Virginia Tech has a different problem than Virginia and VMI which need to sign players by the numbers as well as quality.

The NIT champions have four starters and three top subs returning. This creates a hardship when talking to some players, according to Hokie coach Don DeVoe. Nevertheless, DeVoe feels that the NIT championship will help his recruiting though it won't make as much difference as some people might suspect.

"The freshman rule might hurt us," said DeVoe who last year collected the signatures of several top first year men. Two of them—Dave Sensibaugh and Kyle McKee—had big parts as the seventh and eighth men on the Tech team.

"This year some kids think they can't play at Tech," DeVoe continued. "That's because four starters return off a championship team. But next year we lose five kids and that's why it's important to have a good recruiting year."

One thing Tech needs is a blue chip athlete who is big and can play center. Tech has no inside track on this type of athlete, but the Gobblers feel they're in the competition for some top prospects.

One is seven footer Jeff Crompton from Burlington, N.C., which is in the heart of ACC country. "He's responded extremely well," said DeVoe. "We were the second university to recruit him at home. But the location of his home and its proximity to the ACC (less than an hour from any Big Four school) could hurt. He is going to visit us."

Two other big men Tech would like to land are 6-11 Jeff Wilkins of Elgin, Ill., and 6-9 Norm Cook of Lincoln, Ill. It means DeVoe is still going to recruit in the Midwest.

The Hokies also have several blue chip guard prospects lined up, according to DeVoe. This isn't the immediate need of the program now though DeVoe wants to sign one or two top backcourt men.

DeVoe says the NIT helped, but that he doesn't buy the theory that Tech can upgrade its recruiting to better players because of the title.

"We tried to recruit the All-Americans last spring and didn't have much luck," said DeVoe who was referring to lists that pick players as the best prospects in the country.

"But basketball isn't always a factor," he continued. "If it was Tech would be at the top because of a good schedule, good support and a good place to play. Sometimes there are other factors than basketball and even with a national title you can't just step in and recruit a boy."