine other colleges. The team was also impressive in the conference meet as it again gained the runner-up position behind an always powerful Pembroke squad (Pendulum, April 19, 1979, p. 6; May 3, 1979, p. 6).

In 1980 track coach Clayton Johnson only scheduled one dual meet with Atlantic Christian, which the Elonites won. Instead, Coach Johnson scheduled a series of six invitational meets. Although the Christians did not claim any team honors in those meets, they did make a strong showing in

most of them. In the conference meet that year the team dropped to a respectable third (Magazine of Elon, July 1980, p. 13).

The Elon cinder team enjoyed another very successful season in 1981 as the Christians won all five of their regular season meets, as well as finishing a strong second in the Johnson C. Smith University Relays. During the season the Elonites established no fewer than nine new Elon track standards. The assault on the Elon track record book was led by none other than football All-American, Bobby Hedrick, who garnered two new marks in the distance jumping events. In the conference meet the Christians won the second spot for the third time in four years, as Pembroke once more took the championship (Pendulum, April 30, 1981, p. 12; April 16, 1981, p. 7).

Golf Program Gains National Recognition

In 1971 Tony J. Radovich was coaching the golf team and led it to a 7-9 record (Elon Record Book, p. H-1). The next season the golfers improved their record to 10-3-1 and a fourth place finish in the Carolinas Conference Tournament (Communicator, May 9, 1972, p. 1).

The following year the golfers gained an excellent 15-6 overall record as new coach Bill Morningstar directed the team to a third place finish in the conference tournament. In that tournament Elon's Bobby Atkins gained co-medalist honors. The Christians were prevented from entering the district meet because of the college's examination schedule (Alumni News, August 1973, p. 2).

In 1974 the Elon golf team won eighteen of its scheduled twenty matches. They captured both the Carolinas Conference and district

tournaments to advance to the NAIA Nationals Championship in Aberdeen, South Dakota. In the first ever combined district and conference event, which the Christians hosted, Elon's Chuck Scott took medalist honors (Phi Psi Cli, 1975, p. 26; Communicator, May 3, 1974, p. 1). At the nationals the team finished in the seventh position among thirty-three schools. Coach Morningstar won District Coach of the Year honors (Magazine of Elon, July 1974, pp. 7-8). The following season the team played impressively and recorded an excellent 22-3 record, but a second place finish in the district and conference tournaments did not qualify them for the national tournament (Pendulum, May 8, 1975, p. 7).

The 1976 golf season was the greatest in the history of the college. After finishing with an excellent 18-2 regular season record, the team took top honors in the conference when five of Elon's golfers garnered All-Conference honors. In the district tournament held in conjunction with the conference meet the Christians finished in the second spot one stroke behind a strong Gardner Webb team (Pendulum, May 13, 1976, p. 4). Elon was invited to participate in the national tournament that year because the college was serving as the host institution. In that NAIA Silver Anniversary event, the team once again came in one stroke behind Gardner Webb and ended its fantastic season as the second best NAIA team in the country. Elon's David Braxton and Chuck Scott played superb golf in that tournament and became Elon's first All-American golfers (Phi Psi Cli, 1977, p. 90).

The following year the Christians again found themselves in the national tournament when they garnered an excellent 18-1 regular season

record and a second place finish in the district tournament. The team won the conference tournament as David Brown, Danny Arnold, and Chuck Scott all gained berths on both the All-District and All-Conference teams. Coach Morningstar was again selected Coach of the Year (Elon Record Book, p. H-6; Pendulum, May 12, 1977, p. 8). Although Elon entered the nationals as an alternate, the team played well and finished the tournament ranked eighth nationally (Magazine of Elon, July 1977, p. 8).

In 1978 Coach Morningstar eliminated the dual match concept and designed a schedule which was dominated by tournament competition. Out of twelve tournaments scheduled, the Christians finished third or better in seven (Elon Record Book, p. H-7). Two of those tournaments were the district and conference events. The Christians won both of those that year because of the outstanding play of medalist Danny Arnold (Pendulum, May 4, 1978, p. 6). On the merit of their district championship, the golfers advanced to the nationals and finished in the runner-up spot for the second time in three years. That year the Christians claimed two more All-American selections--Danny Arnold and David Graham. After the excellent second place finish Coach Morningstar was heard to say, "We're proud of second. And one of these days, we're going to win this thing" (Magazine of Elon, August 1978, p. 12).

The following season the golfers were led by All-American David Graham as he captured the individual honors in both the conference and district tournament. In that dual tournament, the Elon team gained the top spot in the conference, but had to settle for second position in the district

competition. National competition was held in Greensboro, North Carolina, at the Cardinal Country Club. The Christians finished in the tenth spot (Pendulum, May 3, 1979, p. 6; Magazine of Elon, August 1979, p. 6).

In the fall of 1979 the Elon golf team played in the Sam Houston-Princess International Golf Tournament in the Bahamas, thus becoming the first Elon athletic team to be represented outside of the United States. In that tournament the Christians finished in the third position after losing a playoff bid for second place to Cameron University of Oklahoma (Magazine of Elon, October 1979, p. 9). That spring the team finished in the runner-up spots in both of the year-end tournaments as freshmen Danny Graham and Keith Decker made the All-Conference team (Pendulum, April 24, 1980, p. 8). In the national tournament at Saginaw, Michigan, the team finished tenth for the second year in a row as Mike Ross garnered All-District honors (Daily Times-News, May 31, 1980, p. 28; Pendulum, May 1, 1980, p. 8).

