Snell, Stuart To Sign With Va. Tech

By JERRY VERNON
Sports Writer
Virginia Tech 2, University of North Carolina 0.
No, it's not baseball season yet.
This game is college football recruiting and the inde-
dependent Hokies are rapidly proving they can compete with
and whip prestigious Atlantic Coast Conference schools when
top college prospects are at stake.
Two of the state's top prep players, Blacksburg's Sidney

Snell and Floyd County's Lewis Stuart, told New River
Newspapers Sunday night they will sign with Tech this week.
"I'm going to sign with Tech Monday or Tuesday," said
Snell, a 6-1, 210-pound back who gained 4,771 yards during his
high school career. Snell has fared almost as well as the prep
court, averaging more than 20 points a game. He plans to
play basketball at Tech for Coach Charlie Moir, as well.
"Coach Moir said I could try to play both," he explained. "I
won't know until after my freshman year which one I'll put
emphasis on, though."

Stuart, a 6-4, 194-pound back, rushed for 3,019 yards during his
four-year career at Floyd County. He plans to sign with
Tech Wednesday night unless Tar Heel Coach Bill Dooley can
change his mind.

Visiting the North Carolina school he once favored heavily.
"He's going to have to do some swift talking to change my
mind. Maybe he can show me a big castle or something at
Carolina that I didn't see this weekend, but I doubt the
possibility."

Both athletes, who are already close friends, narrowed
their prospective colleges to Tech and Carolina three months ago.
Snell said he reached his decision two weeks ago, but
refrained from commenting until he was exclusively inter-
viewed Sunday night.
"Since I was little I've wanted to play at Tech," said the
Blacksburg native. "I'll probably study business or
recreation. I don't know which one yet. But I do know I want
to play offensive back."

Several coaches, including former Tech and now
University of Maryland Coach Jerry Clairborne, have
suggested Snell would fare better in the defensive secondary
than in the offensive backfield in major college football.
"I think I'm fast enough to play in the backfield and you
can always get your speed back," said the four-time All-New
River District player, who admits he picked up extra
poundage over the past year. "I'll probably have to lose some
weight, but I won't be any smaller than Stuart."

No coach has ever expressed any doubt over the Floyd
County star's ability to run for a major college team. The
only question concerning Stuart until Sunday night was
whether he could be more impressed with Tech's or
Carolina's communications program, admitted Stuart, "but
at the same you're going to be at the same school. I tried to
look at education more than football because that's why I'm
going to college."

Tech's younger communications' school looked more
promising to Stuart than Carolina's larger and more
established broadcast program.
"The schools looked pretty much the same," he said, "but
North Carolina doesn't have the facilities that Tech has in
communications. It may have the high class education, but I
was more impressed with the facilities at Tech."

Proximity also figured in Stuart's analytic choice of
schools because, in his words, "even if I get tired of Tech I
can come home easily and regroup."
The Floyd County back said he looks forward to sharing a
part of the Tech backfield with Snell who Stuart called a
"great athlete." Snell was just as complimentary of his
friend's ability.
"I hope we can make a potent backfield," said the
Blacksburg star. "I think that will just depend upon a lot of
hard work."