Tech's DeVoe Agrees With NCAA Ruling

Don DeVoe, the Virginia Tech basketball coach, agrees that impending NCAA legislation is not likely to hurt the game much.

DeVoe concedes that 14 scholarships—two less than will be recommended at the NCAA’s special August con- vention—would be enough. It was suggested that perhaps the number would eventually be dropped to 12, but DeVoe said that was too few.

"You could lose a couple of players and somebody would get hurt and you’d be down to eight or nine," said DeVoe. "But I agree that 14 would be enough."

DeVoe sees the junior varsity program being eliminat- ed at most schools, which makes it possible to do with few- er players. "If you have only a varsity schedule and too many players, you are going to have unhappy players," he said.

"I think this has been an unusual recruiting year," said DeVoe. "With freshmen proving that they can play at the varsity level, coaches are recruiting from a different view- point.

"You used to recruit a player, play him on the freshman team and hope he was able to make a contribution to the varsity when he became a senior. Now it’s a matter of recruiting players for the varsity, and recruiting potential starters.

Tech Has Signed 3

DeVoe has signed three players this year. The third was Ernest Wanley, a 6’10” center from Anderson Junior Col- lege who signed Tuesday. At the most, Tech will sign four. The Hokies are still after guard Ed Ashford of Durham.

"We only had 15 players visit our campus this spring," said DeVoe. "We didn’t bring in any during the fall and winter. Of that 15, we signed three. We might get four. That would be a pretty good batting average. And of those four, three would have a good chance to start next year."

DeVoe concedes that Tech’s number of recruits visit- ing was low. "We don’t recruit like some schools," he said. "We start with a limited number of prospects, maybe 35 or 40, that we believe can play. By the time they actually get around to visiting, some of them have eliminated us and we have eliminated a couple of them."

DeVoe says the one proposed recruiting change he be- lieves will be hard to control is the one limiting the num- ber of games that are scheduled to recruit. "I don’t see how they are going to check on that."

If that rules passes, and it probably will, the problems will arise when a school has two legitimate college pros- pects, such as Thomas Jefferson had this year with Ota Fulton and Keith Valentine.

If a coach went to see Valentine, for example, could he also speak to Fulton if he (the coach) had used up the three visits to that player? Essentially, what constitutes a visit to see a prospect? It also could get sticky for players in met-ropolitan areas close by college campuses. Would the col- lege coaches intentionally have to avoid any contact with DeVoe?"

In other recruiting news:

N.C. State has signed a legitimate blue chip center prospect in 7’1 Glenn Suthoph of South Bend, Ind., beating out Kentucky, Indiana and Purdue. Surprisingly, Suthoph was not offered a scholarship by hometown Notre Dame. The Wolfpack also signed 8’10 Eric Agardy of Plymouth, Mich.

Davidson Gets 4

Davidson, desperately in need of a good recruiting year, has landed 6’5 Art Lealby of Sandy, 6’6 Jim Rice of Cincinnati, 6’7 Pat Hickert of Clearwater, Fla., and 7’2 Ron Deep of Elkton, Md.

DeVoe confirms that he also has heard that Indiana su- per prospect Sam Drummer is indeed headed for Gardner- Webb. "Drummer signed the Big Ten letter with Indiana partly, but he didn’t sign the national letter. Bobby (Knight) put a deadline on Drummer’s signing and the deadline passed," said DeVoe. Drummer is a cinch 7th 10 perform- er. He was the MVP in the Capital Classic.