Top Grid Prospects
O Hook, but Not Landed

Basketball season, the successes of Virginia Tech and Virginia has pushed football, with the exception of the Army game, to a back seat. But the most important segment of football season, that being the Sugar Bowl, is something else.

Although the news has been basketball, many of the questions, many of the telephone calls, still concern football recruiting.

Last year, Virginia Tech made its big recruiting splash. This year, the Hokies are being quiet. Nobody seems to know—and many want to know—how many will sign. Why? Many want to know. Are they any good? How well is Tech doing in the state? Out of state?

Tech's recruiting is almostcompleted. The Hokies will sign today. This year there are about 30, of quality players who haven't signed in the state. Until now, Tech's recruiting is about on a par with what it did last year. But to have a great year, the Hokies must sign at least half of the 30.

"Some players are signing later this year," says Tech's chief recruiter, Chuck Rohe, "and these players must sign or this will be the end of our recruiting. We expect to sign several of these players, but if we don't get one of them, we've still had a very good year, a better one than last year."

Tech has signed the player of the year in Ken-tucky for the second year in a row in Ten-nessee next week. The all-state (Tennessee) quar-terback, Rocky Bailey of Knoxville West, signed with Tech. So did Virginia's all-state, Eddie Joyce.

The Tech coach with the longest hand has been Carl Elliott, 52, who works the East Ten-nessee-Southwest area. He's行李s to 17 recruits. He has signed 10, will sign another Thursday, and last three last year (two to Tennessee), and is still working on the rest.

And Ellis has an unrelenting competitor. Tennessee, which has been badly thrashed by Ellis and Tech during Charlie Coffey's short tenure, has been trying, over the last two years, to sign a Virginia player from Tennessee's South. Tech was recruiting. This year, the Vols almost did it. But they didn't get the major recruiting, something Tech drew.

Bill Hosier, the Gate City end who has signed with Tech (Hosier made the Pacific All-American team), was Tennessee's choice this year.

"I didn't realize we were in trouble with him," Ellis says, "but he had actually committed to Ten-nessee. He had shaken Bill Battle's (the Tennessee head coach) hand when we didn't.

"But I had an appointment with him on the Monday night after he had committed to Tennessee on Sunday. I figured he was going to tell me he was going to Tennessee.

"It was one of those funny things. I had stopped at the Holiday Inn in Kingsport and the Tennessee recruiter (Jerry Elliott) saw me. He turned his lights off and pulled out the reciept. I guess Elliott figured I was going to see Hosier, and I was, so (the Elliott) drove to Gate City as quickly as he could.

"Well, this really embarrassed Hosier. He had made an appointment with me and the Ten-nessee recruiter showed up. We went back to head that night and this started Tennessee's downfall. Ten-nessee recruited Hosier like he wasn't committed and I just kept from making any mistakes. A few days later he called us.

Besides Hosier, Ellis has signed time move in his district, Chuck Rohe, because Ellis ran out of time, signed two more.

Six of Ellis' signees were from East Tennessee, four were from Southwest Virginia. One of Ellis' signees (Herbert Williams of 6-3, 215 lb.) from Ross from Abingdon. Virginia also wanted him, but Ellis' phone call went unanswered. Ellis says, "They found out he was committed to us, they wrote a letter telling him he is too slow."

Who, is it?

"He runs the 40 in 4.3," Ellis says. "But he is a long man 18 years old. You can teach a boy how to run, but you can't teach them how to be 6'-3, 220."

Bill Cofe