Athletes Receive Special ROTC Treatment

By Bruce Wold
Contributing Writer

Do students on athletic scholarships in Army ROTC at Virginia Tech get special privileges?

"Yes," said Capt. Michael Michaliga, assistant professor of military science at Tech.

They get special privileges because of their athletic requirements.

Seven players on the Tech football team are in Army ROTC this quarter. They are not required to live in Brodie with the rest of the cadets, to wear their uniforms to classes except ROTC nor to drill with the rest of the cadets, Brig. Gen. Earl C. Acuff, commandant of the cadets, said.

Tech defensive end Charles Novell has said that he went into ROTC because he thought of the benefits it offers, such as paying the student's bills and enabling him to travel.

Chris Little, a sophomore in mechanical engineering and manager for the team, said he went into ROTC this quarter because of another opportunity.

"They'll make every effort to get you a job in your field," he said.

He said ROTC representatives spoke to athletes in the fall about all of the opportunities ROTC has and said football players would get privileges such as not having to wear their uniforms to class.

But Little also said he does not have it easy at Hillcrest, the dormitory for athletes, because there is no visitation and a coach is in the dorm to maintain discipline.

Michaliga said, "Yes, the Corps athletes get special treatment. They're not under the rigors of the Corps."

He added that these athletes and other students in ROTC have a chance to obtain commissions if they complete degree requirements and show good leadership characteristics.

Acuff said the football players in the corps will make good leaders and he also said they get publicity for the Corps of Cadets.

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