

Braves 3-1 in Conference at Midpoint, 16-2 Overall

Barnes, Johnson Destroy Mt. Olive

FMA Nips Chowan

By DEAN LOWMAN

A layup by center William Barnes with 23 seconds remaining allowed Chowan's Braves to escape with a 69-68 victory over Mount Olive in Murfreesboro Monday night.

The Barnes basket capped a furious 15-2 rally in the final four minutes of the Eastern Tarheel Conference contest.

Chowan had trailed by 12 points, 64-52, when Ronnie Parker tapped in an errant shot for the visitors. Chowan then began pressuring the ball, hoping for an error to be committed.

The tactics worked as Mount Olive held the ball over six times in the final five minutes of the half and missed two shots.

Chowan took the advantage as 6'7" forward Johnny Johnson maneuvered his way inside for a layup and a three-point play, cutting the margin to 64-59.

After trading baskets, freshman guard Elton Mosley hit a driving layup for the Braves with 1:46 remaining to make the score 66-63.

Mount Olive's Chad Bowlus, injured earlier in the game in a collision with teammate Chris Johnson, was fouled as the Braves tried desperately to steal the ball. Bowlus, with 1:35 left, made both free throws amid the jeers from the vocal "Spirit Night" crowd, making the score 68-63.

Chowan quickly brought the ball downcourt and set up a short jumper by Johnson, who led the Braves with 26 points, at the one minute mark. Rather than use their last timeout, the locals fouled Mike Wallace.

Wallace stepped to the charity stripe and watched his shot bounce off the rim into Johnson's eager hands.

Johnson passed the ball upcourt and, after three passes around the defense, got a return pass and hit a two-footer with :40 remaining. The Braves immediately called time out, trailing 68-67.

The most crucial play of the comeback came as visitors attempted to throw the ball inbound following the time out. Mosley, in the game for defensive purposes, stepped in front of Chris Johnson, drawing a charging foul and, more importantly, giving Chowan the ball.

After passing the ball around the perimeter of Mount Olive's zone defense twice, the basketball found its way into the hands of Barnes. A fake to the left and one dribble to his right was all the 6'8" sophomore needed to get into position to loft a four-foot jumper toward the basket.

The ball hit nothing but the backboard and the net, giving the home team the lead with :23 left in the contest.

However, the dramatics were not over.

Following a pair of time outs, the visitors set up a 15 foot shot from the right baseline by 6'9" sophomore Leonza Nickelson. The uncontested attempt was errant as it missed the rim entirely—much to the delight of the Braves' faithful—and landed in the hands on Chowan's Larry Canady.

Barnes supplemented Johnson's scoring with 17 points and eight rebounds for the Braves. Mount Olive was led by Parker, Wallace, and Bowlus, with 12 each while Rick Brown and Chris Johnson added 10 apiece. The win pushed Chowan's record in conference play to 3-1 with an overall standing of 16-2. Mount Olive fell to 0-3 and 9-7.

Braves 108; Rich Bland 87

By HARRY PICKETT

Editor

PETERSBURG—All five Chowan starters hammered home double figures here Tuesday night, January 22, in a non-conference basketball game against Richard Bland College, to lead the Braves to an exciting 108-87 victory.

The win was the third of the new year against two defeats for Chowan, and 13th triumph of the season against the two losses. Richard Bland fell to 2-9 on the season.

Johnny Johnson, the Braves leading scorer, paced the Tribe with 23 points, 21 of them coming in the second half. Haywood Evans and William Barnes followed with 13. Andre Cobb dropped 10. Kim Griffin poured in 10 more.

Chowan led at the break, 51-29 with a balanced scoring attack. In the second stanza, however, the Statesmen outscored the visitors 58-57 on long-range jumpers that accounted for 52 percent shooting.

This was the first meeting of the two junior colleges, and Chowan head coach Jerry Smith said he had no idea what to expect, but noted that his team's "effort" was good.

