

#11A 1973 May 17 - Jack Gardner Article On Induction into Elon College Hall Of Fame

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Morehead City and Beaufort, N. C.

THE NEWS-TIMES

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Elon to Induct Beaufort Man into Sports Hall of Fame

SIX OF ELON College's all-time great student-athletes will be inducted into the Elon College Sports Hall of Fame Saturday during commencement weekend on the college campus.

Among those who will be honored are Jack Gardner of Beaufort, an outstanding

basketball and baseball player whose college career was interrupted by the death of his father.

A native of Portsmouth, Ohio, Mr. Gardner would probably have become Elon's first 1,000 point producer had he played out his four years, comments Mark Smith, sports information director at Elon.

THE THREE-TIME all-conference basketball player had to interrupt his studies after 10 games in the 1941-42 season to go to work because his father had tuberculosis. In 3½ years, Mr. Gardner tallied 937 points for the Maroon and Gold and

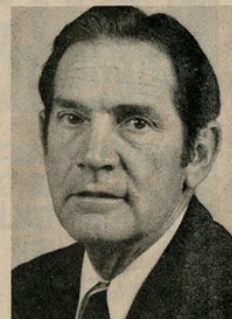
was averaging better than 16 points a game at a time when very few small college cagers were consistent double-figure scorers. He is still 17th on the all-time list of Elon scorers.

Mr. Gardner led the team in scoring as a freshman. He was named to the All-Conference team for three years. During his junior year, he was also named to the All-Tournament team and was the conference's Most Valuable Player as he set a new season scoring mark for the league with 369 points.

On the baseball diamond, Mr. Gardner was a swift shortstop and swung a hot bat. His career

batting average for three years was .388, and during his sophomore year he hit .451 to lead the league.

OTHERS THAT will be inducted include James "Hank" Hamrick, outstanding pitcher and basketball player of the '50's from Roanoke, Va.; Gil Watts of Leesburg, Fla., Elon's only baseball All-American; Hollis Atkinson of Live Oak, Fla., a three-letter man for the Fighting Christians in the early teens; C. V. "Lefty" Briggs of Reidsville, one of the best



JACK GARDNER

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Gardner

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pitchers in Elon baseball history and also an outstanding basketball player in the late 20's; and the late C. C. "Jack" Johnson, another of Elon's early three-letter men who returned to his alma mater to coach.

These six inductees, named by the Hall of Fame committee for their accomplishments and records in winter and spring sports, will join 11 other Hall of Famers that were inducted last fall as the initial group of outstanding former student-athletes.

Candidates for induction must have been inactive as student-athletes for a period of at least 10 years before they can be considered for induction. Those already named include Dr. A. L. Hook, D. C. "Peabody" Walker, L. J. "Hap" Perry, Sal Gero, James "Jack Rabbit" Abbott, Henry "Pete" Williams, Tony Carcaterra and E. S. "Johnny" Johnson.

HALL OF FAMER. Jack Gardner, a former Portsmouth resident, has been picked as one of the six all-time Elon College athletic greats to be inducted into a newly established Elon College Sports Hall of Fame.

The brother of J. B. (Radio) Gardner, 2112 Summit St., is to be honored at special induction ceremonies May 19 in Whitley Auditorium at the college in North Carolina.

The induction of Gardner and the five other first choices will take place during Alumni Day exercises at the college.

Gardner attended Elon from 1937 to 1941 and earned nine college letters, four in basketball, four in baseball and one in football while majoring in physical education.

He was named to the All-Conference basketball and baseball teams each year and in 1939 he broke the North State Conference scoring record in basketball.

Gardner signed a baseball contract while in college with the Philadelphia Athletics and was later declared a free agent and signed with the Chicago Cubs, playing in the Bi-State League in Sanford in 1941. He also played professional basketball in Winston-Salem in 1941.

Gardner now is retired from civil service at Cherry Point. He and his wife, the former Hazel Dill are the parents of two sons.

AND SPEAKING OF GARDNERS.

Jim Gardner, former Portsmouth High School and Duke University grad, has been appointed an official in the Atlantic Coast Conference Football League. Gardner lives in Durham, N. C., and is likely to be seen working in the pits when a NASCAR race is going on, especially in the grand nationals. His mechanical ability rubbed off from his father, J. B. Gardner, who has long been a pit figure at top races, including the Indy 500.