DeVoe Gets Moving
With Tech Success

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Coach Don DeVoe says he has been going at such a hectic pace since Virginia Tech won the NIT that he has hardly had time to learn how to pin the diapers on his two-month-old daughter.

"It’s really been fantastic," DeVoe said. "I never thought it would be like this. But it’s wonderful. This is what college basketball is all about.

“We are greatly pleased with our NIT victory but our big goal at Tech is to build consistency in our program. We want an outstanding team every year. We’ll be working all the harder next season.”

DeVoe spoke last night to a large group of Knights of Columbus members and their wives and he reviewed the Tech season, gave a report on recruiting and then told of his goals for the future.

There were thousands of letters that poured into the Tech office after the NIT victory and DeVoe said it was especially heartening to hear from many alumni and fans of Tech’s natural rivals who said they became Gobbler fans during the NIT drive.

“We got a lot of letters from UVa. and W&M alumni,” DeVoe said. “It was great to hear them say kind things about our team.”

Two of the letters DeVoe said he appreciated the most came from Joe DeBonis and Ned Irish.

DeBonis was an NIT official and he worked the title game with Notre Dame. He told DeVoe he had never worked for a more courteous or spirited team than Tech. Irish, who is president of the New York Knicks and started the NIT, told DeVoe he should be especially proud of his victory since he (Irish) considered this year’s tournament the most competitive and exciting of the 36-year-old event.

DeVoe was making his second banquet appearance of the day. He and two players—Craig Lieder and Bobby Stevens—were in Norfolk for a luncheon appreciation affair.

The Tech coach has more than 15 banquets scheduled next month and will serve three consecutive weekends on a 7-Up College Coaching Clinic. He will be in Indianapolis and St. Louis the first weekend, in Cincinatti and Greensboro the second and in Philadelphia the third.

His summer clinic schedule will carry him twice to New Jersey and once each to Minnesota and Illinois. He also will appear at the Virginia High School League Clinic in Salem this July. He had to turn down an offer to speak at the North Carolina clinic due to a schedule conflict.

Tech had offers from Madison Square Garden to play two games there next season but DeVoe said the schedule was complete and he had to decline the offer.

Tech also is working on its own television network for next season with WSLS, channel 10 in Roanoke as the originating station. Tech hopes to secure other stations in Richmond and Norfolk.

DeVoe said he hoped to line up an eight-game TV schedule from the Gobblers’ home slate which includes games with Oral Roberts, Ohio State, St. Bonaventure, West Virginia, Florida, Eastern Kentucky, Wake Forest and Toledo.

The Hughes Sports Network is working with Tech to televise the game with Oral Roberts (Feb. 2) on a nationwide basis.

DeVoe said it would be impossible to replace Allan Bristow, who was the Tech captain and scoring leader.

“We can find someone to start for him,” DeVoe said. “But we will never find someone to take his place. He contributed so much to our program with his leadership, unselfishness and spirit. He was a true captain, on and off the floor.”

The Knights gave DeVoe several standing ovations while heaping the praise on him and his champions. But the group needs a sign painter who is a better speller.

The large sign welcoming DeVoe contained the words “congradulations” and “Va. TecK”.