Tech Solves ‘Bighead’ Problem

BLACKSBURG — A freshman with the “bighead” is nothing new to football at any level, but Virginia Tech spent a whole week trying to cope with a literal big head problem.

Keith Gibson, a freshman lineman from Churchill, Tenn., requires an 8½ helmet, and helmet manufacturers didn’t have an immediate solution to the problem. But senior offensive lineman Bruce Lemmert and Reid Arrington, Tech’s equipment man, got their heads together, and Gibson now is properly helmeted.

Lemmert, who wears a 7⅞, suggested the solution was in finding the right size liner, and Arrington finally found a liner half the width of the ordinary liner.

The helmet shell Gibson wears is appropriately named, “Gladiator.”

Gibson, 6-3, 265, is making a strong bid with the Tech varsity as offensive left guard. If he makes it, he could find himself playing next to Lemmert, starting left tackle.

Asked about such problems in the past, Arrington noted that Tech has had several players who required 7⅞ headgears. Most recent was lineman Jim Lawlor who finished his career last season.