Squires’ Choices
Variety, Costly

By Ray Filagar

The Virginia Squires added 12 players to their negotiating list yesterday, including Virginia Tech forward Allan Bristow, and prepared for the difficult and expensive next step.

“IT’s up to us to do the signing,” said Squires’ owner Earl Foreman after the club had selected 10 prospects in the regular American Basketball Association draft and added two more in the league’s special undergraduate draft.

“It was a good draft, in known and unknown quantities,” continued Foreman, after alluding to the general consensus held among pro basketball people that it is, “a lean year. And we got a couple that could be real sleepers.”

BRISTOW, THE 6-7 RICHMONDER who starred at Henrico High School, was the Squires’ top choice in the regular draft. A day earlier he had been tabbed by the Philadelphia 76ers (third choice of the team) on the second round of the National Basketball Association draft. On subsequent ABA rounds the Virginia club picked Allie McGuire of Marquette; Caldwell Jones (Albany St.-Ga.); Bob Lauriski (Utah St.); and John Perry (Pan American).

Bristow’s stock went up considerably during the National Invitation Tournament where he paced the Gobblers to the title.

“I think he impressed everybody in the NIT,” said Bianchi.

“And it appears he has the physical tools to be effective in the pros.”

THE SQUIRES’ MENTOR said that he was settled on Bristow before the draft began, “although we were very interested in (Mike) D’Antoni (Marshall). We would have liked to have drafted him.”

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contracts the Squires would like to trade are Willie Sojourn and William Franklin.

Agent Norman Blasch represents both Bristow and Parkhill and Foreman said he talked to Blass three times about the draft. But Bianchi and assistant John Kerr are expected to meet with Blass tonight.

But Foreman would not predict a signing before the end of this week.

Bristow disclosed Tuesday he turned down a $200,000 offer from Indiana after Virginia Tech won the NIT and said he was leaning toward playing in the NBA.

But Bianchi said he had been told that Bristow, a native of Richmond, insisted to remain in Virginia to play pro basketball. "If I had the choice between Philadelphia and Virginia, I know where I would want to play," said Bianchi.

Bianchi admitted Bristow is relatively slow and not a good jumper. "But he has a feel for the game and he gets the rebounds, even though he doesn’t jump that high. He’s a good shooter and a good passer. He can help us.”

Blass’ bargaining position was strengthened by the NIT performance by Bristow, runner-up to Notre Dame’s John Shumate as MVP. Still, Blass said Bristow would have been a high draft choice regardless.

"Allan was high all year long because of his desire and ability to play," said his agent. "He’s probably the best passing forward in college right now.

"Plus Allan is a super young man."