‘I’m Telling It Just The Way It Happened’
Virginia Tech basketball Coach Don DeVoe shows E. F. (Buck) Chandler and Bobby Stevens (center and right) how his team won NIT championship.

VPI’s DeVoe Seeks Recruits Who Are Unselfish, Quick

BY STAN SHALETT
Daily Press Sports Writer

Virginia Tech Basketball Coach Don DeVoe has had little time to sit back and reflect on his team’s surprising victory in the National Invitation Tournament. DeVoe, in Newport News Wednesday to speak at a meeting of the Peninsula Chapter of the school’s alumni association, explained he had been out on the road recruiting.

“We haven’t signed anyone yet, but that’s to be expected,” the personable coach explained. “Most of the high school coaches who had the super-seniors kept them off limits to recruiters until the scholastic season was over.

“So most of the blue chippers are using this period to make their campus visits. You know each boy can go to five different colleges, and the heavily-recruited players are doing that. They probably won’t make up their minds until mid-May.”

DeVoe said that he was looking for five to six players this year. “We want boys who can play well, we’re not concerned with just the big boys. I think we showed in the NIT that we are capable of winning without giants.”

The young coach said that quickness is the quality he and his aides seek most. “We look for the kind of player who can play our game. He has to be unselfish and willing to dish the ball off, rather than take the forced shot.”

However, the Gobblers are not looking for midgets. Among the chores DeVoe accomplished during his flying visit to the Peninsula was a trip to Hampton to see 6-foot 8½ Rocky Copley, who led Kecoughton to a second-place finish in the Peninsula district. “We’re interested in Copley. I think he can help our program.”

Another big youngster the Gobblers are interested in is 7-footer Jeff Crompton of Burlington, N.C. “We and North Carolina and possibly North Carolina State are the schools that seem to be in contention for his services,” DeVoe said.

“You can’t believe the amount of mail we received from all over the country. We have letters from Washington, Virginia, Florida, and the Carolinas.”