Keith Shirley, Poole To Sign With Tech

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Virginia Tech has landed another Shirley and it looks like bright things are in store at the linebacker positions for the Gobblers.

Keith Shirley, star middle guard for Patrick Henry High, said he planned to sign an athletic grant-in-aid today with Tech head coach Charlie Cofer.

Thus, he would join brother Tom in a Tech uniform. Tom, a sophomore middle linebacker, was all All Big Five selection this season despite the fact he missed the last five games due to injuries.

A second Roanoke Metro star was also to have signed with Tech this afternoon.

Mike Poole, a 6-3, 195-pound, Tight end from Lord Botetourt said he picked Tech over several schools, including North Carolina, Maryland, and William and Mary.

Shirley was converted from quarterback this season and turned into one of the top defensive players in the state. He was a popular selection for the All Roanoke Metro, All Roanoke District and the 3-A All Northwest Regional teams.

"I have wanted to go to Tech since Tommy went up there two years ago," Keith said. "I like the way they play football and I think it would be a great thrill to play on the same team with Tommy again."

There were many major schools recruiting Keith but he said since he never considered any other school but Tech, he had declined visits to other campuses.

Keith is 17, stands 6-4 and weighs 188. But he expects to weight well over 200 before he enrolls at Tech next Septem-

ber. He and Tommy are the sons of Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Shirley of 3616 Heritage Road, SW.

"The best thing that ever happened to me was being moved to middle guard," Keith said. "I learned what football is all about. It really prepared me to play a lot of different places. I feel I am much tougher and capable. I am really looking forward to playing at Tech."

Tommy admitted he was a bit biased but he thought Keith would prove a valuable addition to the Techmen and possibly could play a lot next year as a freshman.

"Keith has a lot of potential," Tommy said. "Probably his strongest points are his aggressiveness and quickness. He really loves to get after people and that's what they like here at Tech. I think it would be great to play with him."

Many members of the Tech staff scouted Keith but those who looked at him the most were defensive chief George McKinney and linebacker coach Bill Clay. They agreed with Tommy that Keith had the potential to become an outstanding college player.

"I can't say enough for Mike," Lord Botetourt aide Kenny Edwards, a former Tech star, said of Poole. "He has a great attitude and plenty of desire. He has it all to become an outstanding college end."

There was never any doubt in Poole's mind as to where he wanted to go to school. "I've always wanted to go to Tech," he said.

Shirley and Poole become the second and third Metro stars to announce that they will sign with Tech. Earlier, Andrew Lewis all-state quarterback Eddie Joyce Jr., said he would sign with the Gobblers, too.