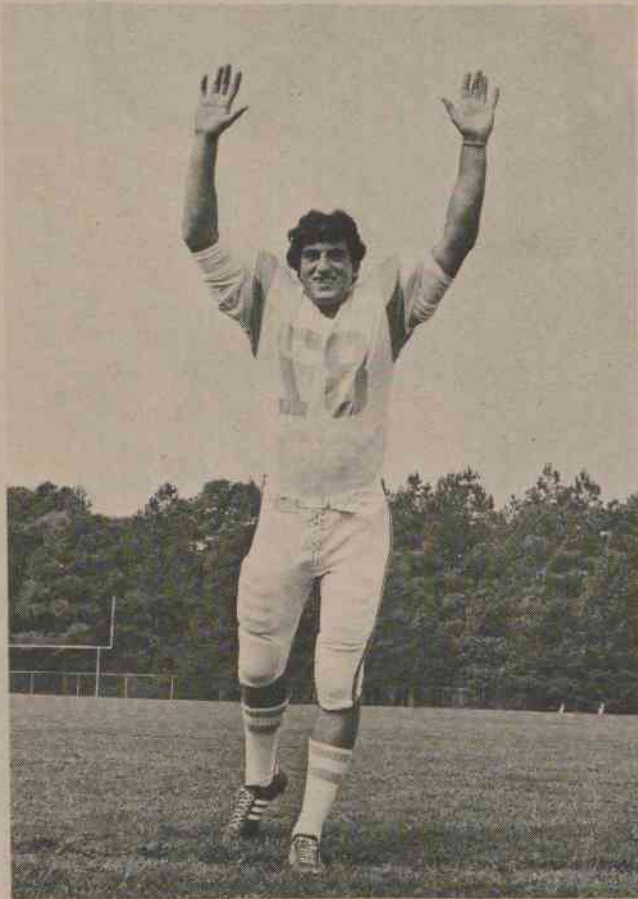


# Gro Named All-American



JOE GRO... Chowan's All-American

## Braves Top Mt. Olive

Chowan College's basketball team won its fourth straight game and first before the home fans defeating Mount Olive, 71-70, in overtime Friday night, January 10.

It was an uphill battle for the Braves. They were shut out for the first six minutes and were trailing 12-0 when forward Mike Oliver made Chowan's first score. The Trojans' halftime lead was 39-26.

The same point totals were made in the second half only this time the Braves had 39. It took Chowan 19 minutes and 59 seconds in the second stanza to tie Mount Olive. Oliver flipped in a driving layup with one second left to assure the tie. Nursing a 65-63 lead, the Trojans had a chance to win it with five seconds left but forward Doug Potter missed two free throws and Chowan made the rebound and passed to Oliver who raced the length of the court to the basket.

Hero of overtime was forward Keith McClearn, one of three players from Smithfield-Selma High School who played the entire second half for Chowan.

Center James Soard and guard Tim Lyons were teammates of McClearn at Smithfield. With 14 seconds left in the five-minute overtime and Chowan behind, 70-69, McClearn calmly sank two free throws for the winning margin.

Mount Olive called time out to plan their last shot. With four seconds on the clock, they took it. The ball hit the rim and took a Chowan bounce to preserve the Braves' fourth win against six losses. The win evened their conference mark at 1-1.

Braves' coach Bill McCraw said Chowan was paced in the second half comeback by the rebounding of Oliver and Soard and scoring of the same two plus Lyons and McClearn. Reserve guard Al Crenshaw was praised for his scoring and directing the attack from mid-way in the first half until fouling out late in regulation play.

Chowan was led in scoring by McClearn with 16 followed by Soard with 13. Lyons added six for a 35-point scoring performance from the three Smithfield players.

## Cagers Change With New Year

By LINWOOD LEWIS

To the disappointed fans who felt the Braves weren't any good last year, well, the New Year brought in a new team. The same guys, but with a much more determined spirit. The Chowan Braves started the New Year off by winning the Wesley Invitational Tournament. It took a lot of pride to travel with an 0-6 record to prove they were the best team of the crop.

A lot of teamwork and good coaching on the part of Coach McCraw led them to victory. The Chowan Braves beat Wesley Jr. College 70-61. They received outstanding performances from

the playing of Al Crenshaw, quarterback of team, Tim Lyon, hot shooting guard with 19 points, out front court consisting of Ray Rawls, James Soard, and Mike Oliver with 11 points apiece and an average of nine rebounds and an additional 16 more rebounds from Keith McClearn.

Their next opponent for the championship was Brandywine Jr. College. Again the team showed a tough defense and a scoring offense. This time they received the help of two reserve guards, John Spears and Pat Callahan, who scored 10 and 16 points respectively, with Callahan adding some go ahead

Chowan College defensive end Joe Gro has been named to the first team all-American junior college football squad, according to Braves' coach, Jim Garrison. A second Brave, defensive tackle Delbert Melton of Norfolk received honorable mention.

