



## The 1995 Men's Baseball Squad

The men who will carry the Braves' "Blue and White" colors for the 1995 season. Sitting, from left, are Chris Whitesel, Sean Hyson, Lee Walker, Terry Totty, Craig Grizzard, Steve Alhona, Robbie Miller and Jon Luther. Kneeling, from left, are Antonio Holloway, Gerald Campagna, Mike Yusko, Jason Schigner, Dean Dowdy, David Grooms, Kevin Mitchell, Jimmy Neuendorf, Jeff Emory and Brooks

Jernigan. Standing, from left, are head coach Mike Bocock, Mark Murphy, Andy Ward, Eric Turner, Clint Evans, Joe Foley, Mike Niemotka, Tomas Sanchez, Chris Towell, John Breadmore, Jack Coleman, Nick Pasiuk, pitching coach Steve Flack and assistant coach Rich Gray. —Photo by Cal Bryant ('73)

## Braves face '95 season with much talent

By JACK GOLDBERG  
Sports Information Director

With 12 lettermen and seven starters back from last season's 21-11 club, Chowan's baseball boss Mike Bocock says — "Beware of the Braves!"

"From top to bottom, this may be the best club I've had at Chowan," bragged Bocock, the Braves' third year skipper. "We're brimming with talent in each and every position and have quality depth at each position as well."

Highlighting this talent-laden band of Braves is a foursome of seniors — outfielders Tomas Sanchez and Antonio Holloway along with ace righthander Mike Niemotka and first baseman Jimmy Neuendorf.

Sanchez led the Braves in RBIs (30) and home runs (4) last season while swinging at a .297 clip. He also was the club leader in stolen bases, swiping 31 bags in 34 attempts.

Niemotka (an 8-2 record last season with 90 strikeouts and 3.83 ERA) returns to anchor a deep and talented pitching staff. The Hampton, VA, native will also see time at first base as well as again picking up a bat, something he hasn't done since his sophomore season where he was listed as one of the Braves' leading hitters.

Neuendorf, a leftfielder last season, has made a smooth move over to first base. The 6'1", 215-pounder, swung a mean stick last season as his .359 average was second best on the team.

Holloway, a true "speed merchant," was one of the team's best defenders from a year ago by committing only three errors en route to a .932 fielding percentage.

Two sophomores and two juniors also return to starting positions — outfielder Craig Grizzard (.241 avg.), third baseman Mike Yusko (.255 avg. and 14 RBIs) and pitcher-third baseman John Breadmore (.267 avg. and 19 RBIs along with a 3.86 ERA).

Towell along with Yusko, Grizzard and sophomores Jack Coleman (pitcher) and shortstop Terry Totty, all gained valuable experience last summer by playing in Pennsylvania's UAAABA Collegiate League.

A huge addition to the Braves' roster will be the return of junior outfielder-pitcher Craig Owens who was an academic red-shirt last season. Owens, an All-Region 10 performer for the Braves at the JUCO level, was tabbed as the MVP of the Front Royal Cardinals of the Valley League this past summer and was third in the

voting for the league MVP.

Owens turned down a solid financial offer from the Chicago Cubs in order to return to Chowan and obtain his degree.

Rounding out the returning lettermen, each of whom will see ample playing time this season, are pitchers Joe Foley, a junior, and Nick Pasiuk, a sophomore, along with sophomore infielders Steve Alhona and Totty.

A pair of talented junior transfers — Bertie County native Jeff Emory, a former two-year performer at Greensboro College, and All-Florida Junior College standout Mark Murphy — both have been very impressive during pre-season workouts. Emory may see action either in the outfield or on the mound while Murphy, who played for Bocock's Staunton Braves in last summer's Valley League, will get the starting nod at shortstop.

Chowan has also added first-year sophomores Kevin Mitchell, a Washington, NC outfielder, and pitcher Clint Evans of Virginia Beach.

Another huge key in Chowan's possible success is a talent-rich pitching staff anchored by the "righties" Niemotka, Breadmore, Coleman, Foley and Pasiuk, along with Owens,

a flame-throwing "lefty."

Add the likes of Emory and a pair of All-State freshmen recruits, Bertie County southpaw Brooks Jernigan and Andy Ward (6'5", 230-pounder from Virginia Beach) and one can see first-year pitching coach Steve Flack's eyes light up like a kid in a candy store.

Speaking of freshman talent, Bocock has completed another outstanding recruiting year by bringing in quality players who will be counted upon to make an impact on the Braves' baseball program.

Christ Whitesel of Hudson, FL, is getting a good look by the coaching staff as a possible starter at second base while highly-recruited catchers Dean Down of Currituck and Sean Hyson of Waldorf, MD, will provide solid back-up to Towell. Jon Luther, also of Waldorf, MD, is a quick outfielder who is working hard to move his name up on the outfield depth chart.

The remainder of the freshman class consists of catcher Lee Walker of Suffolk, VA, second baseman Robbie Miller of Staunton, VA, outfielder Gerald Campagna of Mt. Holly, NJ, pitcher Jason Schigner of Palm Bay, FL, third baseman David Grooms of Grafton, VA and pitcher Eric Turner of Staunton, VA.

*"This may be the best baseball club I've ever had at Chowan"*  
—Bocock

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