Basketball Outlook Looking Better



NAT WRIGHT of Charlottesville, Va., fights for the ball.

How will Chowan's basketball team fare during 1972-73 play? Coach Bill McCraw is optimistic and he points to his freshmen crop as supporting evidence. Last season, Chowan won five and lost 19, a number by one or two points. Chowan's hopes for an improved team will rest heavily on four freshmen with high school all-star credentials. The players, who range in size from 6-2 to 6-6, include two who led their conferences in scoring. They are fim Lyons (6-3, 180) from Selma and Greg Wilson (6-2, 170) of Philipsburg, Pa.

Lyons, the most prolific scorer of the four, averaged 27 points per game last season. He was voted all-East and the most valuable player in the conference tournament. "He can play both forward and guard and shoots well outside or off the drive," McCraw commented.

Joining Lyons from a Selma will be James Soard (6-6, 190) who averaged 17 points and 17 rebounds a game as a senior. Soard was named to the allconference squad two years and all-East last year. McCra ted the center "is expected to de rebounding and defensive help around the boards as well as carry his share of the offensive burden."

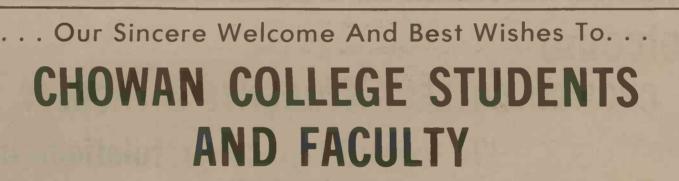
Wilson (6-2, 170) was the Mountain League scoring champion with a mark of 20.1 per game for Philipsburg-Osceola Area High School. He also averaged 10 rebounds. "Wilson jumps well and can play either forward or guard," noted McCraw. Also from Pennsylvania is

Harry Fields (6-4, 180) of Johnstown. Labeled "an agile, high-jumping forward" by McCraw, Fields led his high school, Bishop McCort, to the conference championship averaging 14.1 points and 18 ramed the MVP in the Big "A" Altonna All-Star game and was also nominated for the Roundball Classic in Pittsburg, called one of the state's "coveted" tournaments by McCraw and other area all-star squads.

CHOWAN'S STUDENT body was rated as tops for cooperation at home basketball games by the people who should know, the referees.

In the face of this competition, McCraw believes his sophomores will have to scramble to make the starting lineup. The returning player with the best chance to make the starting lineup may be John Spears, guard from Afton, Va. Others who should be helped by the added experience and confidence include guards Pat Callahan of Norfolk, Va., and Donald Holts of Waynesboro, Va.; forwards Ray Rawls of Carrsville, Va., and Mike Oliver of East Orange, N. J.; and enters Don Johnson of Norfolk, Va., and Chester Neals of East Orange, N. J.

Chowan won only five of 24 contests last year but McCraw believes he has the players to reverse the Braves' performance in 72-73.



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