Dennis Dodson wins Frank Loria award

BLACKSBURG — Senior linebacker Dennis Dodson of Fredericksburg received the 1973 Frank P. Loria award at a Blacksburg Quarterback Club meeting today.

The coveted honor is named after the late All-American safety at Tech. The Quarterback Club trophy winner is selected by the coaches.

The presentation speech follows:

"Football is a game of courage and Virginia Tech probably never had a player any more courageous than Dennis Dodson.

"Defensive statistics usually are hard to come by, but in the final game of his career (a 22-21 loss to VMI), he had 13 tackles, eight assists, broke up a pass and sacked the quarterback. That was about par for a Dodson performance.

"The amazing thing most of the time was that he was on the field at all.

"During the last half of his senior season he lined up with both knees heavily wrapped, both thumbs thoroughly taped and wearing an oversized hotdog collar to help protect against a neck injury that recurred many times during his three-year career. And that's not to mention the painful calcium deposits in his upper arms.

"He broke up many passes despite the fact that he wasn't physically able to raise his arms above his head.

"In a hopeless cause against Memphis State he never stopped pursuing the football. And, typical of his leadership by example, when the Tech squad saw films of that effort they redoubled their own efforts in the following week's win over Florida State.

"At 6-0, 212 - pounds, the former star from James Monroe High in Fredericksburg, wasn't physically endowed for greatness, but he was a coach's dream for competitiveness.

"His selection as a 1973 recipient of the Frank P. Loria award was most appropriate because he played the game with the same dedication, intelligence and selflessness for which that honor was established."