NCAA Play Is Goal Of Tech's Jim Milley

BLACKSBURG—After a respectable freshman season as Virginia Tech's top tennis player, second-year performer Jim Milley of Danville is rapidly establishing himself as one of the region's best young players.

Milley, who began playing tennis at the age of ten, has been a tournament participant for seven years. Last summer he was ranked fifth in the state for those 21-years old and under. He reached the finals of the Mid-Atlantic Tournament at Warrenton and made it to round 64 of the State Tournament at Richmond.

Ideally, Milley would like his next tournament competition to be in the NCAA championships, but he realizes as well as anyone the enormity of the task.

"It's a big jump...it would take an enormous amount of concentration and hard work to get to the NCAA's," he acknowledged. "I really don't know exactly what a player has to do to qualify, but certainly I have it as a goal for the future."

If Milley continues to improve at his present rate, Tech coach Joe Collins feels that goal (the NCAA's) should definitely be within the grasp of his number one player...perhaps as early as this spring.

"Jim has really made remarkable progress since coming here; he's come on so rapidly," Collins pointed out. "He's at the point now where he has a good chance of making it to the tournament."

Labeled a "heady" player by Collins, Milley has benefited greatly from use of Tech's Carol B. Rector Tennis Pavilion.

"There are no distractions. I think playing inside has helped me, as well as the whole team," said Milley, noting that the Gobblers have won ten of their last eleven matches for a 12-6 overall mark.

"Our indoor courts are indeed a tremendous benefit...Jim is as good an example of that as you could find," Collins agreed.

Blessed with extremely quick reflexes and a fine ability to anticipate shots, Milley is also a good example of what hard work can do.

If he continues to improve, he should have little trouble attaining the goals he sets for the future.

INDOOR COURTS HELP Virginia Tech's number one singles player, sophomore Jim Milley, feels that practice and play on the indoor courts at Tech has helped him, especially on concentration. Milley is becoming one of the area's top tennis players.