



McCray uses all of his 6'6" altitude to overreach a Ferrum player's stretch for a power layup as Vance Marsh follows the play. (Staff Photo)

## Braves Hot and Cold on Court In Pre-Christmas Break Split

By JOE MCGARRITY

The Chowan College Braves' men's basketball team has been playing a peculiar type of basketball these days. The Braves have either been very hot or very cold.

In a four-game span extending from November 30 to December 9, the Braves toppled Randolph Macon Jayvees, 94-69, and East Carolina University's Jayees, 94-87 (in one of their finest performances of the year); but, turned around and lost to homestanding Ferrum, 73-59, and Frederick Military Academy, 91-85 (another thriller).

On November 30 at the Helms Center, the Braves had to fight off a pesky Randolph Macon JV team led by Rick Hancock and Rob Merrifield.

With Merrifield (19 pts.) bombing away at will from 20 to 25 feet, and Hancock (23 points) playing a solid 40 minutes, the Braves couldn't shake the Jackets until the end.

Tim Hubert (12 points) came off the bench and really gave the Braves a spark by hitting clutch baskets. At 8:21, the Braves finally had a comfortable lead of 14 points (60-46); the Braves' quickness advantages finally paid off, forcing the Jackets into numerous turnovers.

Winfred Basnight led the Braves once again with 15 points, 4 rebounds, 6 assists and 5 steals. Melvin McCray chipped in with 14 points, while Andre McGee added 10.

On December 2 at Helms Center, the Braves outran a strong ECU B squad, in one of their most impressive wins of the still-young season.

This game was a thriller from the start, when ECU's Bill Menair opened the scoring with a breakaway slam-dunk after a steal, until seven seconds from the end when the Braves Andre McGee put the icing on the cake with two free throws.

After a see-saw first half, which ended in a 41-30 score, favor of the Braves, both teams came out smoking.

The Braves held their biggest lead of the game after Basnight followed a missed Greg Exum free throw to make it 49-35 at 17:00.

As close as ECU could get from then on was six points (63-57).

This is the best we've played this year, Coach Bob Burke emphasized.

ECU wasted a tremendous performance by Menair, who tossed in 35 points.

Kenny Capel lead the Braves with 23 points, but it was Basnight and McCray who had the most impressive statistics.

Basnight had 16 points, 9 assists, 6 steals, and 6 rebounds; while McCray had just 15 points, but collected a whopping 17 rebounds.

The Braves started their skid on December 5 at Ferrum.

With the Braves committing numerous turnovers from the outset, and Ferrum's James Williams hitting 18 footer's from everywhere on the court, the Braves never seemed in this one.

The teams matched baskets early in the game (changing leads 10 times), before Ferrum rolled to a 35-26 halftime lead.

The second half seemed all Ferrum. The Braves could get no closer than ten points (Basnight's basket at 16:33 made it 40-30, Panthers) before Ferrum slowly pulled away.

The Braves did manage to mount a semi-comeback 3:50 from the end, pulling within 65-55. Four missed foul shots down the stretch hurt the Braves drastically.

The Panthers ran a four-corners offense to perfection, while running out the clock and handing the Braves their first loss.

James Williams and Chris Crockett led the Panthers with 19 and 17 points respectively.

McGee's 15 points topped the Braves scoring.

Chowan's losing skid continued on December 9 at Helms Center against a running Frederick Military Academy squad.

This was a game of who would start out running and finish running.

The Braves started quickly off the gun with back to back baskets by McCray and Capel to jump out to a short-lived 4-0 lead.

This fast-paced game see-sawed back and forth. The Braves could not build a bigger lead than five points (They also blew 3 layups). The Braves managed to push the lead to 9 at the half (45-36).

The Lions mounted a comeback in the second half. A Dion Irons bucket pulled the Lions within 2 points (49-47). But Chowan's Basnight countered with a

bucket of his own. And a spectacular follow-up slamdunk by the Braves Jeff Ervin brought the house down and ticked the Braves lead to 54-49.

The Lions quickly cut the lead to 1 point at 14:30 (54-53). A Steffan Bunsavage layup tied it at 55-55 and Johnny Osbourne's two free throws put the Lions up 57-55. The lead changed hands numerous times as the game wore on, with Braves hitting spell for awhile (unnecessary fouls, thrown away passes, etc.).

