Dooley Seeks State Athletes

New head football coach and athletic director Bill Dooley of Virginia Tech re-emphasized his two-fold program Monday in the week following Tech Spring scorchers.

Dooley, who was named head coach and athletic director on January 9, referred to his opening news media statements with the statement that 'we want people who are willing to help us and plans to build the Virginia Tech program around Old Dominion athletes.'

Dooley then added that he did not mind recruiting athletes from Pennsylvania or New Jersey, but would emphasize recruiting within the state first. "I believe there are many top notch student athletes here in Virginia and I'm sure where we hope to draw the majority of our athletes and then selecting states, like West Virginia," he added.

Although getting a late recruiting start, Dooley mentioned that he would still be somewhat limited in the number of available scholarships offered, "but at the same time, he felt his coaching staff had collared several top state prospects who had been leaning towards signing grants from out-of-state colleges.

Dooley then referred to three blue chippers that he was proud to have coming to Hokie Land. This includes Ferrum Junior College's Leland Pleasant, who is at 6'3 and 230, will replace Rich Hazzard who graduates. E. C. Glass's Scott Devor who is 5'11 and 160, and talented Ricky Brindall from Great Bridge, who is at 6'3 and 215, were also praised by Dooley.

Actually, I'd like to be able to give out 60 scholarships instead of 30 in a year for there are many good football players around," he exclaimed an enthusiastic crowd. "But I'll know more about the talent when spring practice opens either April 2 or at and them with the May 13 spring football games declared.

Dooley then added that Virginia Tech's fans and alumni would have to have patience as he was not a miracle worker, but a man dedicated to be a worker which are keys to establishing a quality football program.

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"Gentlemen it will not happen overnight," Dooley stated. "But with patience, Virginia Tech should be progressing forward."

Dooley then commented upon this year's football schedule in which the Hokies will face three SEC teams (Auburn, Alabama and Kentucky) and two ACC foes (Virginia and Clemson). "This year's schedule is going to be extremely tough. I wish when the schedule makers had made out the schedule 10 years ago, they'd have taken into consideration that Tech can play some mighty tough teams back-to-back."

Dooley stated. The Hokies, who open at home with Tulsa face Alabama in Birmingham on October 30 and then host Kentucky the following week.

When questioned about football schedules in the future, Dooley declared, "I'd like for us to play a Big Ten team and start a rivalry with a SEC team."

He then added, "Somebody like Northwestern from the Big 10 and a Vanderbilt from the SEC."

Both teams have had losing records over the last decade.

In response to a question about the types of offense and defense that Tech will be using in the seasons ahead, Dooley declared, "I've been using the I-formation while on defense its been the basic 3-4, but like the offense it varies depending on the personnel at hand."

Last season Virginia Tech attempted to join the ACC, but the attempt failed. This year the ACC is seeking to recruit Ga.Tech which is stationed in Atlanta, Georgia.

Commenting on the situation, Dooley remarked, "The SEC turned Ga. Tech down for membership and the ACC would have liked to have them in the league. I'd like to see two teams from Virginia along with Ga. Tech in the ACC. That way the ACC would be a more balanced conference."

Former Coach Southernmost coast from Washington, D.C. to Atlanta."

Before leaving the sports luncheon, Dooley indicated that he expected all football players that are participating in track to practice football this spring.

I've got to see what material there is and since we're only allowed 15 days there are only 15 days when I'll let the football players participate in track."

Currently the Hokies have three extremely quick speedsters as Dennis Scott placed fifth in the NCAA 60 yard dash finals in Detroit last week. Kenny Lewis and Larry Follen did not place, but were in Europe representing the USA in a European AAU meet.