"The first half was all right, but we've got to play 40 minutes of smart ball."

Statesmen Ron Harris and John Thomas combined for 62 points, popping in 35 and 27 respectively for the losers.

The contest was the eighth straight away game for the Braves, who were ranked 20th in the nation.

Braves 75; Louisburg 49

By HARRY PICKETT

EDITOR

LOUISBURG—Knocking in 17 of 23 shots in a half and holding the opposing team to just six baskets and 16 points will ultimately result in victory. Usually, anyway.

Wednesday night, January 16 Chowan College's basketball team was fortunate enough to muster that kind of play in the second half here to overpower helpless Louisburg College 75-49, in an Eastern Tarheel Conference game.

The victory allowed the 20th ranked junior college team in the land to pull to 12-1 on the season, and remain undefeated after 17 conference games under the helm of third-year coach Jerry Smith. The triumph was the Braves first loop victory, while the Hurricanes suffered their first conference setback after two victories and their tenth loss of the season against six wins.

Chowan, which managed to squeak out a six-point lead over its arch-rival at the intermission, jumped to as much as a 30-point advantage late in the second half when sophomore guard Jean Williams chipped in a 20-footer from the corner, putting the visitors up 73-43 with 3:09 left.

Smith said he was disappointed with his team's sloppy play during the first period. Impatience on offense, lack of aggressiveness on defense, and "stupid" fouling on his team's part are what he said contributed to only a six-point advantage at the half.

Chowan's 6-7 forward Johnny Johnson, who finished the game with a team leading 18 points and 12 rebounds, was called for his third foul before the half, as was 6-8 center William Barnes and 6-5 forward Larry Canady.

Chowan opened up a 10-point lead (35-25) with 3:05 remaining on a pair of Floyd Fortune freethrows. Then the Braves got careless. Louisburg countered with four free throws and buckets by 6-5 center Maurice Evans, who connected on 18 points, and Jeb Barlow, who plummeted from his 15.4, dropping just six points.

"If we would have played smarter in the first half it wouldn't have been a six-point half," Smith emphasized. "We had a lot of fouls in the first half."

"The difference in the two halves is that in the first we ran and shot, but no patience on offense. In the second half we played smart, controlled the ball, put it where we wanted it and shot."

Williams canned five of six field goals in the second half to help lead the Braves to their torrid second-half pace. He filled the air with his outside bombs and Johnson was awesome on the offensive boards, hauling in rebounds and following shots to the bewilderment of the Hurricane cagers. "I thought they both played well," Smith noted.

The Hurricanes got as close as six to the defending ETC on the second half put his team in striking distance at 43-47. But that would be the closest the home team would get.

The Braves who shot a blistering 57 percent from the floor, forced Louisburg into 21 turnovers and a dismal 16 of 53 from the floor.

The Brave defense stymied Louisburg, for it wasn't until the 12:34 mark that Hurricane guard Tony Autry got open for a layup. And it took another seven minutes before Evans tallied on two free throws at the 5:42 mark to put the score at 67-41.

Williams, who had the hot hand during the Louisburg cold spell and finished with 11 points, said the Brave defense made the difference. "We played good defense. It was the best zone we played all year. Like coach says, 'you practice like you play.'"

Johnson agreed that the defense was the difference in the second half: "For the first ten minutes of the game we went at them like we were supposed to and then things slacked off.

"The first ten minutes of the second half we hit them with so many defenses we confused them—2-3, man-to-man, zone press and 1-3-1. Also, Jean's (Williams) shooting was excellent. His shot is like a wide open layup."

Mark More added 12 for the Brave cause. Haywood Evans finished with a game-high eight assists.

Braves 86; Lenoir 61

By HARRY PICKETT

Editor

MURFREESBORO—Chowan got its offense in gear in the second half and spurred to a whopping 86-61 victory over Lenoir Community College in an Eastern Tarheel Conference basketball game here Saturday night January 26.