At 4:54, and Braves leading 71-69, the Braves went to a tenacious full court press, which was too tough for Frederick to handle. Basnight came up with back to back steals and buckets to push lead to 75-71 at 4:06, while Lions called timeout.

The game continued in its fast paced manner with both teams hanging on to dear life. Neither team seemed able to pull away.

The most exciting action came at the end.

With Braves trailing 87-85, Chowan called time out, but, didn't have any left Osbourne hit two technical free throws to put Lions up 89-85. The Lions got the ball and Derrick Knox was fouled. Knox hit both ends of his one-and-one and the score stood 91-85. Basnight missed a shot at the buzzer and the Braves had lost their second game in a row (first at home), victims of very poor officiating and a determined Frederick Military Academy squad.

Dion Irons led the Lions with 25 points. Osbourne, who missed his first free throw before canning 12 in a row, iced 24 points, while Knox and Bunsavage were the other Lions in double figures with 16 and 13 points respectively.

Capel led the Braves with 26 points (mostly from 20 feet or more), while Basnight added 20.

Said Coach Burke, "They scored 53 points in the second half, and that's NBA stuff."

## Brave Matmen Looking To Surpass 1981

By MIKE SHENUSKI

The Chowan Braves Wrestling Squad looks forward to improving last year's record and finishing high in the Mid-Atlantic Standings.

This year's squad is composed of a crew of tough sophomores, and some talented freshmen who should develop as the year progresses.

The Braves dual meet record stands at 4-4, but they lost their last meet, a heartbreaker 21-22 to Gloucester Community College.

The Chowan wrestlers are led by 177lb. Jerry Messick 6-1, and 190lb. John Brobst 5-11. Brobst is a sophomore, and Messick a freshman.

Mike Thomas, Craig Diffe and Brian Lloyd are Coach Colin Steele's other top wrestlers at 5-3.

Steele hopes that these wrestlers and the rest of the Brave matmen can withstand the rough schedule ahead. They will wrestle U.N.C. (JV) and N.C. State (JV) in hope to improve their position in the Mid-Atlantic Standings.

## Speed, New Zone Defense Stun Overmatched Ferrum Panthers

By JOE MCGARRITY

A running Chowan Braves men's basketball team shocked an unprepared Ferrum College team with a surprisingly high-powered offense, and a tenacious 2-3 zone defense, January 25 at the Helms Center.

A large and vocal crowd witnessed the Braves avenge an earlier loss to Ferrum by whipping the Panthers, 87-69.

"For the first time in my coaching career here at Chowan, my team started the game in a zone defense," announced a jubilant Coach Burke.

Chowan's 2-3 zone defense baffled the Panthers from start to finish and only a slow first half by the Braves erased any signs of a quick blowout.

Both teams came out running from the outset. Winfred Basnight, as usual, turned on the Braves offensive juices by scoring the first 4 points before Ferrum's explosive James Williams hit from 20 feet.

The game started out to be of the low scoring caliber. The Braves leading most of the half until, Williams' free throw gave the Panthers their first lead, 20-19.

The Braves eventually led at halftime, 33-31, thanks to "super-sub" Tim Hubert's beautiful bucket underneath for a three-point play.

The Braves came right back at Ferrum in the second half as if to run away from them and they did eventually.

The game was of the schoolyard variety, complete with elbows bashing ribs, taunts being exchanged among players, and everything else that usually happens when Chowan plays Ferrum.

And, after McGee's basket at 15:56 made it 43-37, Chowan was off to the races.

The Braves lead bulged out to a 21 point advantage (74-53) at 4:00, and they "spread it out" and ran the four corners to perfection.

McGee and Basnight went to the line a whopping 28 times in the closing minutes, with McGee really hurting the Panthers by going 12 of 13 from the line.

Coach Burke emptied the bench with 1:31 to go and this one all but packed away.

"We wanted McGee and Basnight to post up down low, and it worked just the way we thought it would," said Burke.

"McGee can post up anyone in the USA. The kids' a natural talent. He just needs to brush up on his defense a little.

"Tracy Myles played the best game I've ever seen him play. He just needs to keep it up. We all do," Burke added.

McGee led the Braves in scoring with 22 points. Other Braves in double figures were Myles, with 18 points and

10 rebounds, Basnight, with 15 points, 6 assists, and 4 steals and Melvin McCray, with 11 points and 5 rebounds.

