Sports Club Honors Winning Hokies

BLACKSBURG-Head Coach Don DeVoe was visibly moved as he said goodbye to his seniors who brought Virginia Tech home a national championship last year, as juniors DeVoe praised the team at an appreciation awards dinner held in their honor by the Blacksburg Sports Club Friday at Donaldson Brown CEC.

Craig Lieder, described by his coach as the 11th player in the 57 years of Virginia Tech basketball to break 1,000 points was awarded the Golden Basketball.

The award, which was won the previous years by Allan Britton, now playing with the Philadelphia 76ers of the National Basketball Association, is the top award for a Tech basketball player.

DeVoe observed that Lieder, who first hit his stride in the Old Dominion Classic in his home town of Norfolk over a year ago, was instrumental in the National Invitational Tournament victory and Tech wins since that time. He said Lieder put out tremendous effort despite injuries.

The coach called Charlie Thomas "Tech's most consistent player of the past two years, who always came up with the big play and hit his stride in scoring as well this year."

DeVoe praised sixth man Calvin Wade, who was starting his third year when he was injured in the Florida game Dec. 22.

The coach said injuries to key personnel, including Wade, Lieder and freshman Duke Thorpe, were very costly to the Hokies.

DeVoe singled out Ed Frazier for consistently working for improvement in his playing skills. He praised Tim Harvey of Radford for super effort. Harvey was one of the few walk-ons at a major college to win a starting position in his first year. He said Harvey "is a success story, a reason why we want Tech to be a place where people who haven't had great opportunities can succeed."

GOLDEN BASKETBALL-Team Captain Craig Lieder accepts the Golden Basketball award, the highest award given to a Virginia Tech basketball player as Blacksburg Sports Club President Fred Burtner (left) and head coach Don DeVoe offer congratulations.

OUTSTANDING SENIORS-One of Virginia Tech's most outstanding groups of basketball players ever in the same academic class was honored last Friday by the Blacksburg Sports Club at Donaldson Brown CEC on the Tech campus. (l-r): Bobby Stevens of Norfolk, Charlie Thomas of Harrisonburg, Ed Frazier of Altavista, Craig Lieder of Norfolk, Tim Harvey of Radford and Calvin Wade of Mabane, N. C. (NEWS MESSENGER Photos by Bill Mason)