The Braves picked up 50 second-half points after being tied at the half, 36-36 with the visiting Lancers of Kinston. Chowan's Andre Cobb who scored 13 of his game-high 19 points in the second period got aide from William Barnes who poured in all his 17 points, to lift the winners to 15-2 on the season.



Haywood Evans drives for the bucket against Richard Bland as Floyd Fortune follows the play. (Photo by J.P. Leong)

Teammate Johnny Johnson had 18 to move the Braves to 2-1 in ETC play. Lenoir fell to 2-10 and 0-3 in league action.

It was the first home game for the Chowan team since its 106-69 win over non-conference foe N.C. Wesleyan junior varsity December 4. The Braves had played nine straight road games, which prompted Brave coach Jerry Smith to say, "It sure feels good to be home."

Cobb, a 6-4 freshman guard from Raeford, canned nine field goals and tacked on a free throw to hit his career-high as a Chowan player. The lanky 18-year-old also collected seven rebounds and three assists.

Cobb along with Barnes, a center out of Greenville, combined for 30 of the 50 points in the last period, with Cobb getting his from deep in the corner and Barnes underneath. As a team, the Braves hit 51 percent compared to Lenoir's 38 percent.

"In the first half I was tight and I new I had to get my shot. I guess I was just a bit hesitant," Cobb reflected.

"In the second half they were giving me my shot, and I got my confidence back."

Cobb noted that Barnes' inside play in the second half was enough to give the Chowan team the needed confidence. The 6-8 center nailed 15 of the team's first 21 points in the last half to put the Braves up 57-45 with a 3-point play with 10:48 left.

"Barnes and Johnny (Johnson) both had a great game at the beginning of the second half." But in the last 10 minutes, it was all Cobb, scrambling on the floor for loose balls, pulling rebounds, and tanning the cords with his patented jumper.

With the score at 61-51, Cobb went on a spree and scored the Braves next 13 points, and Chowan jumped to a 74-58 lead.

Chowan held the Lancers to just 25 points in the second half. "Our defense was better in the second half," Cobb offered. "We played better as a team in the second half."

Arthur Bector scored 19 for Lenoir. Teammate Micky Hines followed with 13 and Algenon Ashford 12.

Braves 67; SCC Rams 70

By HARRY PICKETT

Editor

WHITEVILLE—Chowan basketball coach Jerry Smith knows all about the trouble visiting Atlantic Coast Conference teams have playing at "Death Valley" on the campus of Clemson University.

The coach has also found out what it's like for Eastern Tarheel Conference teams to play here. And he knows better than ever since his defending ETC champions came away Saturday night with a 70-67 loss to Southeastern Community College Rams.

With the victory, Southeastern pulled off what no other team in the loop could do for three seasons—beat Chowan College in a regular season conference game. The Rams pulled to 8-5 on the season and 2-1 in league play, which puts them in a first-place tie with Louisburg College. Chowan, ranked 20th in the country before the contest, fell to 12-2 and 1-1, having knocked off the Hurricanes at Louisburg.

Smith said following the game that he realized the string of undefeated championships had to come to an end one day. The Braves had mounted an amazing 17-game streak coming into the game.

"If we had to lose (streak) I'm glad

we lost to Southeastern," Smith said. I like those kids. They're the best club he's (Coach Harry Foley) had."

Southeastern erased a Chowan 12-point halftime lead in the second half on timely buckets by Southerland and William Smith. The Rams outscored the visitors 20-8 in the first 12 minutes of the last period. Southerland, the leading scorer in the league carrying a 22.6 average, hit three jumpers from downtown before teammate Al Smith chipped in two of his eight points to tie the game at 52-all.

The Braves, getting off just 21 shots in the second period, nailed nine. They relinquished the lead after Smith's layup, but managed to tie it up at 56 on a 17-footer by Kim Griffin with 6:33 left, and a driving layup by Haywood Evans to knot it at 63-all with a little over two minutes left.