Marvin Raymond canned 20 points to lead Ferrum, while Williams chipped in with 17.



Ferrum defender topples backward in an attempt to avoid fouling as the leaping Basnight puts up yet another two-pointer while McGee gazes admiringly. (Photo by Todd Dudek)

## McGee Burns Cords In Second-Half Spree

By JOE MCGARRITY

Bouncing back from a so-so first half, Chowan College's Braves men's basketball team once again started their winning ways with a 79-66 victory over Richard Bland College January 11 at the Helms Center.

Andre McGee exploded for 20 second-half points the quicker, more agile Braves literally ran away from the Statesmen.

The first half ended in a 32-26 lead for the Braves, but the score didn't tell the story of how Chowan played in the first half.

Getting killed on the boards by the smaller Statesmen, to go along with Bland's great shooting from the field in the first half, the Braves looked rather sluggish, after an almost two-weeks layoff.

In the second half McGee ignited a Brave surge that saw them slowly pull away from the Statesmen.

A Winfred Basnight "follow" shot gave the Braves a 47-34 lead and Chowan was off to the races.

With the score 61-51 and 5:32 remaining, the Braves went to a fourcorners stall offense. Basnight ran it to perfection. The Braves ate up 54 seconds before Basnight was fouled. He missed the foul shot, but a jump ball occurred, and the Braves retained possession of the ball. They held it for two minutes before McGee's back-door lay-up made the score 63-51 with 3:30 to go and Bland called timeout.

The Braves led by 15 points (75-60) with time running out. McGee (4) and Matt White (6) combined for 10 free throws down the stretch to all but bury the Statesmen, but McGee wasn't through yet. With :10 showing on the clock, his spectacular slam dunk put the icing on the game and his super individual effort.

"McGee played his best game of the year," said Coach Bob Burke.

"He took the ball to the basket well."

McGee finished with a game-high 29 points, Melvin McCray added 14 points for the Braves. James Brown flipped in 22 points to lead Bland.

## Bombers Tame Wild Bunch

By JOE MCGARRITY

Intramural basketball games started on Tuesday, January 26 at the Helms Center.

On court number 1 Parker Hall's Basement Bombers bombed Parker's seventh floor Wild Bunch, 75-46.

Gary Cason led the Bombers with 26 points. Jeff Pierce tossed in 35 points for the losers.

On center court, Parker's First Floor Golden Hurricane toppled the Sixth Floor of Parker, 51-35.

Danny Robinson scored 20 points for the Golden Hurricane.

In other games the Wolverines of Mixon's First Floor topped the 3rd Floor of West's B team, 49-27, while Parker's 3rd Floor Crush and Gang edged Parker's 4th Floor Dukes, 40-39.

Games will run through March 1, before the playoffs start on March 2.

## Three-Man Champs Keep Hoop Title

By KRISTA SCHLEICHER

Greg Harrell, Curtis Bond and Alan Chanley retained the Intramural three-man basketball crown last year by defeating Capt Harriett, Fred Banks and Lenny McClean in the finals.

Other titlists announced by Coach Colin Steele included Jeff Knox, pool; James Rochester and Kim Morgan, cross-country; and Buffy Hipp, football skills.

Ping-pong play was still going on and basketball season has begun, Steele said.

Upcoming intramurals are swimming, racquetball, weight-lifting and softball.

## FREE ID CARDS

Many student have reported to the Business Office and the cafeteria that the pouches of their identification cards have broken open, causing damage to the photo ID card itself. According to Ben C. Sutton, Business Manager, a new Photo Identification System has been installed in McSweeney Hall to correct the problem, and to provide better service with ID cards.

In order to correct the current situation and to provide every student with a proper ID card, Sutton has declared next Wednesday, February 10, as a "FREE ID DAY."

Any student with a faulty ID card may report to McSweeney Hall next Wednesday, from 8:00 until 5:00, and receive a new ID card—ABSOLUTELY FREE! Simply present your present ID card to the photographer and a new one will be made.

Sutton has emphasized that this free service is FOR ONE DAY ONLY. After this date, students will be required to pay the normal \$3.00 replacement fee for a loss, stolen, or damaged card.



QUIET MAN — Obviously, things are looking good for the Chowan Braves as Smoke Signals photographer Todd Dudek records a comparatively cool and calm Coach Bob Burke on the sidelines during the victory over Ferrum.