

Freshmen Key To Grid Chances

Seventeen lettermen will provide the backbone of Chowan College's football team but to a great degree the success or failure of the Braves will depend on the performance of the freshmen, to be selected from 120 candidates.

That's the outlook from Coach Jim Garrison, assisted by Jerry Hawkins and Dan Surface, who will send the freshmen through three-a-day drills beginning August 13. They will be joined a week later by the sophomores as Chowan prepares for a Monday, September 11, opener against the North Carolina State Jayvees in Raleigh.



JULIUS SMITH, Cincinnati, Ohio, speedster, who starred in the backfield last season for the Braves, will be back for the 1972 year. He proved to be a breakaway threat as a freshman.

Chowan loses the services of 30 players departed from the 1971 squad that posted a 5-4-1 record in the tough Coastal Conference. Three of the losses were by a total of eight points as the Braves led the league in defense but had troubles with a sputtering offense.

At quarterback and the defensive secondary, Garrison is especially counting on the first year men to meet the test of college competition.

"It's nothing new, of course," the lanky head mentor said of Chowan and junior college football. "Every year you have a big turnover. You recruit all the outstanding high school players you can. But you never know how good they really will be as college players until they get game experience," he commented.

The quarterback situation is crucial on a team that is planning to use the pro set and the Houston veer series. Garrison explained the veer, used successfully by Wake Forest with Larry Russell at quarterback, gives the quarterback a triple option. In a split second he must decide to hand the ball off, keep it or pitch out to a running back.

Gone are Chowan's two gifted quarterbacks who split the duties last year, Paul Black and Dale McCafferty. The only returning quarterback is Pat Waguespack, Mataoca, Va., who saw little game action in 1971. He does have the advantage of participating in spring practice, Garrison said.

Other candidates for the position include a sophomore baseball player and four freshmen. The sophomore is David Winecoff of Virginia Beach, Va., who was a pitcher for the Braves with a nohitter to his credit. He is

considered an excellent passer by Garrison.

Of the freshmen, three are from Tidewater Virginia. They are Robert Mansfield of Lake Taylor High School, Virginia Beach; Eddie McSweeney of Woodrow Wilson High School, Portsmouth; and Mike Noe, who played at Cox High School, Virginia Beach. The fourth first year candidate is Eddie Hawkins of Radford, Ky. McSweeney led his team to the Eastern District Championship and is considered a "great competitor" by Garrison.

Returning lettermen include seven from the defense, nine from the offense and a punter. The defensive players are Chip Bishop, Fayetteville, back; Tom Evans, Chester, Va., linebacker; Joe Gro, Springfield, Pa., defensive end; Delbert Melton, Norfolk, Va., tackle; Terry Sandy, Clinton, back; Jim Stanko, Old Bridge, N. J., linebacker; and Ralph Zehler, Palmyra, Va., linebacker.

The lettermen from the offense include Phil Adams, Dunn, center; Joe Gayheart, Savannah, Ga., tackle; Freddy Knight, Gastonia, tight end; Carl Porter, Greensboro, flanker back; George Sands, Carrabelle, Fla.; fullback; Tom Wright, Hatboro, Pa., split end; Julius Smith, Cincinnati, Ohio, running back; Ken Eisenhart, Quakertown, Pa., tackle; and Jerry Goney, Portsmouth, Va., guard.

Another letterman is Warren Hogue, Charleston, S. C., punter, remembered for an 80-yard kick last year against Lees-McRae and his consistent punts in the 40-50 yard range. "He's better than anything in the Atlantic Coast Conference," beamed one

knowledgeable fan who annually splits his viewing between the Braves and ACC warfare.

Also expected to help the Braves are several sophomores who did not play last year. They include Chip Barnes, Lumberton, offensive tackle, who participated in spring practice; Doug Braswell, Rocky Mount, offensive guard who played in the high school North-South All-Star game but missed last year with an injury; Phil Morgan, Corapeake, running back, a transfer from the University of North Carolina; and Winecoff. Of

these, Garrison expects all to see considerable action and Braswell to start.

Garrison is confident the offensive line, with all sophomores scheduled for the first team, will be a Chowan strength. But at the defensive secondary Garrison must count on freshmen with only one starter returning from among the seven positions. He's back, Terry Sandy.

Freshmen expected to make a name for themselves on defense include three who were teammates at Minersville, Pa. They are tackles Pete Walsh (6-4, 250), Gene Frey (6-2, 235) and linebacker Mike Wuhas (6-1, 225).

Toughest Ever Schedule

A 10-game schedule — Chowan's toughest ever — will take the Braves to New York for the first time for a game with powerful Nassau of Long Island. Four of the games will be against perennial nationally ranked powers, Ferrum, Wesley, Lees-McRae and Nassau.

The Braves will see plenty of action against other rugged teams before facing Nassau November 18 in the season's final game. Chowan opens on Monday, September 11, at Raleigh against the North Carolina State Jayvees. The game will be played in Carter Stadium.

Also scheduled are games with three teams which defeated Chowan in 1971 by a total of eight points, Lees-McRae, Wesley and Potomac State. Of the three, the Potomac State game will be at home.

The opponents for the home games are Baltimore, Potomac, East Carolina University Jayvees, Ferrum and Harford.

The site for the encounter with the East Carolina Football Club October 28 has not been designated.

The schedule with opponent's location and 1971 scores in parentheses, Chowan's first: September 11, N. C. State Jayvees, Away, 7:30 p.m.; September 16, Baltimore (Md.) (14-14), Home, 8 p.m.; September 23, Potomac State (Keyser, W. Va.) (23-27), Home, 8 p.m.; September 30, East Carolina University Jayvees, Home, 8 p.m.; October 7, Ferrum (Va.) (7-27), Home, 8 p.m.

October 14, Lees-McRae (Banner Elk) (8-10), Away, 2 p.m.; October 21, Harford (Bel Aire, Md.) (39-0), Homecoming, 2 p.m.; October 28, East Carolina Football Club (21-7), (site not determined); November 4, Wesley (Dover, Del.) (12-14), Away, 8 p.m.; November 18, Nassau, Away, 2 p.m.

Chowan's 1971 record was 5-4-1.

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