

NJCAA Tournament

Braves Lose Heartbreaker In Finals of Regional Tourney

By HARRY PICKETT

ROCKY MOUNT, Va. — A stunned group of Chowan followers watched helplessly as Brevard College sophomore forward Brian Horton completed a three-point play with 12 seconds remaining to clinch the Region 10 NJCAA Tournament basketball championship for his team with a 58-57 come-from-behind victory over Eastern Tarheel Conference regular season champion Chowan College, Thursday March 1.

Horton, who was named Region 10 Most Valuable Player for the tournament, picked off an erratic Brave inbound pass while his team was trailing 57-55, and kissed the shot off the glass while being fouled by Brave guard Allen Porter.

The Braves, who knocked off Surry Community College 86-65 and Mitchell College 66-65 to qualify for the finals, fell to 23-7 on the year, while Brevard advances to national play with a 23-8 mark.

Chowan, a loser here in the first round to Anderson College a year ago, was behind at the intermission by a 39-36 margin, but opened the second half with a 14-4 run, to jump ahead by seven with 10:41 left, 50-43.

Under the direction of Brave head coach Jerry Smith, Chowan spent much of the second half in multiple slow-down offenses. But during the time in the stall, the Braves' seven-point lead slowly began to dwindle. The Braves, however, never relinquished the lead until Horton's free throw. They had at least a two-point lead throughout the second half.