From that point on, and Southeastern enjoying the bonus opportunity, Southerland tacked on seven of eight from the line. He finished the game 14 of 16 (the team was 18 of 21) from that spot and six of 13 from the floor, good for a game-high 26 points.

Smith praised the high-scoring Southerland: "He is a super basketball player. He's just great. I like him. I thought Andre (Cobb) did a job on him in the first half."

Southerland's performance overshadowed that of Brave standout Johnny Johnson, who notched 22 points and 10 rebounds to his 15.4 average and 9.6 rebound total. Teammate Cobb tacked on 10 more for the evening.

The Braves finished the contest hitting on 31 of 56 from the floor and the Rams tallied 26 of 52.

Smith said his players have had a lot of pressure on them, particularly since they've been ranked, had the long winning string, and been winning rather easily this season.

"Everybody wants to beat Number 1."

Hey, wasn't Duke Number 1 before the Blue Devils visited "Death Valley"?

Braves 74; Smithdeal 65

By DEAN LOWMAN

Led by the powerful inside play of William Barnes and Johnny Johnson, the Chowan Braves rallied from a nine-point deficit to capture a 74-65 win over Smithdeal Massey December 8 in Richmond.

Barnes, a 6'8" sophomore, contributed 26 points and 11 rebounds before being ejected for fighting in the closing minutes. Johnson added 20 points and seven rebounds.

Smithdeal's inside attack, led by Brian Sims, Stephan Allen, and Tim Miller, capitalized on the Chowan mistakes to take a 37-33 halftime lead. The trio combined to score 28 points in the opening period.

The second half saw Chowan's inside game begin to work more effectively as Barnes and Johnson constantly found themselves open for easy layups and short jumpers.

Jean Earl Williams added 10 for the Braves while the Smithdeal scoring was led by Allen (14), Sims (13) and Miller (13).

Braves 94; NN Appr. 64

By DEAN LOWMAN

Every player scored as the undefeated Chowan Braves closed out the first semester in style by defeating Newport News Apprentice 94-64.

The Braves, led by Jean Earl Williams' career-high 14 points and the 11-point, 8-rebound performance of Johnny Johnson, ran their record to 10-0. The Shipbuilders' mark fell to 1-6.

The contest was virtually decided in the first half as the Braves ran up a 17-point lead at the intermission, 48-31.

Williams, a sophomore guard, popped in 14 points in the opening period on medium-range jumpers. Kim Griffin added eight first-half points for the victors.

Freshmen Elect Laney President

By HARRY PICKETT

Editor

Steve Laney, a freshman from Charlotte, has been elected his class president for the 1979-80 school year here at Chowan.

Laney outdistanced presidential opponent Louis Mangas, defeating the Zebulon native 53-27 in a landslide victory.

In recent years the election results have been much closer. Last year Bill Gambrell defeated Kemper Quentance 26-25. Because the initial results were so close, Charles Faddis, then freshman class advisor, called for a run-off. Gambrell went on to win by a substantial margin.

In other election results Debbie Grose defeated Joni Graham for vice-president. Bernadette Campbell, who ran unopposed, is secretary-treasurer.

Laney, a Dean's List student, as well as being a SGA representative and president of West Hall's dorm council said, "From what I understand, my duties are just to arrange activities. That's really my only function."

A graduate of West Charlotte High School and a graphics arts major, the

new executive said he thought the students made the proper choice as he says he is more "qualified" than Mangas.

"I am more qualified because of my experience at Chowan as a student leader at Camp Cale and a student leader at New Games."

"Following the election a defeated Mangas said he wished all the "success in the world" to the Mecklinburg native. "Some people think I hold a grudge but I don't."

Both freshmen plan to run for office in the Student Government Association elections this spring. Laney says he will seek the office of president and Mangas vice-president.

"I am going to be the SGA president next year," Laney said. "I've got a lot of improvements in mind."

