JIM BARON

HOMETOWN: Harvey, Ill.
JUNIOR COLLEGE: Triton.
HIGH SCHOOL: Chavi.
VISITS: Virginia Tech, Youngstown State, Canceled Western Illinois.
RECRUITED BY: Defensive line coach Todd Grantham.
HOST DURING TECH VISIT: Defensive tackle Trenton Bass, "I had a good time on my visit. It seemed like there was a real dedication to winning and the players really want to put Tech on the map. They have a good work ethic and they look out for each other."
WHY I CHOSE VIRGINIA TECH: "Because it's in the Big East. I grew up watching Miami and Syracuse and I want the chance to play against the best teams in the country. I also really like the facilities."
JUCO HONORS: Second team all-North Central Community College Conference. "That was kind of surprising since he was the most-recruited kid in the whole conference," said Triton head coach Gene Mitz. "There was a lot of politics involved (in the voting), which is probably the same thing that happens to Virginia Tech in the Big East. But it definitely wasn't indicative of his play this season."
HIGH SCHOOL HONORS: Named all-conference as a junior ... was all-conference and all-state as a senior at defensive tackle ... played in the Indiana North-South all-star game.
NOTABLE NUMBERS: Runs a 4.9 forty.
INTENDED MAJOR: Undecided. "I've been thinking about sports medicine or physical therapy, but I'll wait until I get there before I make up my mind."
WITH HIS SPARE TIME: "I listen to music, work out and play basketball."
QUOTABLE: Grantham: "Jim is a guy that, as I watched film, got better and better. He comes off the ball real well and has good reflexes. He's a guy that a lot of schools didn't know about until late."
Mitz: "People ran away from Jim this season. He plays strong and he is exceptionally quick. He's an excellent pass rusher and he has a very good sense for the ball."
Baron: "It's been a dream of mine to play big-time football. You get a lot of attention and support at Tech and there's a big difference between playing in the Big East or playing Division I-AA."
MORE: Baron transferred to Triton from Iowa Central Community College. "Iowa was too small and it was sort of like high school," he said. "Triton has a lot more people and it's close to the city" ... wrestled in the 220-pound weight class as a junior in high school and won two gold medals at the Junior Olympics in Florida.

CHRIS EWALD

HEIGHT: 6-6
WEIGHT: 215
POSITION: Tight end
HOMETOWN: Burke, Va.
HIGH SCHOOL: Lake Braddock.
VISITS: Virginia Tech, Richmond.
"Great visit."

JON SCOTT

HEIGHT: 6-1
WEIGHT: 185
POSITION: Defensive back
HOMETOWN: Lynchburg, Va.
HIGH SCHOOL: Brookville.
VISIT: Virginia Tech.
RECRUITED BY: "Great visit."
SIGN WITH TECH, where he attended summer camp. Played linebacker at Brookville, but is viewed as a strong safety by the Hokies, who are moving from the wide-tackle-six to a more conventional four-deep scheme. Had five defensive touchdowns, two on interceptions, two on fumble recoveries and one