



These are the men who will carry the Chowan College colors onto the baseball diamond when the Braves open their 1994 season and their first in NCAA's Division III competition. Kneeling from left are David Tysor, Terry Totty, Mike Yusko, Aaron Carroll, Steve Albona, Jeff Halford, Antonio Holloway, Kenny Mitchell, Brad Blair, Jerry Grizzard, Chris Scott and Shawn Wiseman. Standing, from left, are Thomas Sanchez, William Lepow, James Neuendorf, Jack Coleman, David Coggins, Danny Davis, Gerald Foley, Paul Guidry, Mike Niemotka, Chris Towell, John Breadmore, Tracy Thomasson, Nick Pasiuk and Russell Allen. (Photo by Cal Bryant)

## Braves ready for Division III play; strong team predicted

By Cal Bryant, Sports Editor  
The Ahoskie News-Herald

Mike Bocock was like a big kid in a candy store during the college's baseball media day in late February. His excitement was evident to everyone present.

The picture trying to be painted here is Bocock is excited as the second-year Braves baseball coach eyed the club's 1994 season opener and their first in the Division III ranks of NCAA.

"I'm eager to get out there on the field and see just how we stack up now we're a NCAA Division III program," said Bocock, who guided the club to a school record 29 wins last year during the Braves' final fling at the JUCO level.

"I feel we have a very strong and competitive schedule, one that includes the defending D-III national champions, Montclair State," he said.

In their first season inside the NCAA ranks, the Braves will head into their baseball battles with eight returning lettermen, a number which includes a half dozen returning starters.

A trio of juniors anchor these returnees — Mike Niemotka (pitcher, infielder), Danny Davis (pitcher, infielder) and Thomas Sanchez. Sophomores John Bradmore (pitcher, infielder), John Halford (outfielder), and catcher Chris Towell comprise the remaining starters.

Gerald Foley (pitcher, infielder) and catcher Kenny Mitchell are both sophomore returning lettermen.

Bocock has also brought in a quartet of junior college transfers — infielders Aaron Carroll, Tracy Thomasson and Shawn Wiseman along with outfielders Antonio Holloway and James Neuendorf.

"Defensively, I feel we're on solid ground," stressed Bocock. "Towell and Wiseman give us great depth at the catcher spot while Breadmore (third base) and Davis (first base) are rock solid at the corners.

"I'm looking for freshman Mike Yusko to give some quality depth at third and Carroll should provide ample back-up at first base as well as helping us with his bat as a designated hitter.

"Overall, we're young at the middle infielder positions, but there's some talent there," Bocock continued. "We've moved Sanchez, an All-Conference centerfielder last year, to fill either the second base or shortstop positions.

"Chris Scott is the probable starter at short and Wiseman can help out there as well. Plus, I've got two hard-working freshmen, Terry Totty and Steve Albona, who will add depth as middle infielders."

The Braves are loaded with talent in the outfield where five players will witness loads of playing time.

"Right now, the only player locked in on a starting position is Neuendorf, a JUCO transfer from Florida who will start in left field," admitted Bocock.

"That leaves four very talented players who will all receive lots of action in the outfield — Holloway (an All-Region performer at Chowan two years ago), Halford, and freshmen Russell Allen (an All-Conference and All-State selection during his Hertford County High School career) and Jerry Grizzard, another local product from Roanoke Rapids," the coach said.

Hitting is another strong suit for the Braves as a foursome of "big bats" are back in the Chowan lineup.

Sanchez swung at a .330 clip last season with 18 RBIs and scoring 36 runs. Davis was a .320 hitter with 29 RBIs while Niemotka drove in 25 runs with a .310 average. Breadmore was a .281 hitter with 16 runs and 14 batted in.

"Peck away with some hits, steal bases, sacrifice runners and use the hit-and-run; that's just my style of baseball," stressed Bocock. "We need to score runs in bunches this season because I'm not going to hide the fact that we don't have a lot of depth in our pitching ranks."

Niemotka (an 11-2 record and a 1.56 ERA in 1993) will be the ace of a young staff which includes just one other mound veteran — Davis (3-1, 3.67 ERA).

"Davis was my closer last year, but if our young arms don't develop this season, he'll be our number two starter," confessed Bocock. "We're looking for help from Bradmore and Foley, both of whom saw limited duty last year."

The "young guns" on this year's staff are freshmen Brad Blair, David Coggins, Jack Coleman, William Lepow and Nick Pasiuk.

"To tell you the truth, I'm not worried about matching last year's winning record nor am I worrying myself with our transition from junior college to four-year status," closed Bocock.

"What I am concentrating on is our baseball program itself, doing the right things off the field by getting our players to become positive role models for the local youth and the local community as well."

"I want to build a baseball program here at Chowan that everyone can be proud to associate themselves with. Anybody can win but not everybody are winners."

Rich Gray is back to assist Bocock this season while Tom Estep, who played under Bocock's direction in high school, will also lend a hand from the dugout.

**Strong  
team  
to carry  
Braves'  
banner  
into NCAA  
Division III  
ranks**

### Chowan College Braves

1994

### BASEBALL SCHEDULE

Feb. 20	Va. State University	Home*
Feb. 22	University of Richmond	Away
Feb. 26	Va. State University and Greensboro	Away
Feb. 27	High Point University	Home*
Mar. 2	Eliz. City State University	Away
Mar. 5	Kean College	Away
Mar. 6	Wooster College	Away
Mar. 8	Flagler University	Away
Mar. 9	Lambuth University	Away
Mar. 11	Emory Fiddle University	Away
Mar. 12	Mitchell College	Home
Mar. 19	Montclair State College	Home
Mar. 23	Barton College	Away
Mar. 25-27	Chowan Classic	Home
Mar. 30	U. of Maine at Prescal	Home*
Apr. 1	University of Albany N.Y.	Home
Apr. 1	St. Joe's University	Home
Apr. 5	Christopher Newport	Home
Apr. 6	N.C. Wesleyan College	Home
Apr. 9	Wilmington College	Home
Apr. 12	Christopher Newport	Away
Apr. 14	Coker College	Home
Apr. 16	Newport News Apprentice	Home
Apr. 17	Barton College	Home
Apr. 19	N. C. Wesleyan College	Away
Apr. 20	Newport News Apprentice	Away
Apr. 22	E. Mennonite College	Away
Apr. 23	Ferrum College	Away

\* Denotes Doubleheader