The following spring the golf team failed to win a first place position in any of its regular season tournaments. In the conference and district events on Ground Hog Mountain, however, the Christians rallied and won both as Keith Decker took the medalist title (Pendulum, May 7, 1981, p. 8). From there the team advanced for the sixth straight year to the NAIA nationals in Huntsville, Texas. In the Texas tournament the Christians finished in fourth place ". . . to continue its string of good performances in the NAIA nationals" (Daily Times-News, June 5, 1981, p. 3-B).

Summary

Elon opened the decade of the seventies determined to make it the best ever for the college's athletic program. Under the direction of Athletic Director Shirley S. "Red" Wilson, the college's sports program was expanded to include thirteen sports.

Coach Wilson not only supervised the entire sports program, but he also continued to provide leadership for his favorite sport, football. Under his tutelage the team won five more conference titles, and participated in the NAIA national playoffs in 1973, 1974, and 1976. His 1973 eleven was ranked number one in the country most of the season before losing to Abilene Christian in the championship game in Shreveport, Louisiana. In 1977 the popular redhead left the Elon campus and later became the head coach at Duke University. Before his departure, however, he secured for the college a national reputation, and an enviable 72-34-2 coaching record. The seventy-two wins were the most ever by an Elon gridiron coach.

Jerry Tolley succeeded Wilson as head football coach and promptly led the team to three conference titles during the next four years. In 1980 the team won it all and claimed for the college its first national championship with a victory over the Northeastern Oklahoma eleven in Burlington Memorial Stadium.

The college fielded its first soccer team in 1972 and after eight years of struggling the team finally won the conference title with Steve Ballard as mentor. In cross-country the school was not so fortunate, and after several unsuccessful seasons the sport was dropped. Wrestling

was a different story, however, and under the leadership of Coach Mickey Brown the teams won district titles in 1973, 1974, and 1977.

In basketball Coach Miller's cagers continued their winning ways in the first half of the decade with conference championships in 1971 and 1972. The team also garnered twenty or more wins in four of those seasons. In 1979 Miller resigned as cage mentor, and the position was filled by top assistant Bill Morningstar. Under his direction the team continued its winning tradition.

Men's tennis continued its popularity on the campus and although no titles were won the teams could claim six winning ledgers. The best seasons were in 1975 and 1976, when the teams garnered a two-year record of 30-7 and a second place finish in the district tournament.

During the early seventies baseball coach Jerry Drake led the Christians to three excellent seasons including the district championship in 1973 and the conference title in 1974. Later in the decade Coach Bob McBee was hired as baseball mentor and under his direction the program was greatly expanded. In his first year the Elonites captured the district title and finished in the runner-up spot in the area playoffs. Although the team did not claim any more championships during the seventies, they did gain some national recognition. In 1981 the baseball team was rated as high as sixth in the NAIA poll and recorded a 41-10 record.

The track program struggled through some hard times during the early seventies, but during the latter part of the decade the team challenged for the conference championship. During those successful years, the Christian cindermen went through three regular seasons undefeated, and claimed the runner-up position in the conference meet on three occasions.

The golf program on the Elon campus has always been exceptional, and this was again the case in the seventies. Under the tutelage of Coach Bill Morningstar the Christian golfers won five conference titles and advanced to the national tournament on six occasions, finishing in the top ten each time. The team's best efforts came in 1976 and 1978 when the Christians ended their season ranked number two in the country.

CHAPTER IX

SUMMARY AND OBSERVATIONS

The purpose of this study was to prepare an historical account of the intercollegiate athletic program for men at Elon College from its founding in 1889 through the 1980-1981 school year. Since Elon has always been a co-educational college, and, for the most part, the women have enjoyed the same benefits as their male counterparts, it was the writer's intention to include the development of all facets of intercollegiate athletics in this paper. However, as data were collected it soon became evident that the men's and women's programs in intercollegiate athletics were indeed separate, developed at such a different rate and in such a different fashion that to study them simultaneously would do injustice to each. It was for that reason that this study was limited to the intercollegiate athletic program for men.

To better understand why the program developed as it did it was necessary to know about the setting in which the athletic program was developing--the college. A review of the founding of Elon College and its development as an institution of higher education led one to conclude that the history of the institution and its intercollegiate athletic program were entwined and their growth and development paralleled one another.

The Christian Church had its beginning on November 1, 1792, when the Reverend James O'Kelly, along with twenty others, withdrew from the Methodist Episcopal Church to form a new body known as "The Christians."

It was O'Kelly's death in 1825 that caused the brethren to pull together under the banner of the General Convention of the Christian Church by joining the different church conferences located in Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama.

The early leaders of the church did not believe in a formal education for their clergy or laity. However, this attitude changed after the War Between the States. In the 1870's and 1880's the church began to consider the establishment of a college of high grade. The General Convention meeting in Extraordinary Session in Graham, North Carolina, on September 13, 1888, outlined a plan for the erection of a college to serve the church. The name of that institution was Elon College.

Through the years Elon College has been fortunate to have great educators and administrators to serve her as president. Dr. W. S. Long (1889-1894), Dr. W. W. Staley (1894-1905), Dr. E. L. Moffitt (1905-1911), Dr. W. A. Harper (1911-1931), Dr. L. E. Smith (1931-1957), Dr. J. Earl Danieleley (1957-1973), and Dr. J. Fred Young (1973-) have all served as devoted guardians of this institution of higher learning.

Each of these presidents led the college through various trials and tribulations. Dr. W. S. Long was charged with obtaining the charter and overseeing the construction of the institution. During his tenure Elon was firmly established in the hearts of the people.

