

Girls' Softball team posts 29-3 record

Another season, another record

The records keep falling! One year after they became the all-time winningest team in a single season in Chowan College history, the Lady Braves softball squad has set another record. With a 29-3 record for the 1995-96 season, not only did the Lady Braves secure their fourth consecutive 23-win season, but they also set a record for the college's winning percentage by a team.

A .906 winning percentage was the best in the history of Chowan, which has prided itself on athletic history.

The 29 victories came as a testament to the team which achieved it, according to seventh-year skipper Jack Goldberg.

"I believe if you work hard and do things right, good things happen to you," Goldberg said. "I said all year we were good, but you also have to be lucky and we were both this season."

Third-year assistant Shane Crandall agreed. "We had a good season overall," he said. "We didn't play as well as we should have on a few occasions, but each time the Lady Braves stepped up and did what it took to win."

Also on the priority list is a team grade point average of 3.0, which is the highest on campus for the fourth year.

Heading the list of Goldberg's team this year were seniors Mandy McCain and Meredith Davies. McCain, a pitcher with a near-perfect 15-1 record, and Davies, a centerfielder and slugger with a .495 season batting average, are

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as good as anyone at the Division III level.

The two seniors were part of 120 victories over their four-year career and, according to Goldberg, were the catalyst for the team.

"These two young ladies have been the cornerstone of our program," Goldberg said. "Whatever we have achieved, they have been a major part of it."

The next group of young ladies on the team, the junior class, consisted of Michelle Mitchell, Cindy Jo Rash, Jennifer Murden, Kim Hetherington and Heather Britt.

Mitchell is a junior catcher who is a three-sport athlete while Rash is a second-year pitcher for the Lady Braves who finished the season 7-1. Murden played shortstop this season, where she has been since her freshman year with only three errors in over 100 changes and moved to the number 3 spot in the line-up.

Hetherington and Britt are a pair of juniors who play second base and work as designated hitters.

"My juniors have been a solid group, not only on the field, but more importantly in the classroom as four of the five were named to the Dean's List for this semester," Goldberg said.



Head coach
Jack
Goldberg
in his
seventh year
with the
Lady Braves.

"Three of those five have started since their freshman year with C. J. transferring in and winning 17 games over the last two seasons," he added.

Next came a group of sophomores who settled into their sports this season. Those sophomores — Kelly Rothery, Kim Annis, Tracy Bennett, Heather Cahoon and Kim Gracia—each made significant contributions this season.

In addition to her perfect (5-0) pitching record, Rothery worked at first base this season and hit the ball well during the last half of the season.

Bennett started at first base after missing a season and played well defensively while Cahoon worked in right field until a season-ending injury to her knee.

"Three of the five earned starting positions as freshmen and made an immediate impact while another made an impact as a pitcher," Goldberg said. "The other young lady was getting key playing time this season before a knee injury cut her down late in the season."

A trio of three-sport freshmen—Kristina Sublett, Missy Newby and Neely McCulley—rounded out the squad.

Newby got the call in right field during the season and hit well in the second spot while Sublett, a pitcher, finished with a 2-1 mark and McCulley worked in the infield.

"Our freshmen made a solid contribution this year with one earning a starting position and having an outstanding year," Goldberg added. "One has the potential to be an outstanding pitcher and the others made some positive things happen for us."

Crandall said the work done by this team of the last four years was unreal.

"If I said that being a part of nearly 100 wins in the last three seasons with the Lady Braves didn't give some pride, I wouldn't be telling the truth," he said. "These young ladies have done everything that could be asked of them and the way they stuck together to win is a testament to their determination."

The season was one of dreams, but Goldberg is already working on next season with several recruits who could make an immediate impact and keep the talent-laden cupboard full.



Teammates
cheer
as another
run is
scored.

The .906 winning percentage was the best in the history of Chowan College sports

Two seniors participated in 120 victories over their 4-year career as Lady Braves



Junior catcher Michelle "Mickey" Mitchell knows getting dirty is part of the job.