

# Outstanding Virginia Football Players Signed by Chowan

Chowan College has signed two of Virginia's most prized high school football players, all-state performers George Woodhouse and Rob Curry of Norfolk's Maury High School to grants-in-aid. They were joined by teammate Drew Marshall, offensive lineman.

Representing Chowan for the signing held at Maury, were the Braves' head football coach, Jim Garrison, and E. Frank Stephenson, Jr., Chowan's director of admissions.

Woodhouse was one of Virginia's most celebrated running backs. In three varsity seasons for Coach Jerry Sazio's Commodores, he scored 386 points and gained 3,900 yards. The 9.7 speedster was named all-American and all-state and Norfolk's most valuable player his junior and senior years.

The 6-0, 175-pounder scored 24 touchdowns in pacing Maury to a 12-1 season. The Commodore's only loss was in the state championship game. Woodhouse scored a season-high five touchdowns in Maury's homecoming game against Granby. He also ran for the extra points after each score and gained 489 total yards. His longest run from scrimmage was 76 yards in a 16-8 state semifinal victory over E. C. Glass. His longest run during the season, 87 yards, was called back.

Woodhouse was also a passing threat, pitching seven touchdowns. Against Princess Anne, he tallied six scores, three each on runs and passes.

The 6-1, 200-pound Curry led Maury in tackles, pass receptions and fumble recoveries. Garrison says Curry compares favorably with Stuart Christian of Ashland, Va., an all-American middle linebacker for the Braves in 1971.

Marshall is considered an "underrated" player by Sazio. Sazio said he was forced to use Marshall at all offensive line positions to plug holes as the season progressed. "Otherwise, he probably would have made the all-state squad," Sazio explained. His high school coach said Marshall proved particularly

effective at center. On defense he played middle guard.

Garrison expects the trio to add considerable strength to a squad already bolstered by the return of 15 lettermen. The Braves will begin spring practice Monday. In the backfield, Woodhouse will have as a running mate, speedster Ronnie Mack, returning after a two-year absence. Mack, who runs the 100 in 9.7, scored eight touchdowns for the 1970 team including a 55-yard scamper that provided the Braves with a 10-6 victory over arch-rival Ferrum.

At fullback, Garrison can choose from among two power runners, the returning Ron Raysor of Aiken, S. C. and transfer Richard Holmes of Smithfield, who has 10 flat speed.

Two sophomores will battle for the quarterback position. They are Pat Waguespack, from the 1970 team, recently released after six months military service, and Martin Page of Richlands, who passed for six touchdowns as a reserve last year.

Among the returning players are two first team all-conference choices, guard Nathan Morrow of Fayetteville, and defensive back Robert Tripp from Farmville. Morrow was the conference's offensive lineman of the year.

Woodhouse will come to a team well suited to utilize his many talents. Known as a team which likes to run, the Braves relied on running back Julius Smith last year and the Cincinatti, Ohio player produced a league-leading eight touchdowns, averaged 5.2 yards per carry and was named the conference's outstanding offensive back. Smith is being sought by a number of colleges including Long Beach in California and the University of Cincinatti.

Many Braves have used Chowan's football program as a springboard to full scholarships and stardom with senior colleges. Up to 15 sophomores each year make the transition with most starting or playing regularly in their junior and senior years with a four-year school.

During the 1972 season, some 30 former Braves played with senior institutions in the Atlantic Coast, Southern, Carolinas and other conferences and with independents. They included Christian, Billy Harris, split end of Greensboro, and Joe Flora, offensive tackle, also from Maury, at the University of Richmond; Aulander's George Bell, defensive captain at North Carolina State University and the 1972 Peach Bowl's outstanding defensive player; Bowles at North Texas State; Danny Croom, defensive end from Kinston, Wake Forest; Paul Black, quarterback from Camp Lejeune who threw five touchdown passes for Lenoir-Rhyne against Davidson; and Jerry Scharnus, safety at VPI from Newport News.

Braves also played for William and Mary, East Carolina, Tennessee Tech, Furman, Guilford and Carson-Newman among others. Among those signing with senior colleges from the 1972 team are Joe Gro, all-American defensive end and all-conference defensive tackle Delbert Melton. They will play at N. C. State University.

Garrison has developed a tradition of winning seasons during his 15 years as the Braves' head coach. The 1970 squad was district champions and runnerup in the conference with an 8-1 mark. Garrison was named the coach of the year in the region. In 1971, Chowan's record was 5-4-1 with a total of eight points separating the team from an 8-1-1 season. Last year, Chowan, a member of the Coastal Conference and District 10, played nine games, winning six and losing three. In the league, the Braves captured three of four player of the year awards and placed five on the first team.

In each of the past three years, a Chowan player was named a first team national junior college all-American. In 1970, offensive tackle John Bowles of Virginia Beach, Va. won the honor. Christian was named in 1971 and Gro last year.



JOE GRO . . . Chowan's All-American

## Gro Named All-American

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. "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.

### DEATH CLAIMS FORMER TRUSTEE

A former Chowan College trustee, Frank P. Shields, 54, a fertilizer manufacturer of Scotland Neck, died December 27, 1972. His funeral was conducted by the Rev. E. T. Vinson at the First Baptist Church. Shields served as a Chowan trustee from 1956-60 and continued to support Chowan until his death.

### REMEMBERING

This is Chowan's 125th anniversary. Have you placed Chowan College in your will?



TELEVISION INTERVIEW—Coach James Garrison (with microphone) is interviewed by a television reporter after signing three outstanding high school football players. Pictured beside of Garrison is Coach Jerry Sazio of Norfolk's Maury High School. Seated are George Woodhouse, Rob Curry and Drew Marshall, who will receive grants-in-aid to play for Chowan's Braves.