Agemy to play for Virginia Tech

By MARK NEWMAN
Herald Sports Writer

Jamel Agemy, an All-State linebacker from South Broward who was one of the most sought-after high school football players in the area, announced Monday that he will sign with Virginia Tech.

The 6-1, 210-pounder, who bench-presses 385 pounds and has 4.6 speed in the 40-yard dash, had been recruited by nearly 50 schools. He led the county with 142 tackles (80 solo) in 10 games and was named The Herald’s Defensive Player of the Year.

South Broward teammate Dan McManus, who threw for more yardage this season than any other Broward quarterback, committed to Florida State. Other players who announced their intentions Monday were St. Thomas Aquinas receiver Gene Lawson (Michigan) and Piper receiver Brian Blades (Miami).

Agemy, an intelligent player (3.0 grade-point average) who may major in engineering, chose the Blacksburg, Va., school over Florida State, Colorado and Michigan State.

"Jamel has a real good shot at traveling with the team and starting as a sophomore," South Broward Coach Steve Horodyski said. "He felt it was a great educational institution, and he felt he would probably get an earlier opportunity to play."

"The Hokies, though, aren't exactly pat-sies at the linebacker position. Mike Johnson, the team's most valuable player last year, with 146 tackles, will return for his senior season. Ashley Lee, who started his first two years at Virginia Tech, was injured on the first play of his junior season last year and underwent surgery. He'll be back for his redshirt season, but it is rumored that he may move to defensive back."

"Because they [Johnson and others] played so well, Lee may be moved to defensive back," said Jack Williams, the Hokies' sports information director. "Ashley feels his best chance in the pros is as a defensive back."

A possible starter will be senior-to-be James Robinson, who was a substitute last year. Alan Little was used sparingly in the position as a freshman; backup Leon Iardo will be graduated this spring.

"We have three established linebackers, but Lee may be moved," Williams said. "This Agemy certainly sounds good."

Virginia Tech finished 7-4 the past two seasons, and was 8-3 in 1980, when it lost a 20-10 Peach Bowl game to the University of Miami.

McManus, who was 89 of 205 for 1,265 yards and 11 touchdowns (14 interceptions) with the 6-4 Bulldogs, chose Florida State over Pittsburgh. He said he preferred to stay in-state and liked the philosophy of the Seminoles' offense.

Lawson, a first-team All-Broward pick after catching 32 passes for 552 yards and five TDs, also had considered Stanford. Michigan lineman Stefan Humphries, a St. Thomas graduate, was instrumental in Lawson's decision to attend the Ann Arbor school.

Blades, possibly the most fleet of the county's receivers, had 27 receptions for 438 yards and seven TDs and was named to the All-Broward second team.