

Sports Hall of Fame inducts four

By CAL BRYANT
Special to Chowan Today

Despite having to watch Chowan College suffer a heartbreaking two-point loss to Nassau on Oct. 26, the mood was much more jovial inside Thomas Cafeteria that night as four new names were added to the growing list of inductees into the school's Sports Hall of Fame.

The seventh annual induction banquet, hosted by the Hall of Fame's sponsor, The Braves Club, began with a welcome from Braves Club executive secretary Jack Goldberg and ended approximately two hours later with Janet Collins, Joe Gro, Don Redford and Ted Rollins joining the 25 previous honorees.

Collins, who has guided the Lady Braves volleyball fortunes since her arrival on Chowan campus in 1964, is the first-ever female to be enshrined in the Sports Hall of Fame. She was inducted by Chowan administrator, Dr. B. Franklin Lowe.

"Janet's induction is long overdue," stated Lowe. "She has meant so much to Chowan College other than her successful volleyball programs, as it was her ideas from which our annual Spring Festival, Spring Court and Fall Court were developed."

Collins, who was also instrumental in beginning community wide swimming classes at Chowan, has twice been named as Region Ten Coach of the Year and possesses a trio of District Nine Coach of the Year plaques.

Hailed as "one of the finest athletes to ever grace the campus of Chowan College," according to longtime Chowan head football coach and athletic director Jim Garrison, Richmond, Virginia native Don Redford was the evening's next honoree.

"Don was a versatile three-sport player (a football, basketball and baseball letterman) during his 1960 through 1962 stopover here at Chowan," added Garrison, "and he was a key part of one of the greatest teams (the '61 squad) that I've ever had the pleasure of coaching."

Redford indeed placed his developmental skills acquired during his days as a Brave to good use after departing the Murfreesboro campus as his first stopover was at the University of Alabama where he finished his college education thanks to a two-year baseball scholarship.

Following his stay at Alabama, Redford returned to his native Virginia where he played quarterback for the Richmond Roadrunners, a member of the Continental Football League, before entering the business world. After stints with the Phillip Morris Company and Pilot Life Insurance Company, Redford has spent the past 12 years with the Union Camp Corporation serving as a supervisor in their Richmond office.

"I have a lot of fond memories of Chowan College," stressed Redford. "I remember our top ten national ranking in the football polls and that team accomplished so much off the field as our success bonded together the students and the staff."

Selma native, Ted Rollins, who attended Chowan from 1954-1956 where he was a key performer for coach Herb Appenzeller's football program, was the evening's next honoree and he was inducted by former Braves teammate Herman Clark.

"There's a special thing about Ted's being inducted and that is he becomes the fifth member of our successful 1955 football team to be enshrined into the Chowan College Sports Hall of Fame." "This is a very proud moment for me," conceded Rollins who retired in 1989 following a distinguished 32-year career with the North Carolina State Department of Public Instruction, where, after receiving his doctorate of education degree from NCSU in 1973, he served for 16 years as assistant director of the Division of Vocational Education.

"The honor bestowed upon me tonight by Chowan College and the Braves Club would not, however, have been achieved without the support of my teammates," added Rollins who also



During a banquet conducted in Thomas Cafeteria, this foursome was honored as the latest inductees into the Chowan College Sports Hall of Fame. The honorees are, from left, Richmond, Va. native Don Redford (class of 1965), Janet Collins (Chowan's veteran volleyball coach), Selma native Ted Rollins (class of 1956) and Joe Gro, of Delaware, Pennsylvania who was a NJCAA football All-American for the Braves in 1972. (Cal Bryant Photo)

holds a bachelor of science degree from Wake Forest University, where he received a full football scholarship upon his graduation from Chowan, and a master of education degree from East Carolina University.

The evening's final inductee was Gro, a Delaware County, Pennsylvania native who headed south to Murfreesboro upon his high school graduation where he was selected as a NJCAA First Team All-American defensive end during his sophomore season (1972).

"It was a privilege for me to have coached Joe," concluded Surface, "and it's my honor to induct him into the Chowan College Sports Hall of Fame."

Following his graduation from Elon, where he obtained his bachelor of science degree, Gro returned to his native Pennsylvania where he began his teaching and coaching career as defensive line coach at Glen Mills School before being promoted to defensive coordinator in 1987. Gro later accepted the defensive coordinator position at Chetenham High

School in Wyncote, Penn. and served in that capacity until being named as the school's head football coach one year later.

He was Montgomery County's Coach of the Year in 1989 and has served as a coach in the Montgomery County All-Star game on three occasions.

"I would like to thank everyone here at Chowan College for this great honor," said Gro, "but any award or honor I receive must be shared by my teammates because without them, I'm nothing."

