Richmond Gets 5, UVa 1

Gobblers Sign at Least 11

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Virginia Tech is obviously heading for a banner football recruiting year, but because of an NCAA rule it is difficult to ascertain who or how many the Hokies signed Saturday.

Saturday was the first day high school prospects could sign football grant-in-aid, but an NCAA rule prohibits a school from releasing the signees except through normal channels. And normal channels means a news release from the school.

Therefore, all a coach can do is say yes or no when asked if he has signed a particular player.

Although Tech did not release a list, the Times has learned that at least 11 players have been signed by the Hokies and that figure is very conservative. The Hokies are expected to sign somewhere in the 30s before the weekend is over.

The University of Virginia has apparently signed one player. Richmond has signed five. William & Mary is expected to sign Evan Lewis, a tackle from Manassas, on Monday.

The Tech signees: Eddie Joyce, Jr., a quarterback from Andrew Lewis, Salem; Tom Cooper, a back from Riverhead in Staunton; Keith Shirley, a back from Erwin, Tenn.; Milton Ross, a lineman from Abingdon; Mike Brammer, a lineman from Patrick Henry (Roanoke); John Groover, a lineman from Culpepper; Gary LeClair, a lineman from Tucker (Richmond); Otis Merrileather, a lineman from E. C. Glass; Keith Shirley, a back from Patrick Henry; Curt Lovery, a back from Massanutten; and Moses Foster, a receiver from Massanutten.

The Virginia signee: Bill Clark, a tackle from Norfolk Catholic.

The Richmond signees: Johnny Jones, a defensive back from Thomas Jefferson; Keith Sickinger, a center and defensive end from Heritage; Lou Little, a tackle from Collegegate; John Beck, a back from St. Christopher’s and Pittman Rock, an end from Ladysmith.