Dr. W. W. Staley succeeded Dr. Long as president. His keen mind for business soon relieved the institution of all her debts. This was accomplished by the initiation of a giving program whereby churches of all denominations donated funds to the college.

Elon's third president was Dr. E. L. Moffitt, and under his guardianship there was significant improvement in the quality of the educational program as well as the physical appearance of the college. A complete heating system was installed, and electric lights and running water were provided to all the buildings on campus.

When illness forced Dr. Moffitt's resignation, the Board of Trustees chose Elon's Dean of the Faculty, W. A. Harper, as their chief executive. Under his leadership the college strengthened its position as one of the great institutions in the South. During Dr. Harper's two decades of service, Elon was beset with three catastrophes: World War I, the influenza epidemic of 1918, and the Great Fire of 1923. Because of President Harper's strength and leadership the college overcame each of these adversities.

The depression, however, finally took its toll on Dr. Harper, and he tendered his resignation at the end of the 1931 school year. This time the Trustees chose Dr. L. E. Smith as president. When he took office the school was in deep financial trouble and many felt the college would be forced to close its doors. Through his courageous leadership, however, the college was able to survive not only the depression but also the turmoil of World War II. The twenty-six years of his presidency also saw a vast improvement in the school's physical plant and an increase in its student body, which totaled 1600 by 1957.

Upon Dr. Smith's retirement in February 1957, the Board of Trustees elected Dr. J. Earl Danieley as the sixth president of Elon College. A trained educator, Dr. Danieley felt it his duty to establish Elon College

as a respected academic institution. He committed his administration to honoring the tenets of a liberal arts college. After a tenure that spanned the turmoil of the sixties, Dr. Danieley left the office of president in 1973 and returned to his first love, the chemistry classroom and laboratory.

Dr. J. Fred Young succeeded Dr. Danieley as the chief administrator of the college. Under his guidance the college continued to make significant progress. The enrollment at the institution increased from 1700 in 1970 to 2500 in 1980. The physical plant was expanded and now includes over thirty buildings. The curriculum was diversified and strengthened and now includes an Honors program.

The growth of the intercollegiate athletic program at Elon College paralleled the growth of the college, and like the institution itself, had its ups and downs. With each setback, however, the athletic enthusiasts on campus responded with even greater determination. The quest was to establish at the college the best intercollegiate athletic program possible.

The overall growth of the athletic program was due to the combined efforts of the three main components of the college: the students, the faculty, and the administration. For the most part these three factions worked in harmony, and allowed the intercollegiate program to survive two world wars, a burned-out campus, the great depression, the turmoil of the sixties, as well as other events both large and small which were disruptive to the developmental process.

Another vital element which promoted the growth of the intercollegiate athletic program was the support gained from Elon's loyal alumni. This

was apparent not only by their presence at athletic contests but also by their generous financial support. This financial bond had its beginnings as early as 1912 when the alumni gave its monetary backing for the Alumni Building, a four-story press-brick structure which contained the men's gymnasium. In 1949 the graduates again garnered funds to construct another gymnasium to replace the out-dated one. This new facility was called Alumni Memorial Gymnasium and served as a memorial to the Elon graduates who lost their lives in World Wars I and II. These two structures are the only buildings on the campus to have been named after the alumni.

During the late seventies two additional athletic complexes were built from gifts given by alumni. In 1978 Jessie and Webb Newsome donated funds for a new baseball stadium called Newsome Field. Two years later the John A. Koury Field House, a self-contained dressing facility, was opened. This complex was provided for by a gift from Ernest A. Koury, a member of the class of 1941, and his brother Maurice.

The intercollegiate athletic program at Elon has always been looked on as part of the total education structure at the college. Coaches were hired not only for their particular coaching skills but also for their expertise in a particular teaching discipline. This was true as early as 1912 when Robert S. Doak was hired to direct the athletic fortunes of the college. Not only did Coach Doak have full charge of the school's athletic program but he also served the faculty as a professor of English, Math, and Latin. This held true for the next seventy years and even today all full-time coaching personnel are assigned professorial responsibilities in the various departments.

It was evident that the college's intercollegiate athletic program was greatly affected by two World Wars. During the first world-wide conflict, the school athletic participation was curtailed because a large portion of the varsity players had enlisted in the armed services. World War II saw the Trustees of the institution completely drop the intercollegiate program in order that the college could do everything possible to aid the nation in its war effort. It was observed that following each conflict there was a drastic increase in the intercollegiate competition on the campus. Possibly this was due to the increase in the male population which had been depleted during the war years. Football returned as an intercollegiate sport following World War I. Following the Second World War not only did the institution resume its regular athletic program but also revived a track program which had not been participated in on the campus since the early thirties. Golf was added as an intercollegiate sport in 1949.

The depression was a cause of grave concern in all the colleges throughout the land. These concerns were even more evident on the Elon campus due to the large indebtedness that resulted from the building program initiated during the mid-twenties. During this critical period in the life of the institution, Elon's president chose to accent the school's athletic program in an effort to get the public to forget the debts of the college and to look toward the future. Enrollment appeared to increase with the number of victories gained. The school recorded a record enrollment in 1935.

The intercollegiate program at Elon College was initiated by the students. Impetus was given to the developing athletic program as faculty members became interested and gave their support. As the program continued to grow the college administration and faculty took over the control of the athletic program. Over the years the athletic program at Elon College changed as the attitude of the administration and faculty changed. The program reflected environmental conditions existing on the campus, in the state, and in the nation brought about by two world wars, the great depression, and the turmoil of the sixties.

