Tech's Hill Drafted by Pirates

From Staff and AP Dispatches

The vacation Sandy Hill had planned for Myrtle Beach may have to be shifted to Florida instead.

Not that Hill cares, mind you.

"I've waited 22 years to go to the beach, I guess I can wait another one or two," said the Virginia Tech centerfielder Thursday after he became Pittsburgh's 36th choice in the free agent baseball draft.

It appeared that Hill would go untouched after turning down an offer last year from the Milwaukee Brewers, who took him in the 21st round. He hoped that another season of college ball would improve his credentials and that he would get the chance to finish his schooling.

"I made up my mind then and I decided never to look back," said Hill, whose bargaining power was cut down considerably by a .220 season at the bat. "I wasn't going to second-guess myself."

Hill figures that he probably will be sent to the Pirates' minor-league base in Bradenton, Fla., and await further reassignment. Sometimes, college players are placed at a higher level, which would give the Glenvar grad a chance to play before the home folks in Salem.

"I'd like to go down there (Bradenton) and play," he admitted. "I'd like to break in slowly."

Interestingly, Hill worked out before Pittsburgh farm director Murray Cook at Municipal Field last week along with Chiswell High School's Paul Moore, the Pirates' No. 8 pick.—DOUG DOUGHTY