"I'd also like to thank coaches Garrison and Surface for all they did for me while I was here at Chowan," closed Gro. "The character I developed while I was here at Chowan College is the same ideals I use today as a high school coach. I'm touching the lives of many young men now and thanks to what I learned from coach Garrison and Surface, I'm hopefully doing that in a positive way."

Chowan football rolled on with week by week excitement

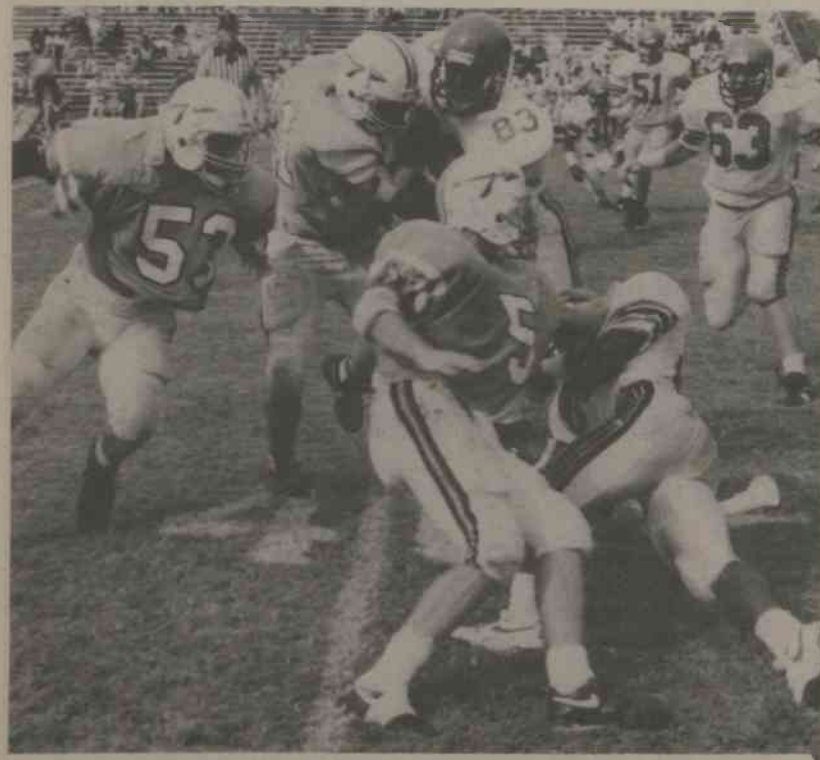
Week 4

As a near capacity homecoming crowd looked on, the Chowan Braves scored in the final ten seconds to snatch victory

from sure defeat in nipping Georgia Military Junior College 14-13.

Week 5

Amidst the beautiful fall pageantry; of



The Braves scrambled all season, finishing 4-5.

the West Virginia mountains, the Chowan defense set the tone shutting down Potomac State College in their Coastal Conference opener. The Braves took the early lead as Chris Feggins broke a tackle and raced 69 yards before being knocked out of bounds on the Catamounts' two-yard line. Feggins put the Braves on the scoreboard on the next snap as he crashed into the end zone, with Eddie Giersbrook's extra point Chowan took a 7-0 lead with only forty-nine seconds elapsed in the game.

The Catamounts scored their only touchdown four minutes later and took the lead as Potomac State was successful on a two-point conversion pass.

With the Braves trailing 8-7 they turned to their defense to come up with the big play and "Big Play" freshman cornerback, Kevin Burgess (Winton, NC), turned in another patented performance. Burgess picked off an errant Catamount aerial on his own 22-yard line sprinting 78 yards to give Chowan back the lead they would never relinquish.

The Braves improved their record to 3-2 overall and 1-0 in the Coastal Conference.

Week 6

Roaring into Garrison Stadium the Lions of Nassau Community College, the No. 7 team in the nation, blocked 2 field goals and 1 extra point to hold off

Chowan in a 21-19 victory.

Week 7

The Knights of Montgomery College took advantage of 10 turnovers to defeat the Chowan Braves 50-16 in a Coastal Conference matchup. The tone of the game was set early as Chowan fumbled the opening kick-off which Montgomery recovered on the Braves' nine-yard line. The Braves saw their record drop to 3-4 overall and 1-2 in Coastal Conference.

Week 8

The Mounties of North Greenville College, ranked No. 7 in the nation, used in the inclement weather to their advantage in defeating Chowan College 28-7.

Despite the 21 point loss, the Braves held the potent North Greenville offense to only 261 total yards. Chowan's pre-season All-American, Bill Lofton, led the Braves defense with 14 tackles and six quarterback hurries to lead the team in those categories.

Week 9

The Chowan Braves concluded their season by defeating Hargrove Military Academy 21-13 in Chatham, Va. They finished the season with a 4-5 overall record.