

Four named to Sports Hall of Fame

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A pair of football standouts, a "diamond darling" on the baseball field and a man whose printed word helped set Chowan College's athletic department on a solid foundation comprised the four new names added to the Sports Hall of Fame during a banquet on Nov. 13.

The ninth annual induction ceremony brought the Hall of Fame's members to 37 as Jerry Holmes (football, Class of 1978), W. G. "Pete" Hunter (baseball, Class of 1963) Roy Parker, Jr., (former sports editor of the *Hertford County Herald*) and Nick Shook (football, Class of 1970) were enshrined as a large gathering of family and friends proudly looked on.

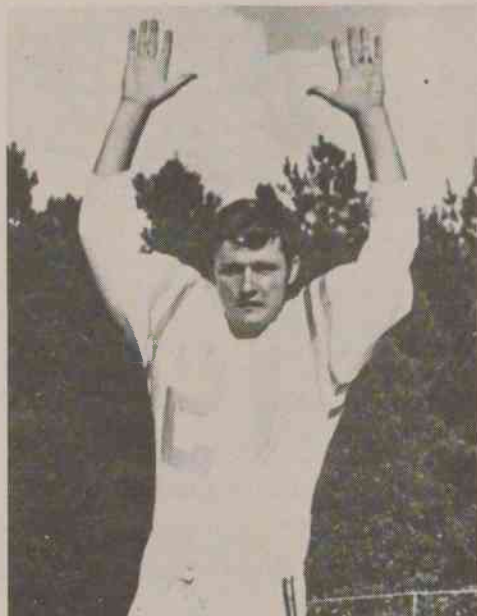
Holmes, a first-team NJCAA All-American at Chowan, is completing his master's degree in management at Hampton University, where he also serves as an assistant football coach.

"Jerry Holmes was one of the most disciplined people I've had in my football program, said veteran Braves coach Jim Garrison. "He set his sights on an education, and I knew that if I couldn't find him in his room at night studying, then I could find him in the library.

"He was an exceptional athlete, but what I admired about him the most is what he has become in society, not what he accomplished on the football field."

"I had the opportunity to play football all across the United States," observed Holmes in reference to his 13-year National Football League career, "but there's something special about Chowan College.

"At Chowan, it was like you were part of one big family; not just a number like you find at other schools. Chowan is a big part of Jerry Holmes, for without it, I wouldn't have been able to make the crucial decisions that I've been forced to make over



Nick Shook . . . gives credit to Chowan for his success in life.

my career. Chowan not only prepares you educationally; it prepares you for life."

Hunter was inducted by his Chowan teammate, Eddie Crowder.

"Pete was an outstanding athlete as well as a person at Chowan," Crowder said of his friend. "He was a total team player, never one to stick out his chest and boast of his own success as he would always let the glory of victory fall upon a teammate."

When speaking of Hunter's successful baseball coaching career in his native Perquimans County—where, under his direction, the Perquimans High School Pirates established a dynasty by never suffering a losing season in 17 years—Crowder offered these thoughts:

"In his coaching career, he has touched the lives of countless young people and those who he has coached and taught are better people for passing his way," Crowder exclaimed.

"The most surprising moment of my life came when Jack Goldberg (executive secretary of the Braves Club, the organization which conducts the Hall of Fame) tracked me down and told me of my selection. Heck, I thought he was a credit card man trying to get my money," mused Hunter.

"In all seriousness though, I don't think I've done enough for Chowan College to deserve such an honor as you are giving me tonight, but I do appreciate your thinking of me."

Although he never attended Chowan College, Parker's roots ran deep in Hertford County where his family enjoyed a rich tradition of serving the public through their journalistic background.

"We were a fledgling athletic program back in the early 1950s," pointed out Dr. Herb



Jerry Holmes . . . played professional football, now a coach at Hampton University.

Appenzeller, Chowan's former athletic director and football coach who inducted Parker into the Hall of Fame.

"We knew we had to get our name in front of the public in order to get those people reading about and getting excited about Chowan College athletics.

"Roy Parker, Jr., was the man who gave us such credibility. From traveling with the team throughout the state from which he formed his stories, he helped us when no one knew who we were or cared who we were. He doesn't know how many players we recruited because of his stories."

"Chowan College means so much to me and my family," revealed Parker, who now resides in Fayetteville where he and his father, the late Roy Parker, Sr., co-founded *The Fayetteville Times*. "I can remember the grand old days I had here and it's very emotional to me to come back here for it was at Chowan where I found my jewel, my wife, Marie."

Speaking of jewels, Shook was a sparkling diamond in the rough when the Bertie County native arrived in Murfreesboro in 1968. Shook, who is an assistant principal at Hertford County High School, was hailed as one of the greatest athletes to play under the tutelage of former Chowan defensive coordinator Sam Green, who inducted his ex-Braves standout.

"I thought of the oath which the Boy Scouts of America abide by when I think of Nick Shook," suggested Green, who would later join Shook at Carson-Newman College where their friendship grew stronger.

"Nick was trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent. You have made Nick Shook proud tonight, but he already has made Chowan College proud."

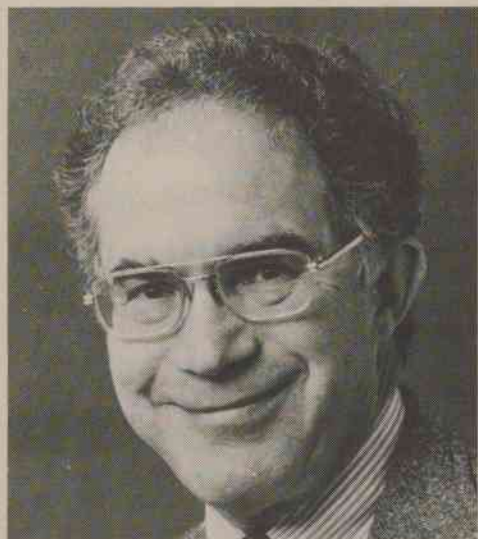
"If it hadn't been for Chowan College, I wouldn't be what I am today," Shook stressed, "either as a career man or a family man. When you come down the path that leads to Chowan College, you leave with the principals of how to make the correct decisions in life.

"I had lost focus in life after breaking my leg playing football my senior year at Bertie High School. Coach (Jim) Garrison, however, showed his faith in me by wanting me to play football for Chowan. He will never know what that faith did for me. It changed my whole life.

"Finally, I can't accept this award without thanking the people around me that led to this," Shook concluded. "I'm a firm believer that success comes from being around successful people and I've been blessed with that."

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Large gathering of family and friends hear inductees give credit to Chowan for successes.



Roy Parker, Jr., above, was a strong supporter of Chowan athletics through his newspaper coverage.



"Pete" Hunter was an outstanding baseball player at Chowan and has coached an area high school team for 17 winning seasons.