Top Prospect Confident In Program

Fitzgerald Believes In Tech

By JERRY RATCLIFFE
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Virginia Tech campus is freshman tight end Marion Maxwell Fitzgerald.

Better known as Mickey, the former All-Everything from E.C. Glass High in Lynchburg, was considered the top football prospect in Virginia last season before Coach Jimmie Sharpe persuaded the youngster to join forces with the Hokies. Neither Sharpe nor Fitzgerald have been disappointed.

"I think I made a good decision," noted Mickey. "I'm real satisfied and enjoy playing for the coaches here at Tech."

"Mickey is a Find," Fitzgerald said. "He is one of the top tackles in the state. But it's his biggest thrill to go downfield and get the block that will get the back into open field."

"I am happy that the Hokies really went through a real head-knickin' session" Tuesday and Monday.

"We work on blocking in scrimmage, but surprisingly we work a lot on our pass receiving in practice too, although we don't throw that much. I just enjoy being a regular on the varsity. The guys I feel sorry for are the freshman that practice every day and don't get to dress for the road games."

He feels that with a good recruiting year that Tech will be on its way. "My goal for next year is just to get better. We have a super freshman class this year and by the time we get ourselves established on the varsity level we could surprise people.

"That's why it is so important to get some more good recruits this year. By the time we're like juniors or seniors what we recruit this season could make a big effect on us, since they'll mold into a varsity unit with us."

Fitzgerald noted he was looking forward to the season finale against Florida State Saturday night in Tallahassee.

"I think that it's our last chance to redeem ourselves. Heck, 7-4 is still a very good record. I feel sorry for the seniors like Stuart Patterson, who is also from Lynchburg and I've known him a long time. It's like Coach Sharpe said, we deserve so much more."

It has been speculated that all the bowl talk before the season may have hurt Tech's season more than anything. Many were expecting 11-4 or a 10-1 record and a bowl bid.

"I think it created pressure on us," said the freshman. "We were thinking about getting a bowl more than winning games in the middle of the season and late in the season."