Gov. Holton Adds Praise To Gobblers

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BLACKSBURG—They came to praise the Virginia Tech basketball team here last night and the biggest cheerleader of all was Gov. Linwood Holton.

It was an appreciation banquet for the members of the NIT champions, their coaches, families and friends. Joining Gov. Holton in praise of the Gobblers were the touring budget committee and many top members of the general assembly.

"What this team has done for the Commonwealth of Virginia is truly outstanding," the governor said. "It has set a pattern of excellence that will serve as a challenge for all of us—in sports, politics and general life.

"I think, and I'm not alone in my opinion, that your victory in the NIT was the most outstanding athletic accomplishment in the history of the Commonwealth."

Craig Lieder, who played a major role in the title march, was named the captain for 1973-74. He was selected in a vote of the team members and it was announced by head coach Don DeVoe.

DeVoe introduced each member of the varsity and junior varsity squads. He also presented a framed picture to Bobby Stevens, which showed the guard from Norfolk sinking the shot that gave Tech a 92-91 overtime victory over Notre Dame in the NIT finals.

Dr. T. Marshall Hahn, Tech president, added his words of appreciation and he also presented an engraved NIT championship watch to Gov. Holton.

In post-banquet news, DeVoe announced the signing of a third basketball recruit. He is Phil Thieneeman, a 6-4 guard from Louisville, Ky.

Thieneeman made the all-state squads in Kentucky and averaged 18 points and 14 rebounds per game. He has seen high school action as both a forward and guard. He selected Tech in his final choice over Cincinnati and Jacksonville.

"He can jump out of this world," said assistant Sonny Smith. "He also is an outstanding shooter with great range. Thieneeman will give us the big guard we need to replace Charlie Thomas after he graduates next year."

The two previous recruits are Duke Thorpe, a 6-5 star from West Point; and Denny Fugate, a 6-0 guard from Hazard, Ky.