6-7½ Pennsylvania Forward
Is First Tech Cage Signee

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Virginia Tech got the jump on area college recruiters as Gobbler coach Don DeVoe announced today the signing of 6-7½ forward Mike Collins of Brownsville, Pa.

“He’s our top forward prospect,” said DeVoe in announcing his first signee this year, “and we feel he can help us on the varsity next season. He has the size and strength.”

DeVoe rates the 210-pounder as a blue chipper. Collins, who starred for Brownsville Area High School, played both center and forward, and he was selected to participate in the prestigious Dapper Dan Classic for high school senior later this spring in Pittsburgh.

“I liked the people at Tech and I feel the program is on the way up,” said Collins. “I think we can go a long way and that we’ll get some other good players.”

Collins admitted he signed early. “I figured I would end up at Tech anyway and I hope this has some influence on other players.”

As for playing on the varsity next year, Collins had some reservations. “I’m going to have to do a lot of work this summer. But if I can adjust to college academics, I could play on the varsity,” he admitted.

Mike Collins

Collins will major in engineering, one of the chief reasons he chose Tech. A number of schools were after Mike including a pair of Atlantic Coast Conference schools.

“Mike has the size and strength,” noted DeVoe. “He has the ability to score from the outside and can use either hand. He also is able to bring the ball up against the press.

“We feel he is a very physical type of player with tremendous jumping ability.

He’s a physically mature boy.”

Assistant Jim Hallihan was given a large share of the credit for landing Collins.

“He had to live with him and Brownsville isn’t the easiest place to get to. But Mike wants engineering and he was impressed with our school of engineering,” DeVoe explained.

Collins has the usual list of accomplishments that go with a blue chipper. He was named to the All-Section team for two years, set scoring and rebounding records for his school, was the leading sectional scorer in his junior season and was recognized by B’nai B’rith as an outstanding student athlete.

DeVoe calls Collins, who is also outstanding in track, the “best forward I’ve ever signed. He’s much better than the ones I signed at West Point or Ohio State last year.”

Coaches will be taking the rest of the week off as they head to the NCAA tournament in Los Angeles. Roanoke hopes to sign seven or eight boys including two or three from junior colleges, but coach Charlie Moir said it might be a few weeks before he knows anything for sure.

DeVoe hopes to land seven including several junior college players while Virginia is out to replace four seniors.