In the beginning of the athletic program a cautious faculty listened to the petitions of interested students, granted a room to be used as a gymnasium, and allowed a limited number of match games with other similar institutions. The faculty also joined the students in field days, and participation in tennis, track events, and football games.

Through the years the athletic program expanded and, for the most part, was free of major problems. There were, however, a few instances when things did not go as smoothly as was hoped. In 1909 the intercollegiate athletic program faced a charge of professionalism in its baseball program. This matter was resolved, however, under the watchful eyes of the administration, and with encouragement from the Christian Church. That same year there was also the matter of the football team having played a game without approval of the faculty. In this instance the faculty's action was quick and drastic: the gridiron sport was abolished.

In the late twenties the Elon faculty made another decision which would greatly affect the school's athletic program when it chose to align

its intercollegiate teams with the so-called "Little Six" division rather than the "Big Five" division in the state. This aligned Elon College with colleges such as Catawba, Guilford, and Lenoir-Rhyne instead of Duke, University of North Carolina, and Wake Forest College.

Football, basketball, and baseball have always received most of the attention at Elon (both publicly and financially), but other sports have also enjoyed success. The total program has been expanded over the years to include as many as nine sports. The addition of some sports came about as a result of student interest and the broadening of programs at conference-affiliated schools. A number of these newer sports have experienced tremendous growth and success, evidenced by Elon's golf program, which has gained national recognition over the past decade. The success of the golf team may be attributed to support of administrative officials on the campus who deemed it necessary for the college to gain status in that sport. This increased financial support for the golf program was evidenced by the team's participation in the Sam Houston-Princess International Tournament in the Bahamas in 1979. A similar commitment was apparent in the mid- and late-thirties with respect to the tennis program. During those years the tennis team scheduled as many as twenty-six matches a season including extended tours in to Florida and New York. As a result of that commitment the Elon tennis players were called by many as the strongest little outfit in the country.

In comparison the cross-country team struggled through seven years lacking both financial support and a trained coach before it was phased out for lack of interest in 1978.

The athletic program at Elon College has made a significant contribution to the progress of the college. The successes of teams and athletes have brought local, state, regional, and national publicity to the college which in turn has attracted new students. The college has always enjoyed a healthy growth in its student enrollment. This has been attributed in some degree to the successes of the athletic teams. Although not measurable, it is assumed that the favorable publicity received by the college's various athletic teams (on television, radio, and in newspapers) keeps the name of the college in the minds of the public (potential students). Winning the NAIA National Football Championship in 1980 is such an example.

The success of the athletic program helps to build pride in the institution among students, faculty, administrators, alumni, and friends of the college. It is also evident that a successful athletic program can generate increased financial support from alumni and friends.

What started at the college as an interest of a few students in a limited number of athletic activities has grown over the years into an athletic program which has encompassed as many as thirteen intercollegiate sports (nine for men and four for women). Over the years all students have benefitted from this diverse selection of activities.

It is apparent from this study that the entire Elon College community has enthusiastically supported the intercollegiate athletic program. This is evidenced not only by attendance at athletic contests but also by the overwhelming support of the various college publications. Through the years the students, faculty, alumni, and administrators have worked together to build for Elon a rich athletic tradition.

Although intercollegiate victories have always been held in high esteem on the Elon campus, the number of wins and losses has not been overemphasized. With a few exceptions the coaches who left the college left of their own volition not because of pressure by the administration to win more athletic contests.

Today, Elon College is continuing that rich tradition in offering intercollegiate athletics for the students who walk her majestic oak-shaded campus. With the onset of the eighties, however, new challenges are on the horizon which must be dealt with. These challenges center around the expansion of the total program and the added financial burden brought about by inflation. If Elon College is to continue to provide its students with a comprehensive athletic program to go hand-in-hand with the pursuit of academic excellence, the present officials at the college must continue to be as steadfast in their commitment as their predecessors were in the past. A grand tradition can continue.

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Dr. A. L. Hook, Alumnus and Dean Emeritus of Elon College. Interviewed at Elon College, North Carolina, May 18, 1981, and July 2, 1981.

E. F. Rhodes, Brother of former band director at Elon College. Interviewed at Burlington, North Carolina, May 22, 1981.

Lou Rochelli, Alumnus and former athlete at Elon College. Interviewed at Burlington, North Carolina, July 18, 1981.

William B. Terrell, Alumnus and former Alumni Director of Elon College. Interviewed at Elon College, North Carolina, June 16, 1981.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A
THE LEGEND OF THE SENIOR OAK

THE LEGEND OF THE SENIOR OAK

All of those people who have walked within the walls of the Elon College campus are amazed by the number and beauty of her many oak trees. There is, however, one very special oak tree that adorns the campus as the only crooked tree within her walls. This one tree which has gained so much attention is the famous "Senior Oak," the name chosen because it became the custom for each departing senior class to have its picture taken under her branches.

Many stories have circulated about the origin of this tree and the following is an account given by Elon's first president, Dr. William S. Long. Dr. Long directed the charge of clearing the campus for the construction of the original Administration Building to his son Will. His instructions to Will, along with clearing away the underbrush, were to cut down all the trees except those that were tall and straight. Will, who had a sense of beauty, instructed his workers to leave this tree standing because it appeared to him artistic. So this one crooked tree was left to grow along side the tall and straight oaks. Today it still remains a spot on the campus around which there are many beautiful sentiments and even family legends. Few graduates and former students come back to the campus who do not walk under the shadow of this ancient landmark, or who do not cast a lingering and sentimental look at this tree of memories. The silent Senior Oak has become a part of the "Elon Spirit."

