Tech Signs Four; UVa Gets Word

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Virginia Tech is wasting no time in signing its allotted 30 football recruits. The Gobblers inked four more Monday afternoon bringing their count to 26 signees.

Two of Tech’s rivals in the recruiting game, the University of Virginia and the University of North Carolina has signed some of Virginia’s top prospects as well. UVa brought its number of recruits to six Monday by signing Halifax County’s Corwin Word, a running back on the Comets’ squad.

Carolina, lassoing two of the state’s top players, inked Gar-Field linebacker Rick Downs and Cave Spring of Roanoke’s John Blair. The Tar Heels also contracted Lord Botetourt’s Lowell Eakin, who played at Fork Union Military Academy last season.

Downs, Word and Blair were all listed in New River Newspaper’s list of the state’s Top 30 college prospects. Blair and Eakin are linemen, while Downs is a top notch linebacker and Word a running back who will likely play defensive back on wide receiver for the Cavaliers.

Blair, was New River Newspaper’s “Offensive Lineman of the Year” in the Virginia Highlands poll.

An accident tragically claimed one of the state’s Top 10 football recruits Monday night when Western Branch end Reggie Jordan was killed when a car he was a passenger in was struck by a train in Chesapeake.

Jordan, who was 6-5 and 220, was killed instantly along with Phil Braynt, the driver of the car. Bryant was a quarterback on the Western Branch football team and a starting guard on the basketball team.

Jordan, who was on the verge of signing with the University of Pittsburgh, the defending national champions, was listed as one of the state’s Top 10 on New River Newspapers’ Top 30 list.

Virginia Tech, which highlighted its recruiting season last week with the adding of Floyd County’s Lewis Stuart and hometown Blacksburg star Sidney Snell to its fold, inked four more players Monday night.

Continuing the Hokies’ trend to sign linemen, three of the four from the Washington, D.C. suburbs are linemen. Tech has now signed 17 linemen to help fill the void left by graduation.

All-Washington Metro lineman from Yorktown of Arlington, Chris Allbrittain (6-3, 230), led the list along with Wayne Mutter of McMamara High in Forestville, Md. Also, lineman Bucky Methfessel of Falls Church. He is 6-3, 220.

Mutter, incidentally, is a teammate of linebacker Chris Cosh who had earlier signed with Tech.

The other Boggler recruit is a defensive back, Brian Donahue of Fort Hunt (5-10, 170).

If the University of Virginia can sign GW-Danville quarterback Ted Manly this week like it has been reported, the Cavaliers will have inked its fifth Top 30 recruit from the state. Many schools have been trying to lure Manly, and with good reason.

The Cavs signed Word although the 6-0, 180 pound Comet didn’t rush for many yards this past season in the Group AAA Western District. Word rushed for 556 yards this past season, but was recruited by UVa, Carolina, VMI, William and Mary and Clemson.

Those schools recognized the fact that Halifax is basically a running team and had several outstanding backs including fullback Eddie Barksdale, who had more than 1,000 yards on the ground.

“Corwin has everything you’d want in a runner,” said his coach Coleman Starnes.

Carolina assistant coach Tom Fletcher signed Blair of Cave Spring and Lord Batty’s Eakin. Blair, again was All-State AAA, All-Northwest Region and was the top lineman in the Virginia Highland’s poll conducted by New River Newspapers.

Blair, who is 6-3, 218, narrowed his choices to Clemson and North Carolina before signing with the Tar Heels. Eakin, used a year of military school to increase his size and ability to 6-3, 245. He was sought after by Virginia Tech, Auburn, Clemson, ECU and Richmond before choosing the Tar Heels.

REGGIE JORDAN
Tragically Killed

CORWIN WORD
Signed By UVa