"My main objective is to get students involved and stop suitcase weekends."

Laney, who says he loves Chowan College, said the freshman class will probably arrange a ski trip to Wintergreen, Va. with sophomore class president Gambrell and the sophomore class this winter.

Eddie Butler received 11 writer-in-votes for president and Robin Herbin 7.

By DEAN LOWMAN

Perhaps Chowan was looking ahead to the conference opener or was dreaming about an undefeated season; whatever the case its balloon burst in the finals of the Newport News Invitational Tournament as Frederick Military Academy defeated the Braves, 73-71.

"I didn't feel we had the right attitude going into the game," remarked Coach Jerry Smith, "It seemed we were taking the game too lightly."

Behind the inside play of 6'6" Stan Webb, 21 points, and 6'8" Albert Butts, 16 points, FMA shut off the Braves' inside scoring attack and dominated the boards, out rebounding the taller Braves 40-22.

Jerry Hobbie added 15 and Barry Wright 12 to the FMA charge. Chowan was led by Larry Canady's career-high 15 points, Andre Cobb's 13, Johnny Johnson's 12, and Jean Earl Williams' 10.

Although the final margin was two points, the key point of the contest was the five minutes of the first half. Chowan fell from a 33-27 lead to a 41-35 halftime deficit.

The 14-2 turnabout came as Chowan was pressured effectively by a tenacious FMA defense into seven turnovers and one-of-six shooting in the last five minutes.

The second half saw FMA maintain the halftime margin until the Braves made a last-ditch effort under Johnson's and Cobb's command to cut the margin to 70-69. However, two Albert Butts free throws with 13 seconds left doomed the Braves.

The defeat was the first against 11 wins for the Braves while FMA improved its mark to 7-3.

Chowan took some consolation in the fact that Jean Earl Williams was chosen the outstanding player of the tournament. However, as Williams said, "It don't mean anything if you don't win the game."

Braves 83; Ferrum 78

By DEAN LOWMAN

Clutch free throw shooting by Kim Griffin allowed Chowan to escape with an 83-78 overtime win over Ferrum in the first round of the Newport News Invitational Tournament January 11.

Griffin popped in four tosses with one second remaining in the extra period-two on the intentional foul and a 4-0-0 technical foul.

Haywood Evans' driving ability combined with the inside-outside punch of Johnny Johnson and Jean Earl Williams kept the Panthers at bay for much of the second half, at one time building up a 63-50 lead.

However, Ferrum slowly crept up on the Braves under the direction of 6'1" Mickey Hardy. Hardy racked up 29 points in the game, 11 in the last 9 minutes of regulation play.

What hurt the Braves the most, however, was not the constant jumpers by Hardy; it was their own inefficiency at the charity stripe. Chowan completed only 19 of 37 free throws for the game.

"The game should never have been that close," commented Coach Jerry Smith. "I think the layoff (Christmas holidays) may have affected our foul shooting."

Johnson led the balanced Braves' attack with 17, followed by Williams' 16, Evans' 13, Griffin's 12 and Larry Canady's 11. The only other Panther to hit double figures was Ivey Cook with 12.

Chowan jumped from a 71-71 tie at the close of regulation to score five quick points on two Evans layups and a free throw. After trading baskets, Ferrum's Ezell Stewart fouled Kim Griffin in an attempt to steal the ball.

Griffin canned the first of two to stretch Chowan's lead to 79-75. The Panther's gambling defense later payed off as Stewart made a steal and a three-point play to cut the margin to one, 79-78.

Three seconds later, Griffin, who had shot no free throws previously in the season, was fouled again by Reggie Long. Upon protesting the call, Ferrum's coach was slapped with a technical.

The 6'3" freshman coolly stepped to the line and dropped in the clinching points, setting up a championship match with a tough Frederick Military squad.

The victory pushed Chowan's mark to 11-0 for the season while Ferrum fell to 9-3.

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