APPENDIX B

ELON SPORTS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES, 1972-1981

ELON SPORTS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES, 1972-1981

October 1972

Dr. Alonzo L. Hook, "Longtime Friend of Elon Athletics"
 Douglas C. ("Peahead") Walker, coach
 L. J. ("Hap") Perry, football, basketball, baseball
 Salvatore M. ("Sal") Gero, football
 James M. ("Jack Rabbit") Abbitt, football, basketball, baseball
 Henry T. ("Pete") Williams, football, baseball
 Anthony ("Tony") Carcaterra, football, basketball, baseball
 Robert L. ("Jack") Boone, football
 E. S. ("Johnny") Johnson, football, basketball, baseball, track

May 1973

James L. ("Hank") Hamrick, basketball, baseball
 Gilbert ("Gil") Watts, baseball, basketball
 Jack Gardner, basketball, baseball
 Hollis Atkinson, basketball, baseball, track
 C. V. ("Lefty") Briggs, baseball, basketball
 C. C. ("Jack") Johnson, basketball, baseball, track, coach

October 1973

Lou F. Roshelli, football
 E. Hal Bradley, football, basketball
 C. Lynn Newman, Jr., baseball, basketball
 Gordon A. Kirkland, football, baseball

October 1974

Robert C. ("Bob") Browne, football, basketball, baseball
 Arnold E. Melvin, football
 Talmage ("Tal") Abernathy, baseball
 A. Roney Cates, basketball
 George W. Wooten, football, track, golf

October 1975

H. Jesse Branson, basketball
 Moses D. ("Dick") Caddell, football, basketball, baseball
 Bunn Hearn, baseball, coach
 Wilburn E. ("Webb") Newsome, football, baseball, boxing
 Roy E. ("Country") Rollins, football, basketball, track

October 1976

Curry E. Bryan, Jr., football
 Henry A. DeSimone, football, baseball
 Zeb S. Harrington, football, baseball
 C. Benjamin Kendall, basketball, baseball
 Albert Mastrobattisto, football
 Willie K. Tart, football, track
 Lloyd E. Whitley, basketball, tennis

October 1977

Arthur F. Fowler, Jr., baseball, football, basketball
 James R. ("Nick") Thompson, baseball
 Delmer D. ("Dee") Atkinson, basketball
 N. B. ("Muddy") Waters, football, baseball
 Dan Long Newman (posthumous), basketball, football, baseball
 Daniel P. ("Rusty") Jones (posthumous), tennis
 Dr. Howard R. Richardson, football

November 1978

Burgin W. Beale, football, baseball
 Garland Causey, football, basketball, coach
 Joe Golombek, football, basketball, boxing
 Sherrill G. Hall, baseball
 J. Mark McAdams, football, basketball
 Paul A. Roy, baseball, basketball
 Henry R. Walser, football

November 1979

Russell T. ("Shine") Bradford, basketball
 Paul C. ("Lefty") Cheek, basketball, baseball
 Walter C. ("Firpo") Latham, basketball, baseball
 Graham L. ("Doc") Mathis, football, basketball, baseball, coach
 Richard E. McGeorge, football, basketball
 Robert J. ("Bob") Stauffenberg, football, track

November 1980

Howard L. Briggs, Sr., baseball, football, basketball

Paul F. Briggs, baseball

Horace J. Hendrickson, coach

Walter L. Hobson, Jr., basketball, baseball

Wade E. Marlette, football, basketball, baseball, track, cross country

David A. Mondy, golf, basketball, track

Joseph B. Newman, football, basketball, baseball, track

John C. Whitesell, football

APPENDIX C

ELON ALL-AMERICANS 1889-1981

ELON ALL-AMERICANS 1889-1981

1938 Joseph Golombek, football
1948 Salvatore M. Gero, football
1949 Arnold E. Melvin, football
1950 Salvatore M. Gero, football
1951 Salvatore M. Gero, football
1958 Anthony Carcaterra, football
1958 Gilbert J. Watts, baseball
1961 George W. Wooten, football
1963 Willie K. Tart, football
1964 Jerry C. Rowe, football
1964 H. Jesse Branson, basketball
1965 H. Jesse Branson, basketball
1968 Richard E. McGeorge, football
1969 Richard E. McGeorge, football
1971 Tommy W. Cole, basketball
1972 Tommy W. Cole, basketball
1973 Nicholas G. Angelone, football
1973 Glen R. Ellis, football
1973 J. Fred Long, football
1973 John R. Muir, football
1973 John P. Rascoe, football-academic
1974 Douglas C. Williams, baseball
1974 R. Brent Sexton, football
1975 R. Scott Gorman, baseball-academic
1976 Charles K. Scott, golf
1976 David M. Braxton, golf
1976 Danny Bass, football
1976 Howard R. Ferguson, football
1976 Ricky Locklear, football
1977 Danny Bass, football
1978 David Mc. Graham, golf
1978 Daniel R. Arnold, golf
1978 Bobby D. Hedrick, football
1979 Phil Baskerville, baseball
1979 Bryan D. Burney, football-academic
1980 Bobby D. Hedrick, football
1980 Chris Worst, football
1981 Joseph G. Hackett, baseball
1981 David L. Whitley, baseball-academic
1981 Drew L. VanHorn, basketball