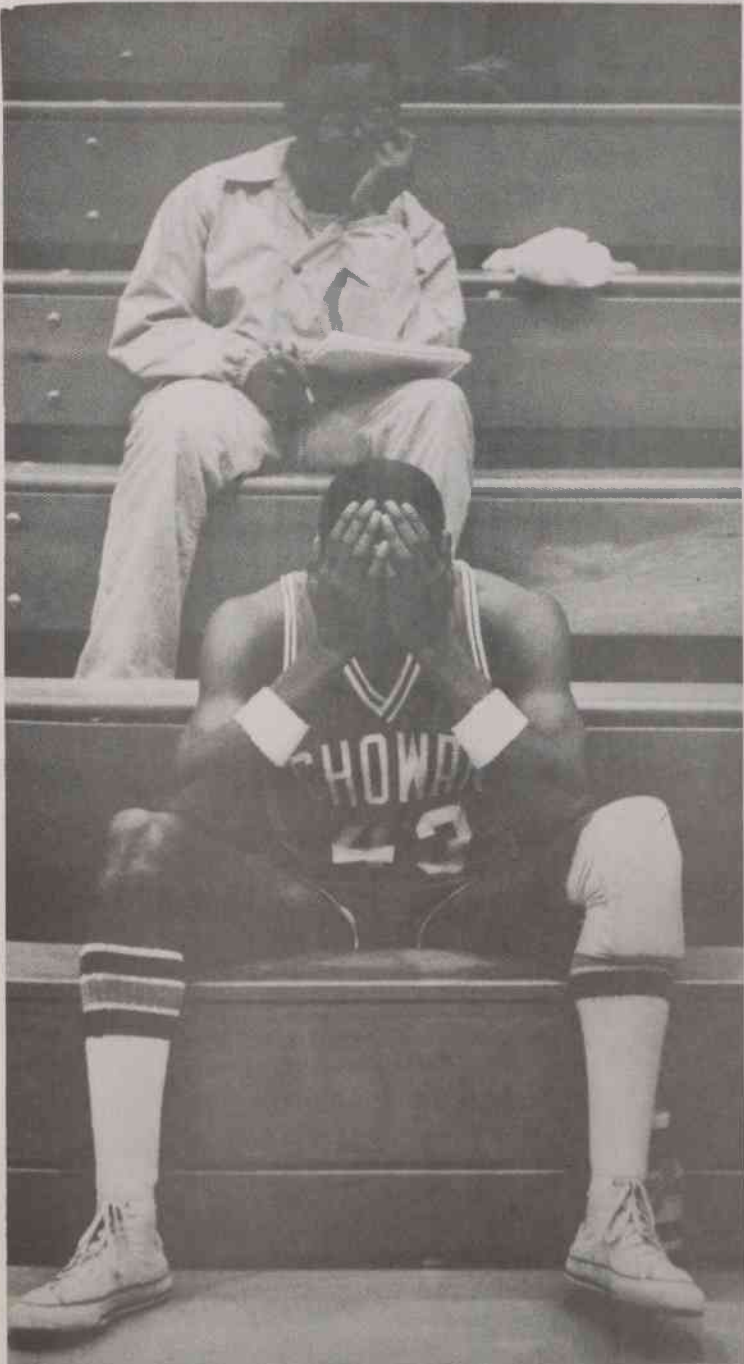
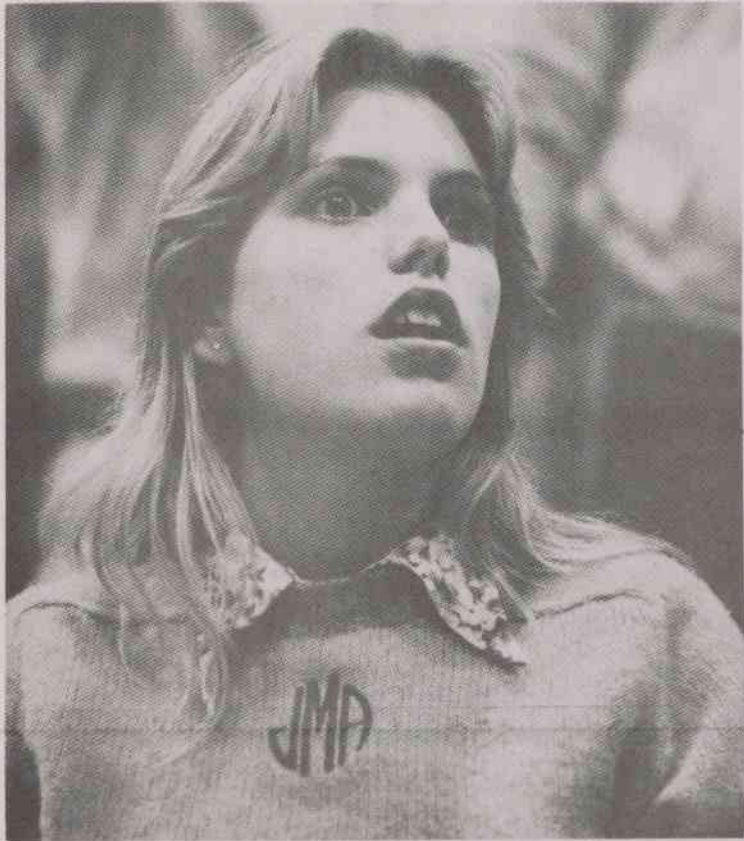
William Bogues led all scorers with 15 for Chowan. Robin Hoey and Porter notched 14 and 11 respectively. Horton and teammate Benton Wade each scored 14 for Brevard.

Hoey and Greg Dawson were named to the Region 10 All-Tournament team for Chowan. Horton and Benton were named from the Brevard squad. Mitchell College's Johnny Carson was chosen to round out the five-man team.

