

Smoke Signals Salutes Coach Burke and The 1983-84 Braves

All basketball fans throughout the Atlantic Coast Conference know that the ACC had a great year, with all the teams except Clemson entering post-season play. If you had the opportunity to watch Coach Bob Burke and his quintet play this season, then you know that for Chowan College basketball, it has been a banner year.

"Coach B" will have several more banners to hang over center court this spring. The Braves finished regular season play in the Eastern Tarheel Conference with a 22-7 overall record and a five and one mark in the conference.

One banner will read, "1983-84 Eastern Tarheel Conference Champions". It is hard for any team to put together back to back wins in a conference tournament. Coach Burke's Braves did just that in the conference tournament. They downed Mount Olive, 90-67, and then turned around the next night and blasted Louisburg, 82-60, in the championship game.

The next banner will read, "Eastern Tarheel Conference Tournament Champions, 1983-84".

Along the way, Nate McMillan and Dave Burgess were named to the All-Conference Team. John Thomas was named to the second team.

McMillan was named conference Player of the Year.

Burke was named conference Coach of the Year.

If those honors weren't enough, Burgess and Thomas were named to the All-Tournament Team.

Nate McMillan, headed for N.C. State next year, was named the tournament's MVP.

The Braves, after tournament play, advanced to the Region Ten wars to face three tough opponents.

The Braves shot down the Pioneers of Spartanburg Methodist, 73-69, decimated the Panthers of Ferrum, 77-68, and stuffed the Bobcats of Lees-McRae, 73-53, to claim the Region Ten crown.

Another banner will unfurl, "1983-84 Region TEN-NJCAA Champions".

In the regional tournament, Burgess and Thomas were named to the All-Tournament Team.

Nate McMillan was named the Region Ten Tournament MVP.

Coach Bob Burke was named Region Ten Coach of the Year.

Coaches mark milestones. For Coach Bob Burke, it was career win 100 at Chowan College. The century win came against power-house Allegheny College of Pittsburgh. Allegheny representing Region Twenty of the National Junior College Athletic Association packed up and headed north after the 65-55 loss in Helms Center. Chowan's Greg Hollingsworth lead all scorers with twenty-four.

The win over Allegheny forced a happy Coach Burke to begin making travel plans.

The NCAA has the Final Four in Seattle.

JUCO basketball has the final sixteen in Hutchinson, Kansas. The magic number for the Braves, as we go to press, is four. Those four wins mean that a much larger banner would wave over center court.

NATIONAL JUNIOR COLLEGE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, NATIONAL CHAMPIONS, CHOWAN COLLEGE, 1983-84.

If the banner is on display or not, all Chowanians have to be very "button-poppin' proud" of Coach Bob Burke and his Braves.

Banner or not SMOKE SIGNALS says "HOW 'BOUT THEM BRAVES".

1984 Tarheel Conference Champions

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1984 Tarheel Conference Tourney Champs

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Region X NJCAA WINNERS

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Junior College Basketball FINAL FOUR

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30-9 Season



(Photo Courtesy of News Herald)