APPENDIX D

1980 ELON COLLEGE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP FOOTBALL ROSTER

1980 ELON COLLEGE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP FOOTBALL ROSTER

THE PLAYERS

10 John Bangley, QB	47 James Blanton, LB	87 Berkley Gore, TE
11 Phil Renn, K	50 George White, OL	88 Danny Scales, TE
12 Bryan Burney, DB	51 Ricky Grays, LB	89 Rodney Byrd, DE
13 Keith Murrell, DB	52 David Moat, OL	90 Mark Dennis, DE
14 Phil Melton, P	53 Randy Long, DL	91 Charles Grady, DE
15 Steve Vargas, WR	54 John Murray, OL	92 Joey Hackett, TE
16 Boyd Byerly, QB	55 Harold Hill, OL	
17 Mark Isenhour, QB	56 James Scearce, OL	THE COACHES
18 Doug Ash, WR	57 T. J. Prizzi, DL	Jerry Tolley
19 Reggie Tice, DB	58 Wayne Wilson, DL	Clayton Johnson
20 Billy Thompson, DB	60 Clint York, OL	Macky Carden
21 Curtis Joyner, RB	61 Tony Pethel, OL	Linwood Ferguson
22 Greg Bynum, DB	62 Jeff Cooper, DE	Don Kelly
23 Vernon Morrison, WR	63 Donovan Brown, OL	Dwight Dutton
24 Tracy Taylor, DB	64 Danny Hooper, OL	John Eder
26 Charles Womack, DB	65 James Fraser, OL	Jeff Michel
27 Allen Baldwin, RB	66 Cliff Parker, OL	Marvin Butler
28 Joe Strouse, WR	67 Quinton Ballard, DL	
29 Ricky Ross, WR	68 Kyle Dunn, OL	THE MANAGERS
30 Bobby Gough, WR	69 Roger Brown, OL	Kyle Wills
31 Lamie Haga, DB	70 Kenny Houston, DL	Milt Cummings
32 Kenny Angel, WR	71 Mike Carmen, OL	Mike Brown
33 Mike Edmonson, DB	72 Randy Raper, LB	
34 Don Ricks, WR	73 Alan Peters, OL	THE TRAINERS
35 Ray Dalton, RB	74 Chris Worst, DL	Marty Baker
36 Fred Jordan, RB	75 Marshall Kirby, DL	Karen Benne
37 McLennard Jay, RB	76 Ron Wright, DL	Debbie Liddle
38 Bill Jessups, RB	77 Frank Hughes, DE	John Pinson
39 Ray Hadley, DB	78 Adrian Robertson, DL	Steve Raborn
40 Jay Wilbur, DB	79 Tommy Jones, DL	
41 Darrell Moore, LB	80 Walter Harvey, TE	THE CAMERAMAN
42 Ernie Tootoo, LB	81 John Robinson, DE	James Cheek
43 Sherman Patrick, WR	82 Wayne Smith, DE	
44 Bobby Hedrick, RB	83 Barry Kavanaugh, DB	
45 Mike Harper, RB	84 Chris McCauley, WR	
46 Stanely Tootoo, LB	86 Leon Jones, DE	

THE HOSTESSES

Kathy Boone
Melinda Brown
Twila Nave

APPENDIX E
CHAMPIONSHIP TEAMS AND COACHES

FOOTBALL

Year	Conference Champion	District Champion	National Rating	Coach
1930	North State			D. C. Walker
1933	North State			D. C. Walker
1934	North State			D. C. Walker
1935	North State			D. C. Walker
1936	North State			D. C. Walker
1938	North State (tie)			Horace J. Hendrickson
1941	North State			Horace J. Hendrickson
1963	Carolinas			George M. Tucker
1964	Carolinas			George M. Tucker
1969	Carolinas			Shirley S. Wilson
1971	Carolinas			Shirley S. Wilson
1972	Carolinas (tie)			Shirley S. Wilson
1973	Carolinas	NAIA (26)	NAIA #2	Shirley S. Wilson
1974	Carolinas	NAIA (26)	NAIA #3	Shirley S. Wilson
1976	South Atlantic	NAIA (26)	NAIA #4	Shirley S. Wilson
1977	South Atlantic	NAIA (26)	NAIA #6	Jerry R. Tolley
1978	South Atlantic (tie)		NAIA #2	Jerry R. Tolley
1980	South Atlantic (tie)	NAIA (26)	NAIA #1	Jerry T. Tolley

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Year	Regular Season Conference Champions	Tournament Champions	District Champions	State Champions	National Tournament	Coach
1913-1914				NCSCBC		Robert S. Doak
1914-1915				NCSCBC		Robert S. Doak
1931-1932	North State					D. C. Walker
1933-1934	North State (tie)					D. C. Walker
1934-1935	North State					D. C. Walker
1936-1937	North State					D. C. Walker
1937-1938	North State					Horace J. Hendrickson
1940-1941	North State					Horace J. Hendrickson
1946-1947		North State				L. J. Perry
1951-1952	North State (tie)		NAIB		NAIB First Round	Graham L. Mathis
1955-1956		North State	NAIA		NAIA First Round	Graham L. Mathis
1956-1957			NAIA		NAIA First Round	Graham L. Mathis
1964-1965		Carolinas				William R. Miller
1970-1971	Carolinas	Carolinas				William R. Miller
1971-1972		Carolinas				William R. Miller
1973-1974	Carolinas					William R. Miller

