The A-A Boy Has Goal: A-A Player

By HAROLD PEARSON

He's the all-American boy, with the engaging smile to match.

He's the boy-next-door, with the "yes sir" demeanor that makes mothers smile.

He blouses as easily as he smiles.

He has the "best pair of hands I've ever seen on a player," says his coach.

Allan Bristow is all these things, but most of all, he's a basketball player.

He may be the next All-American basketball player out of the Old Dominion. Last year, as a sophomore, he was named to the District 3 A-A team by a national publication.

As a Virginia Tech junior, he is scoring at a much more prolific rate (25.6 as opposed to 20.4 as a soph) and he is working at "doing more things."

Of course, the 6-7 Henrico all-state is more concerned now with what the Gobblers are doing than with his own progress up the A-A ladder.

"I thought," he said of the recognition last year, "that was a pretty big honor, because the sportswriters picked it."

"But, right now, I'd rather think that we could have a chance to go to a post-season tournament. The other things will come."

At the moment, Tech's chances for post-season activity seem about as likely as a...
A-A Boy Seeks A-A Honors For Gobblers

Cont. From First Sports Page

Liz Taylor-Eddie Fisher makeup. The Gobblers are 5-6 and have been erratically unimpressive getting there. To say they have lacked consistency is understating. "It's not something you can pinpoint," Bristow said this weekend just before the Gobblers blew the Presidential Classic title. "It's always a combination of things — different things. With VMI ("Roanoke Classic") and Davidson (Charlotte Invitational) it was foul shots. Against South Carolina (76-77), it was the last shot."

In the Presidential Classic, which the Gobblers lost, 66-62, in overtime to Texas A&M, it was shooting that was not just foul but horrendous (282 per cent) — just seven field goals the last half, when Bristow was able to hit but seven free throws (the team's total for that 20 minutes), and loss of 13-point lead.

Still, as with every all-America boy-next-door, hope springs eternal. There is the silver lining, not matter how dark the cloud. "If we can stay like .500 on the road," the 20-year-old feels, "I'm confident we can win at home. If we can do better than 500 on the road, we could get some post-season bid."

Outside Tech Coliseum, the Gobblers are 3-6 with seven trips left (eight home games).

Right now, though, Bristow has something more to worry about, something to learn — "to play at both ends of the floor (defense)," he says "Everybody is concentrating more on it, because it is coach (Don) DeVoe's philosophy if you play good defense, you're going to be in the game for 40 minutes."

It is no secret that defense is the weak spot in Bristow's credentials. It's something he's had to work on since his standout days at Henrico.

That he has been able to adjust and become such an overwhelming success surprises Bristow more than anyone else because "I wasn't recruited that much. "A lot of that was because in high school I played center — just get the ball and shoot. Now I dribble, help on the press and a lot more."

Most of that "lot more" is scoring, which he does well from those "quick hands" and good moves. Everyone knows he must produce, if Tech is to win. A lot of pressure for a youngster, especially with that A-A possibility.

But "I don't feel any pressure," he says "I don't have to prove anything — just go out and play the best I can."

Then, the other things will come.