VPI To Sign Bailey Of Denbigh, Rodney Mayes To Grid Grants

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When you do something — do it right and do it big.

That’s just what Virginia Tech is doing today in tossing its hat into the football recruiting war on the Peninsula.

Gobbler Assistant Coach Nelson Stokley will sign two of the district’s premier gridders this afternoon in running back Bruce Bailey of Denbigh and Menchville’s two-way lineman Rodney Mayes.

Denbigh Coach Matt Boone cites Bailey as a key factor in the Patriots’ most successful season.

“He did the job for us, not only in running, but also with his pass catching. He definitely will help Tech’s program.’’

During the regular season, Bailey averaged six yards a carry, rushing for 510 yards on 85 attempts and scored six touchdowns in helping Denbigh amass a 9-1 record and a share of the district championship with State champion Bethel.

Of Mayes, Menchville Coach Charlie Nuttcombe says, “He’s one of the top prospects because of his size, speed and agility. He is one of the better college prospects I’ve ever had. I think Tech is getting itself a real fine football player.

“He has his whole future ahead of him because of being only 17. He was our No. 1 discus thrower last year. He threw it about 147 feet, and I feel this year he should reach between 155 and 160 feet.

“Tech has a first-rate program. Rodney should be a big asset to them. I know about their program because of my son, Chuck, being a member for four years,’’ adds the Menchville skipper.

A 6-foot-4 and 220-pounder, Mayes was a guard on offense and alternated between tackle and end on defense.

Mayes indicates Tech is recruiting him as an end on defense, and says, “I’d rather play defense, pointing out he would rather tackle ball carriers.’’

A 5-11 and 185-pound running back for Denbigh, Bailey is being recruited by the Gobblers as a tailback.

“I don’t think I’m big enough to be a fullback, and I’d rather be a tailback. I don’t mind blocking, but I like to run with the ball,” says Bailey.

Besides Tech, Richmond, East Carolina, North Carolina State, Madison, North Carolina, Duke, VM1, Virginia and Florida showed interest in Bailey, who remarks, “Tech showed more interest in me than any other college.”

Also participating in track and baseball at Denbigh, Bailey feels he may pass up baseball this Spring.

“Track helped me a lot this year for football. I may play in American Legion baseball (Denbigh Post 368).”

The Denbigh grider will be the second Bailey to attend Tech. Bruce’s older brother Tom was a member of the Tech baseball team for four years, and is expected to stay on to assist Coach Bob Humphries this Spring.