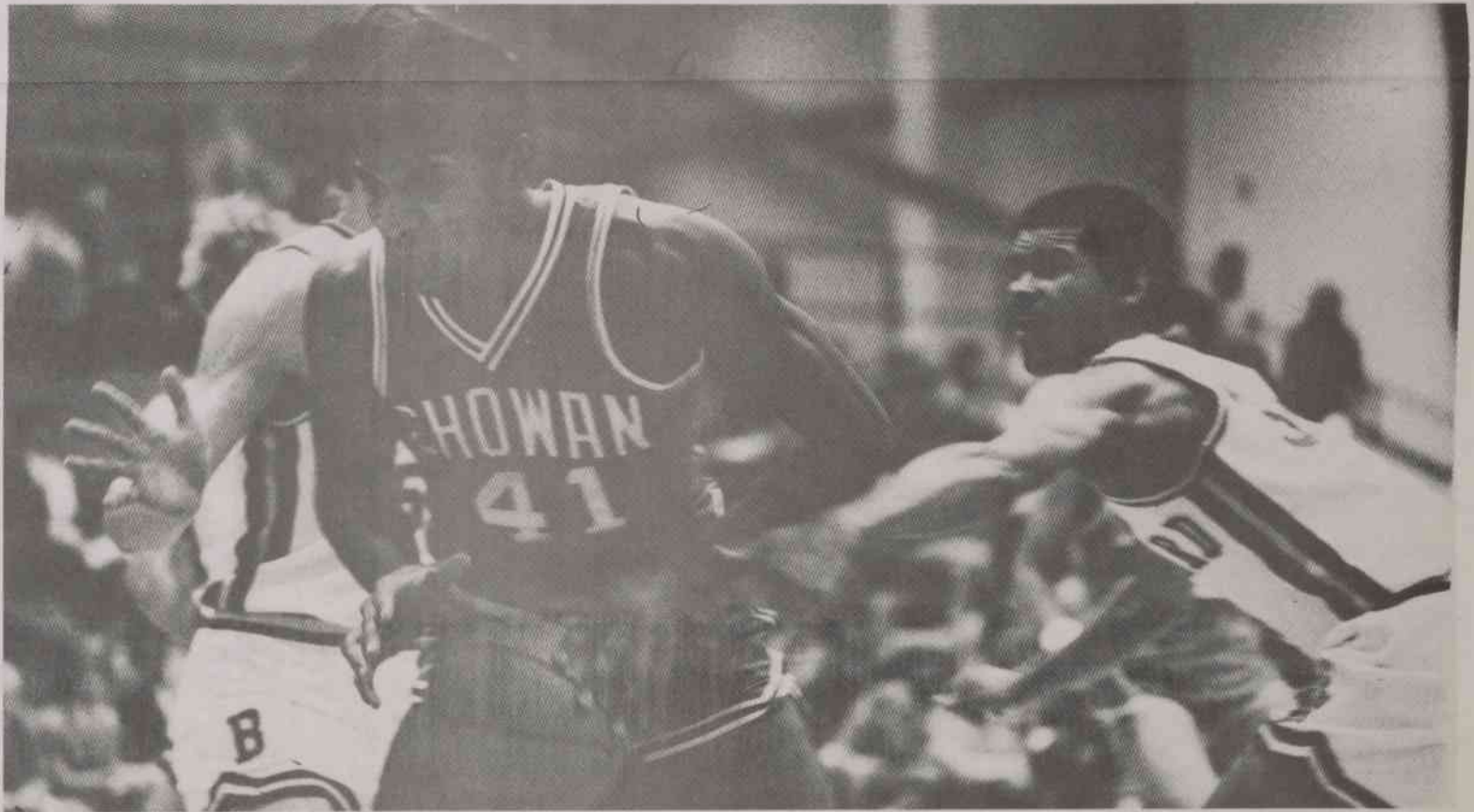


All-Tournament choice Robin Hoey (right) looks for a sure shot after eluding a Brevard defender late in the final game of the Region 10 NJCAA Tournament played in Rocky Mount, VA., March 1. Also named to the Region 10 All-Tournament team was forward Greg Dawson.

As the final game of the Region 10 NJCAA Tournament went into the last 30 seconds of play, Jean Metz (left) along with others in a small band of Braves fans were stunned as the Braves were defeated 58-57.



In the final game of the Region 10 Tournament Chowan's hopes of a national championship and Harry Pickett's lead paragraph were shattered in the last 12 seconds of play. Brian Horton of Brevard completed a three-point play after being fouled by Allen Porter to make the final score 58-57.



Randolph Bell (above) is fouled as he pivots toward basket. Robin Hoey, Brave floor leader, listens intently (at left) as Coach Jerry Smith outlines strategy changes during a timeout.