Bethea Tops List

VT Signs Ten Players

As he was quoted in a Newport News paper, 'I'd rather play defense than offense... I'd rather knock heads off than have mine knocked off.'

The Parade Magazine All-American who was sought after by no less than 200 schools chose Tech since he will not be too far from home.

'It certainly is a boost to Tech's football program to have Larry join it,' commented Coach Sharpe, 'We're really excited on getting him.'

As Sharpe pointed out later Bethea could have gone to any major college in the nation and such powers as Alabama, Notre Dame, and North Carolina State were seeking his services. Ultimately it was the intangible objects on which Bethea based his decision.

Sharpe and his staff have been busy elsewhere as they have now signed ten high school seniors since their arrival in Blacksburg.

From Roanoke's Patrick Henry High School the new staff has secured another All-stater, defensive back Rick Harman. The Patriots took the state AAA championship this year.

'Rick catches your eye,' declared Sharpe, 'with his aggressive defense and determination.'

Defensive tackle Joe Sansoe of Rockville, Md. may be the dark horse of the Tech recruits. He was overlooked by many schools because he only weighed 200 pounds at the end of last season.

'By the time I got here he was up to 225,' Sharpe revealed, 'and he has a lot of potential.'

Richmond's William Smith who went both ways at tackle impressed the Tech staff with his quickness and super efforts.

Two West Virginians, linebacker-fullback Charley Moore and 6'3" 240-pound Kim Spencer are also signed to improve Tech's football fortunes.

Running backs Larry Justice of Hickory, N.C. and Bayside High's Roscoe Coles are also Tech-bound. Coles at 5'10" 170 pounds was a second-team all stater and like Bethea was sought after by many schools.