BASEBALL

Year	Conference Champion	Tournament Champions	District Champions	State Champions	National Tournament	Coach
1928				NCSC		D. C. Walker
1930	Little Six					D. C. Walker
1932	North State					D. C. Walker
1933	North State					D. C. Walker
1934	North State					D. C. Walker
1935	North State					D. C. Walker
1940	North State					Horace J. Hendrickson
1941	North State					Horace J. Hendrickson
1949	North State					James B. Mallory
1950	North State					James B. Mallory
1951	North State					James B. Mallory
1952	North State (Eastern Division)					James B. Mallory
1953	North State (Eastern Division)					James B. Mallory
1954	North State					Graham L. Mathis
1957	North State					Jack D. Sanford
1958	North State				NAIA W1 - L2	Jack D. Sanford
1973			NAIA (26)			Jerry L. Drake
1974		Carolinas				Jerry L. Drake
1977			NAIA (26)			Robert D. McBee

GOLF

Year	Conference Champion	District Champion	National Tournament	
1952	North State			J. L. Pierce
1956	North State			Scott Boyd
1959	North State			C. Robert Benson
1969		NAIA (26)	NAIA #10 (tie)	Gary B. Mattocks
1974	Carolinas	NAIA (26)	NAIA #7	William T. Morningstar
1976	Carolinas		NAIA #2	William T. Morningstar
1977	Carolinas		NAIA #8	William T. Morningstar
1978	Carolinas	NAIA (26)	NAIA #2	William T. Morningstar
1979	Carolinas		NAIA #10	William T. Morningstar
1980			NAIA #10	William T. Morningstar
1981	Carolinas	NAIA (26)	NAIA #4	William T. Morningstar

WRESTLING

Year	Conference Champion	District Champion	State Champion	Coach
1972-1973		NAIA (26)		Dwight D. Brown
1973-1974		NAIA (26)		Dwight D. Brown
1976-1977		NAIA (26)		Dwight D. Brown

MEN'S TENNIS

Year	Conference Champion	District Champion	National Tournament
1934	North State		J. Hinton Rountree
1935	North State		Daniel P. Jones (player)
1936	North State		Daniel P. Jones (player)
1937	North State		Daniel P. Jones (player)
1938	North State		Daniel P. Jones (player)
1950	North State		J. L. Pierce

TRACK

Year	Conference Champion	District Champion	State Champion	Coach
1951	North State			Leonard L. Greenwood (player)
1955	North State			Harry E. Varney

SOCCER

Year	Conference Champion	District Champion	State Champion	Coach
1980	Carolinas (tie)			Steve J. Ballard

APPENDIX F
CHRONOLOGY OF ELON COACHES

FOOTBALL

1909	W. H. Rowe (non-bona-fide student)
1919-1920	C. C. Johnson
1921-1925	Frank B. Corboy
1926	A. R. VanCleave
1927-1933	D. C. Walker
1934-1936	D. C. Walker Assistant: Ellis D. Fysal
1937-1938	Horace J. Hendrickson Assistant: Thomas W. Powers
1939-1941	Horace J. Hendrickson Assistant: Joe L. Brunansky
1942-1945	No Team (World War II)
1946	L. J. Perry Assistant: W. Garland Causey J. L. Pierce
1947	L. J. Perry Assistant: W. Garland Causey
1948	James B. Mallory Assistant: Graham L. Mathis Harold J. Pope
1949-1952	James B. Mallory Assistant: Graham L. Mathis
1953-1955	Harry E. Varney Assistant: Graham L. Mathis
1956-1957	Harry E. Varney Assistant: Graham L. Mathis Joseph C. Bryson
1958	Harry E. Varney Assistant: Graham L. Mathis Robert E. Dunlap

1959 Harry E. Varney
Assistant: Robert E. Dunlap

1960-1963 George M. Tucker
Assistant: Gary B. Mattocks
John D. Wike

1964 George M. Tucker
Assistant: Gary B. Mattocks
Alan J. White

1965-1966 Gary B. Mattocks
Assistant: Alan J. White
C. Bennett Williamson

1967 Shirley S. Wilson
Assistant: Dwight D. Brown
Donald J. Kelly
Jerry R. Tolley
Charles Justice

1968 Shirley S. Wilson
Assistant: Dwight D. Brown
Donald J. Kelly
Jerry R. Tolley
Gary B. Mattocks

1969-1970 Shirley S. Wilson
Assistant: Dwight D. Brown
Donald J. Kelly
Jerry R. Tolley
Clayton E. Johnson

1971-1975 Shirley S. Wilson
Assistant: Dwight D. Brown
Donald J. Kelly
Terry M. Wills
Jerry R. Tolley
Clayton E. Johnson

1976 Shirley S. Wilson
Assistant: Dwight D. Brown
Donald J. Kelly
Leland S. Peacock
Jerry R. Tolley
Clayton E. Johnson

1977 Jerry R. Tolley
 Assistant: Dwight D. Brown
 Clayton E. Johnson
 L. Mack Carden
 Donald J. Kelly
 Leland S. Peacock

1978 Jerry R. Tolley
 Assistant: Dwight D. Brown
 Clayton E. Johnson
 A. E. Claar
 Donald J. Kelly
 L. Mack Carden
 H. Van Turner

1979 Jerry R. Tolley
 Assistant: Donald J. Kelly
 L. Mack Carden
 H. Van Turner
 Clayton E. Johnson
 A. E. Claar
 Linwood S. Ferguson
 John S. Eder

