Springers’ Banks selects Virginia Tech

By Mike Hodge
News Leader sports writer

Harold Banks, Highland Springs High’s All-State defensive back, plans to sign a letter of intent to play football for Virginia Tech.

The first day recruits can sign scholarships is Feb. 8. Banks announced his decision yesterday.

Banks said he considered James Madison and the University of North Carolina but said he picked Virginia Tech primarily because of the school’s atmosphere. Banks visited there earlier this month.

“It’s a nice environment,” Banks said. “Plus it’s not far from home. The people there were normal. The atmosphere’s at some schools, the people are stuck up. But the people there were normal. A lot of the guys were still around who had played in the Peach Bowl, but they were like regular players, and that’s how they treated me.”

Tech finished 3-8 last year and defeated East Carolina, James Madison and Cincinnati. Banks is expected to play as freshman. Primarily a safety in high school, he said he hopes to play monsterman, a cross between a defensive back and a linebacker.

Highland Springs Coach Rudy Ward said Banks, a two-time All-Metro first-team selection, is considered stronger against the run than the pass. He has run a 4.7 in the 40-yard dash.

Banks, 6-foot-2, 180 pounds, accounted for 97 tackles last season, 156 as a junior.

Banks, Ward said, is expected to meet NCAA guidelines for freshman eligibility.