Tech Still Awaits Word From NCAA

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If Virginia Tech is going to receive an NCAA baseball tournament bid, it won't be this week.

Nor will it be in this section of the country.

The Gobblers found out that much Monday as the NCAA picked four at-large entries to fill the Atlantic and South regionals. Tech was not among those four teams, but the NCAA will continue to select teams the next two Mondays until it fills a field of 32 teams.

Tech Coach Bob Humphreys—rather than sit in Blacksburg waiting for a phone call that never came—was instead on a recruiting trip to Tennessee. He was unavailable for comment on the NCAA situation surrounding his 32-7 team which has won 29 straight games. Madison College (32-9), thought to be a longshot for the field, was not selected either.

Tech was figured to have its best shot at the Atlantic Regional, which will be played May 20-22 at Columbia, S.C., for the third straight year. That means South Carolina—with its fourth consecutive NCAA bid—will be the host team. Joining the Gamecocks in the four-team event will be Atlantic Coast Conference tournament champion Wake Forest, Southern Conference king East Carolina and at-large entry South Alabama.

South Alabama, coached by ex-major league Eddie Stanky, is ranked second in the nation and owns a 39-10 record. South Carolina is 36-9 and fourth-ranked, while Wake stands 29-11 and No. 11. ECU owns a 30-10 slate.

A reliable source said Tech's chances at the Atlantic Regional were hurt when the NCAA selection committee decided to take Clemson as an at-large team for the South Regional.

The Tigers won the ACC regular-season title, but were upset in the league tournament by Wake Forest. Clemson, selected as a league runnerup through the at-large system, takes a 38-7 record into regional play. Miami of Florida (40-11), the other at-large team picked for the South, will host the event at Coral Gables on the artificial surface at Mark Light Stadium.

Joining Clemson and Miami in the South will be Ohio Valley Conference champion Morehead State (27-17) and the Southeastern Conference champion. The SEC representative will be decided this weekend in a four-team tournament at Oxford, Miss., involving Florida, Vanderbilt, Mississippi State and Mississippi.

Winners in all eight regionals will advance to the College World Series, set June 10-17 in Omaha. Six regionals—excluding the Atlantic and South—will be played the last weekend in May.

The NCAA will continue to fill at-large berths the next two Mondays, with spots still available in the Rocky Mountain, Mideast, Midwest and West regionals. But Hawaii (48-11) is expected to get the lone opening in the West.