1980 Jerry R. Tolley
 Assistant: Donald J. Kelly
 L. Mack Carden
 John S. Eder
 Clayton E. Johnson
 Linwood S. Ferguson

BASKETBALL

1911-1912 1914-1915	Robert S. Doak
1915-1916 1919-1920	C. C. Johnson
1920-1921 1925-1926	Frank B. Corboy
1926-1927	William M. Jay
1927-1928 1936-1937	D. C. Walker
1937-1938 1938-1939	Horace J. Hendrickson Assistant: Thomas W. Powers
1939-1940 1941-1942	Horace J. Hendrickson Assistant: Joe L. Brunansky
1943-1944	No Team (World War II)
1944-1945 1945-1946	Lacy B. Adcox
1946-1947	L. J. Perry Assistant: W. Garland Causey J. L. Pierce
1947-1948	W. Garland Causey
1948-1949	Howard J. Pope
1949-1950 1958-1959	Graham L. Mathis
1959-1960 1964-1965	William R. Miller
1965-1966	William R. Miller Assistant: Dewey V. Andrew
1966-1967 1967-1968	William R. Miller

1968-1969
1969-1970 William R. Miller
Assistant: Marshall W. Wiggins

1970-1971
1971-1972 William R. Miller
Assistant: Anthony J. Radovich

1972-1973
1978-1979 William R. Miller
Assistant: T. William Morningstar

1979-1980 T. William Morningstar
Assistant: Macdonald Bowman
John H. Moon

1980-1981 T. William Morningstar
Assistant: Danny B. Morrison

BASEBALL

1900-1904	Unknown
1905	Harvey Holt (student)
1906	Unknown
1907	J. A. Vaughn (student)
1908	M. B. Morrow
1909	Mr. Hoffman (non-bona-fide student)
1910	L. L. Hobbs
1911	Bunn Hearn Assistant: Harry M. Hedgepeth (student)*
1912-1915	Robert S. Doak
1916-1920	C. C. Johnson
1921-1926	Frank B. Corboy
1927	W. M. Jay Assistant: Charlie Carroll
1929-1937	D. C. Walker
1938-1939	Horace J. Hendrickson Assistant: Thomas W. Powers
1940-1941	Horace J. Hendrickson Assistant: Joe L. Brunansky
1942	Joe L. Brunansky
1943-1945	No Team (World War II)
1946	J. L. Pierce
1947	L. J. Perry Assistant: W. Garland Causey

* Bunn Hearn was a professional baseball player and left the college at mid-season. Harry M. Hedgepeth then coached the team.

1948-1953	James B. Mallory
1954-1956	Graham L. Mathis
1957-1966	John D. Sanford
1967-1974	Jerry L. Drake
1975	William R. Miller
1976	Bobby L. Jones
1977-1981	Robert D. McBee

TRACK

1909-1912	Unknown
1912-1915	Robert S. Doak
1916-1920	C. C. Johnson
1921	Frank B. Corboy
1922	E. S. Johnson (student)
1923	J. V. Dabbs
1924-1925	Frank B. Corboy
1926	A. K. Moore (student)
1927-1929	No Team
1930-1931	Paul J. Simpson (student)
1932-1949	No Team
1950-1951	L. Leonard Greenwood (student)
1952	Unknown
1953	D. Bowman Small (student)
1954	Scott Boyd
1955-1960	Gary B. Mattocks
1966	C. Bennett Williamson
1967-1969	Jerry R. Tolley
1970-1981	Clayton E. Johnson

TENNIS

1904-1911	Unknown
1912-1915	Robert S. Doak
1916-1920	C. C. Johnson
1921-1922	Frank B. Corboy
1923	Lemuel W. Vaughn, Jr.
1924-1926	Frank B. Corboy
1927	No Team
1928	Eli T. Regan (student)
1929	No Team
1930	Ross Ensminger
1931	E. Frank Johnson (student)
1932-1933	J. Hinton Rountree (student)
1934	J. Hinton Rountree
1935-1938	Daniel P. Jones (student)
1939-1940	Charlie E. Pittman (student)
1941	Jimmy H. Lightbourne (student)
1942	Robert L. Westafer
1943-1944	No Team (World War II)
1945	Lacy B. Adcox
1946-1953	J. L. Pierce
1954-1956	Scott Boyd
1957	Charlie C. Johnson (student)

1958	William T. Blackstone
1959	Robert E. Dunlap
1960	William R. Miller
1961	No Team
1962	William R. Miller
1963	No Team
1964-1968	William R. Miller
1969	Marshall W. Wiggins
1970-1974	Jerry R. Tolley
1975	Donald J. Kelly
1976-1977	Jerry R. Tolley
1978-1980	Donald J. Kelly
1981	Danny B. Morrison

GOLF

1948-1953	J. L. Pierce
1954-1956	Scott Boyd
1957	John D. Brasher
1958-1959	C. Robert Benson
1960	Robert E. Dunlap
1961	George M. Tucker
1962-1964	John D. Wike
1965	Alan J. White
1966-1969	Gary B. Mattocks
1970	Marshall W. Wiggins
1971-1972	Anthony J. Radovich
1973	T. William Morningstar
1974-1976	T. William Morningstar Assistant: Charles D. Harris
1977-1981	T. William Morningstar

WRESTLING

1967-1968	Paul G. Sebo
1968-1969	Dwight D. Brown Assistant: Paul G. Sebo
1969-1970	No Team
1970-1971 1976-1977	Dwight D. Brown
1977-1978 1980-1981	L. Mack Carden

CROSS COUNTRY

1972-1973	Fred T. Watts
1974	No Team
1975-1977	Fred T. Watts
1978	Larry B. Holt

SOCCER

1972-1978	Charles D. Harris
1979-1980	Steve J. Ballard

APPENDIX G
CONSENT FORM

