BLACKSBURG — Virginia Tech put another important notch in its recruiting belt by signing Charlie Thomas, 6-3 backcourt ace, here Saturday.

Thomas' signing has been rumored for weeks.

Thomas in the last two years was instrumental in carrying Ferrum College to a 59-6 record, including national championship competition each season and No. 2 in the country this season. Tech earlier had signed Thomas' teammate, Bobby Stevens.

"From the start of our recruiting last fall, Charlie was the No.-1 guard on our list," Tech Coach Don DeVoe said. "He's the quickest player we have signed. In addition to being an outstanding ball handler, he's an exceptionally accurate shooter with unlimited range. And he's a great jumper for a guard.

"With both Thomas and Stevens, we feel that we have a ready made pair who have all the capabilities to step right into our program.

An all-stater at Harrisonburg High School, where he had a 24.6 career scoring average and was player of the year in the Valley League.