The 6-2, 220-pound Gro was named Chowan's permanent defensive captain by his teammates at the end of the season, which produced a 6-4 mark.

Gro's selection as all-American adds to Chowan's tradition as the home of all-American players. For each of the past three years, a Brave has been honored as a first team all-American. Selected in 1970 was offensive tackle John Bowles of Virginia Beach while middle linebacker Stuart Christian was named last year.

Gro was among the team leaders in tackles in each of the Braves' games. Part of this is a tribute to his pursuit since the opposition often elected to avoid a direct challenge of the big end. Garrison characterized Gro as a "tenacious" player who responds to a challenge. "He's going to make a name for himself with a senior college team," predicted Garrison.

Gro has made more than his share of key plays this season, Garrison indicated. "The tougher, closer the game, the better he liked it," Garrison said.

## Braves Win Three In Row

By LINWOOD LEWIS

The Braves who are back home, continue to win. Running their streak to three and an overall record of 3-6. With John Spears and Pat Callahan breaking into line up as starting guards, they led the team in points and were the play makers. Keith McClearn, still playing good basketball, led the team in rebounds and added 12 points. James Soard contributed 10 rebounds and seven points, and Greg Wilson had nine. The final score was 62-59. This victory was Chowan's third in a row and gives them an undefeated 3-0 record since January 1.

## Braves Win 71-70

By LINWOOD LEWIS

Chowan Braves, riding on a four game winning streak, won a squeaker over Mt. Olive. Michael Oliver, who scored on a fast break with one second left on the clock, tied the game. Keith McClearn hit two free throws with fourteen seconds remaining in the overtime period to give Chowan the victory.

free throws. Keith McClearn showed strong play with 13 rebounds and 21 points. James Soard, 15 rebounds and 22 points; Michael Oliver, 18 rebounds and nine points.

In both games the Braves were without the play of Greg Wilson, who was in an accident while coming to school over the holidays for the tournament. He is OK now and back with the team.

To top all the performances the Braves placed two players on All-tourney team. Michael Oliver selected All-tournament; and James Soard, All-tournament and Most Valuable Player.

"He made several big fumble recoveries and interceptions," the Braves' head coach remarked.

Garrison lauded Gro as "an all-around outstanding football player. He's big, strong and a smart football player. In all respects, he's worthy of this honor."

The Springfield, Pa. resident handled his assignment at defensive end almost flawlessly, Garrison observed. Garrison said Gro prevented the sweeps, made the tackles and exhibited a strong pass rush.

For these and other reasons, Gro "gained the respect of every opponent we played," Garrison reported.

Like Gro, the 6-1, 220-pound Melton was a starter for the past two years. Garrison believes that Melton also belongs in select company.

"Garrison said Melton's attributes include being "smart, quick and strong. He's a major college prospect without doubt," added Garrison, who calls Melton "a winner."

Making the "big play" was a Melton trademark, Garrison noted. One of his most memorable plays come during a goal line stand against Harford, October 21. On fourth and goal from Chowan's one, Melton met the Owls' fullback headon, stopping him one-foot short to save a score and preserve the Braves' 3-0 lead. Chowan, boosted by the play, continued to a 17-0 victory.

"Melton had a knack of being in the right place at the right time to make the tackles, fumble recovery or some other important play. He helped us take advantage and even make the breaks," Garrison said. "That's the kind of player you want and belongs on the all-American team," concluded Garrison.

## Chowan Streak Stops At Four Basketball Tilts

By LINWOOD LEWIS

The Braves, who traveled to Sandhills Junior College, had their winning streak cut off at four wins. They led most of the game to lose it late in the second half.

The problem seems to be that of putting the right combination of players on the court. Despite the loss, James Soard showed equal power in both departments of scoring and rebounds, with sixteen points and fourteen rebounds. He was followed by Mike Oliver with twelve points and nine rebounds.

High scorer was Keith McClearn with sixteen.

**Braves Home Games**  
Jan. 25 Southwood College  
Jan. 27 Sandhill College  
Feb. 7 Louisburg College  
Feb. 12 Frederick Military Academy  
Feb. 16 Ferrum College

## Spears' 29 Points Leads Chowan In Kittrell Loss

By LINWOOD LEWIS

The Braves who put up a fight for three quarters, finally gave in to Kittrell. The visiting team show from every spot of the floor showing why they were 18-0 coming into the game.

Chowan was led in scoring by the hot hand of John Spears, who shot sixty-three per cent from the field to finish up with 29 points. He was followed by James Soard with sixteen points and fourteen rebounds. Keith McClearn, twelve points, and Michael Oliver with twelve points.

The final score was 83-97. Chowan also had trouble holding the ball, with a team record of thirty-six turn-overs.



WINS TROPHY—Chowan College basketball coach, Bill McCraw, holds the Wesley College Tournament trophy captured by the Braves January 3-4 in Dover, Del. Chowan beat the favorite, host Wesley, 70-61, in the first round and then whipped Brandywine of Wilmington, 87-78 for the title.