

Bulldog Baseballers Experienced

Transfers Brighten AC Picture

By DAVID LAMM

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Jim Pfohl may have a few surprises for his opponents this season.

The Atlantic Christian College coach, beginning his third year as baseball boss, has only seven lettermen returning from last year's 11-8 squad, but he labels his current team as "very experienced."

That's because Pfohl has been busy recruiting and since last season ended he has hooked several prime junior college stars.

Open March 23

The Bulldogs are likely to start six transfer students when they open their season at Wilmington March 23 in a nonconference game.

"I feel like this is the best team I've had at AC," stated Pfohl. "And our early practice sessions have done nothing to make me change my mind. We have some mighty fine transfers on the team.

plus some talented returnees."

The prize catches were right - bander Ronnie Johnson of Louisburg College and catcher Joe Willis of Chowan. Both carry star-studded junior college records and were sought after by several schools.

Hitting Strong

Pfohl says hitting will be AC's strong suit and that the pitching staff should shape up well around Johnson. The biggest weakness seems to be a lack of speed in left and right fields.

"I'm expecting a better season this year than we had last year," said Pfohl, "and last season wasn't a bad one. We're gunning to make the Carolinas Conference playoff."

A year ago the Bulldogs were 6-6 in the conference. The conference playoffs are played between the top four teams in the 11-team league.

Basis For Outlook

Pfohl's prediction apparently has some solid ground to rest on, considering the Bulldogs routed Southwood College 12-1 and 6-2 in a pair of exhibition games.

The pitching situation would have looked even brighter than it does, but two lettermen, Fiddle Summerlin of Elm City and Doug Barnes of Lucama, decided not to play this season for various reasons.

Still, Pfohl has, in addition to Ronnie Johnson, Wade John-