

Lady Braves made history with titles

The Chowan Lady Braves, with Coach McKeel, were greeted with thundering cheers and applause when they returned from their first trip ever to the National NJCAA Women's Tournament in Senatobia, Mississippi.

The Lady Braves, escorted by local police officers, arrived at Helms Center for the "welcome home" program which was broadcast live on Mufreesboro's radio station.

McKeel's squad gained entrance to the national tournament by winning the conference regular season title, the conference tournament championship and the Region X crown. The Lady Braves had little difficulty in defeating Orange County Community College in the opening round of the national classic, but suffered defeat at the hands of the much taller Crowder Community College team the following night.

Members of the 1984-85 Lady Braves were: Valerie Boyd, Matisha Brown, Lisa Christian, Glenda Dailey, Beth Dodge, Andrea Gilliam, Sharon Gillard, Teresa Hinton, Wanda Liverman, Wilhelmina McKeel, Ava Karen McClure, Sue Morrison, Kelly Myers, and Cleo Roberson.

Mayor Speaks

Dr. Hargus Taylor, Chaplain to the College, presided at the welcome home celebration. The Honorable Billy Hill, Mayor of Mufreesboro, praised the team for the significant accomplishments made during the season, and expressed genuine appreciation for the Lady Braves "putting Chowan

and Mufreesboro on the map" and gaining national recognition.

Dr. Bruce E. Whitaker, President of the College, thanked the team and coach for a job "well done", and added that the performance and accomplishments of the Lady Braves would serve only to "further strengthen the athletic programs at Chowan College."

Athletic Director James Garrison praised Coach McKeel, who is completing her first year of coaching responsibilities at the college. Garrison pointed out that McKeel began her duties sometime after the opening of school last August, and said that she had "done a magnificent job" in taking over the team and guiding the squad to the national tournament.

Coach McKeel expressed appreciation for the "welcome home" celebration and introduced the members of the squad. She told of the player's determination to win and cited the many occasions when individual players would not allow personal injuries to put them on the sidelines. McKeel related the disappointment experienced in losing the second game to Crowder College, but said the team would like to reflect upon "the accomplishments of the season".

In closing moments of the celebration, Dr. Taylor cited the championship banners obtained by the men's basketball squad, and which are on display in Helms Center. He said that the college community is proud that banners won by the women's team will now be proudly displayed.



ARRIVING FROM MISSISSIPPI—The Lady Braves, escorted by Mufreesboro police, arrived at Helms Center to be greeted by students, faculty and fans. The group was returning from national basketball tournament competition in Senatobia, Mississippi, the first time ever a Chowan team was represented.

Compete in NJCAA tournament

After jumping to a 16-2 margin in the first seven minutes of their opening game, Chowan's Lady Braves rode to a 29 point performance by center Matisha Brown to an 89-51 runaway win over Orange County Community College at the junior college women's national tournament in March.

Orange County's Lady Colts from Middletown, New York, were unable to hold Brown and Sharon Gillard in check as the two swept the boards at both ends of the court and scored almost at will against the Lady Colts.

Gillard grabbed a season high 16 rebounds and led numerous Chowan fast breaks in concert with Brown to intimidate the Lady Colts. The inside defensive threat of Chowan forced Orange County to take bad shots and outside pressure by Chowan's guards caused the Lady Colts to turn the ball over numerous times.

The Lady Braves led by as many as 44 points in the second half, continuing to build on its sizeable first half lead. Brown scored nine points in the first ten minutes of the game and Gillard controlled the boards, picking up nine rebounds in the first half.

Brown picked up her 98th blocked shot of the year and would pick up number 99 during the second half.

Buckets by Willie McCleese, Gillard, and Wanda Liverman paved the way for a 44 point lead with nine minutes left in the game, 76-32. Coach Belinda McKeel pulled

her starters with seven minutes left in the game and Orange County was able to score 15 points in the waning minutes of the game against the Chowan substitutes.

The Chowan bench provided offensive assistance in the closing minutes and added 11 points to the 78-36 point lead handed to them by the Lady Braves' starting five.

Second Game

In the second game of the NJCAA women's tournament, the Lady Braves faced a much taller team than they encountered in previous matches.

Crowder Community College boasted players between 6' and 6'4" and had the distinction of knocking off Moberly Junior College, which had been in the top rankings of national basketball circles for several years.

In facing the strong Crowder squad, the Lady Braves "went out and played their game". The lead changed hands numerous times during the contest, with the Lady Braves going into the locker room at halftime with a lead.

The second half saw a "settled down" Crowder squad, with the battle evenly fought until 2 minutes remained in the contest.

Trailing by 2 points, the Lady Braves began to aggressively charge for the ball and committed several fouls which accounted for the 10 point deficit at the end of the contest.

Niel Welborn, sports information officer, accompanied the team to the Mississippi tournament and

reported that other teams took notice of the Lady Braves. Many tournament watchers, according to Welborn, felt the Chowan squad was one of the better teams seen in Howard Coliseum in Senatobia, this year.

According to Welborn, the team enjoyed its trip to the NJCAA tournament and had support at the opening round.

Enrichment week in science slated

The Chowan Department of Science will sponsor its third annual Science Enrichment Week June 17-21 for students currently enrolled in grades 6-9.

Noted Jim Dewar, the coordinator, "the participants will use Camp Hall science laboratories to do experiments. New laboratory sessions in physical science, biological science, and computer science are being planned."

Dewar said the day student program will be held from 8 a. m. to 4 p. m. and is designed for 15 students in each of two groups: grades 6-7 and 8-9. Each group will participate in three laboratory sessions each day.

The instructors will be science professors Dr. Garth Faile, chemistry; Phyllis Dewar, chemistry and computer science; George Hazelton, physics and computer science; J. P. Harris, biological science; and Dewar, biological science.



Gifts for the team

Athletic Director James Garrison, right, presents Coach Belinda McKeel a tee shirt from the NJCAA Women's National Tournament, and announced that each member of the team would receive a similar gift.