By Ray Filegar

The Virginia Squires found themselves batting .500 following yesterday's activity in the ABA-NBA signing battle.

Right on the heels of the Squires' successful signing of UCLA center Swen Nater Tuesday, the Philadelphia 76ers spirited away Allan Bristow, the Squires' first choice in the regular ABA draft of April 25.

The 6-7 Virginia Tech star signed what was said to be a three-year contract—no terms were disclosed—with the 76ers, according to club general manager Don DeJardin.

"We thought Bristow was the best passing forward in college basketball this last season," said DeJardin, "and I think he can be the type of pro basketball player Bailey Howell (who played for Boston, Detroit and the 76ers during his career) was."

Bristow, who established 10 school records at Tech and capped his college career by leading the Gobblers to the NIT championship, told a Philadelphia press conference that "the stability of the two leagues had a good deal to do" with his decision.

"And I felt that I would receive more recognition in the NBA," added the former Henrico High School star. "(Julius) Erving is one of the very greatest players in the game and he hasn't got the recognition he deserves."

Bristow said he would like to have played in Virginia but felt it was in his best interests to sign with Philadelphia, explaining, "There is a time in your life when you have to do that... think of yourself first."

There were indications that the Squires, who had signed Nater to a sizable multi-year contract the day before, had not gotten around to making a firm offer to Bristow.

"We have been concentrating on Nater and Barry Parkhill to this point," said a team spokesman. "And although I do know that (owner) Earl (Foreman) had talked with Bristow's agent and listened to what they had in mind, I'm not sure an offer was made."

Neither Foreman nor coach and general manager Al Bianchi was available for comment.

A source close to the Squires, however, told the Times-Dispatch last night that it was "simply a matter of priorities. The club's thinking was that there was a greater need to sign a center and a guard than a forward."

"If those two things were accomplished and Bristow was still available the club was definitely interested."