Pulaski's Shrewsberry Ready To Play

By JERRY RATCLIFFE
Times Sports Editor

BLACKSBURG — When Dennis Shrewsberry takes to the court at Virginia Tech Saturday night against VMI, he'll have his own little cheering section.

Dennis, an All-Stater at nearby Pulaski, is due to see some action as a substitute against the Keydets to open the Hokies home state. Plenty of Pulaski fans are planning to be on hand to watch their former prep idol.

Shrewsberry, who starred at Pulaski High under Coach Harold Lambert, is a 6-5, 175-pound forward-guard sophomore for Tech.

At PHS, he was a two-time All-State choice as the Orioles compiled a record of 75-12 during his era and he led the 1969-70 team to the state quarterfinals.

After graduation Shrewsberry went to Appalachian State where he led the freshman team in scoring two years ago with a 20-point average. His all-time single game high of 50 points came while he was at ASU.

He was named as an All-North Carolina freshman selection that year, second in the voting for MVP to N.C. State All America David Thompson.

"Denny" was asked how difficult it is playing guard and forward as a substitute role.

"It's pretty hard. You have to adjust more to learn the differences. There are different responsibilities in each position. At guard you have to be concerned with running the offense and getting back fast enough to stop the breaks. At forward the responsibility is to go to the boards and help keep the defense off the boards," Dennis pointed out.

Dennis was eligible to practice with the team last year, quite an experience, practicing with the Virginia Tech NIT champions, but was ineligible to play in any games, although he did par-

ticipate in some scrimmages. He's hungry for action and is probably the sixth man for the depth-rich Gobblers.

"It sort of puts you at a slight disadvantage," Dennis explained about being out like that, away from real game competition for a whole year. "It makes you rusty."

He added, "You lose a year of experience, but I'll still be a sophomore eligibility-wise."

Shrewsberry said he was anxious to play period, no matter who it was against. "It's been a long time," he remarked.

Coach Don DeVoe, the brilliant young mentor at Tech, entering his third year says that Shrewsberry has all the tools plus cat-like quickness. All he lacks is confidence.

"The only way to build confidence is to practice more, and play more because with more practice you get better at what you do and that has to build confidence," the Tech soph said.