Virginia Tech, which missed out on the blue-chip basketball recruits it sought earlier this year, has saved North Carolina’s best for last.

With school ready to open in one month, the Gobblers signed Dwayne Grant, a 6-4, 190-pounder who led North Carolina schoolboys in scoring each of the last two seasons.

Grant, who fills Tech’s need for a “tall” guard, was a four-year starter at Davie County High School in Mocksville. He was an all-state pick during his junior and senior campaigns, averaging 29.5 and 28.8 points per game in those two years, respectively. Davie County is a 3-A school—the second largest class in the state’s scholastic athletic system.

“He wasn’t a late find, we were recruiting him all year,” said Tech assistant Coach Frankie Allen of Grant, “Really, the hangup was his grades. I think some people stayed away from him because of that.”

Davie County’s grades are computed on the 5.0 system, meaning they had to be converted to the 4.0 system before Tech could find out if Grant’s marks predicted high enough for his enrollment. Now, just one month until school opens on the Blacksburg campus, the grades have been recomputed on the 4.0 scale and Grant made it.

Allen says there’s no question that Grant can make it on the court, and most prep basketball observers in the Tar Heel state concur. In last month’s East-West all-star game at Greensboro, Grant led the West to a 97-90 win with 18 points and eight rebounds.

“He’s a tremendous shooter,” said Tech Coach Charlie Moir, “and Dwayne has a great chance to contribute for us early in his career. He’s also had the advantage of playing outside some in high school as well as at forward.”

Allen said that Grant played primarily in the corner for Davie County, but that at Tech the newest signee will be one of seven guards on the roster.

“As they say, he can really fill it up,” said Allen. “He has good ball-handling skills, but that area of his game still needs some improvement. I really fell he’s got the ability to play a lot for us right away.”

“And we needed a big guard. Because so many other teams are using one of these days, you need one to match up defensively if nothing else.”

Grant’s signing brings Tech’s 1977 list of recruits to six and completes the Gobblers’ quota of 15 scholarship players.

Moir’s other signees are guards Dexter Reid (6-2) of Norfolk and Mark Shrader (5-11) of Philadelphia, forwards John Hillenbrand (6-8) of Jamstown, N.Y., and Dave Bennett (6-6) of Bloomfield Hills, Mich., and center Steve Kearney (6-11), a Falls Church native who played last season at Palm Beach Junior College.

As ex-JUCO performers, Kearney and Hillenbrand will be sophomores for the 1977-78 season.

Also making his first appearance for the Gobblers this year will be junior forward Stu Price, the ex-GW Danville star who transferred from Virginia Commonwealth and sat out last season.