Tech Signees Dominate
All-Star Game Roster

The sports world:

Any doubts that Virginia Tech totally dominated the state in football recruiting will be erased when the squads for the July All-Star game in Roanoke are released. Of the first 63 players to accept bids to the Victory Stadium game, 17 are headed for Tech. No other major college got more than two, although seven of the players indicated they were headed for Ferrum. That will not sit well in Charlottesville, despite the assurance of Virginia coach Don Lawrence that the Cavs have had a good recruiting year.

Now that the Virginia Squires have officially announced that they have no legal claim to North Carolina’s Robert McAdoo, look for that ABA team to make every effort to secure at least one top NBA performer. Take away Julius Erving, and the Squires are the worst team in pro basketball. They will not get much help from the draft and the best chance for survival is to (1) lure away an NBA star or (2) regain the services of Charlie Scott. Since the courts move slowly, the Scott case is unlikely to be settled in time for next season which, incredibly is only five months away.

Press Maravich, the new Appalachian basketball coach, commented on the problems of building a basketball program at Louisiana State, where he was fired a year after son Pistol Pete finished. “There are two million people in Louisiana and six million football nuts. The (New Orleans) Saints can go 1-11 and draw 80,000 people.”

The top two big men among the scholastic basketball stars are both from Louisiana—7-0 Robert Parrish and 6-10 Edmond Lawrence. Not only did Parrish sign with hometown Centenary—he couldn’t qualify academically at many schools—but Lawrence did him one better, signing with both Southwest Louisiana and McNeese State. Apparently he is headed for McNeese.

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte (UNC-C) will be in only its third year of major basketball competition this coming season, but the 49ers’ coach, Bill Foster, has been successful in lining up a good schedule. UNC-C has two games with Marshall, plus home contests with Oklahoma, Kent State and DePaul as well as road games at Nebraska, Tulane, Iowa and Georgia Tech.

Better EHL Schedule

The new Eastern Hockey League makeup (three divisions instead of two) will give Roanoke Valley fans a much greater feel for a whole league. Last year, the Rebels spent the final two months of the season playing only three teams—Charlotte, Greensboro and St. Petersburg. Now there will be 32 games (instead of 13) against the eight northern clubs.

The No. 1 baseball team among the colleges is Arizona State, a perennial power. The Sun Devils started this week with a 52-3 record, 28 straight wins and five consecutive shutouts.

ASU begins play in February, when they are still thinking baseball in this part of the country. If the NCAA District 3 playoffs include South Alabama, Vanderbilt and Jacksonville, Virginia’s ACC champs will be in fast company. Eddie Stanky’s South Alabama team is No. 2 nationally, Jacksonville is No. 6 and Vanderbilt (involved in the SEC playoffs with Mississippi) is No. 8.

UNC-C On the Move

North Carolina’s Carmichael Auditorium, remodeled for basketball only a few years ago, seats slightly more than 8,000. That is not nearly enough to take care of the people who would like to see the Tar Heels play. There is no public sale of tickets and every game is an automatic sellout. Now UNC athletic director Homer Rice hints that the school is studying the possibility of building a new coliseum. What UNC actually needs is a building similar to the new one at Brigham Young, the nation’s largest indoor basketball arena seating over 22,000.

Abe Pollin, owner of the Baltimore Bullets, would like to build an arena in Prince Georges County, Maryland, just off the Washington beltway. The only kicker is that Pollin wants assurances of a National Hockey League franchise. If Pollin builds his coliseum, he would move the Bullets, who last year drew far better in Maryland’s Cole Fieldhouse than they did in Baltimore.

Only four, and possibly five, NBA teams made money this year. They were New York, Los Angeles, Milwaukee, Chicago and (maybe) Seattle. One pro basketball expert says the ABA had just one break-even team, Utah, and that the younger league will operate next season with just eight teams, dropping Pittsburgh, Memphis and the Floridians.