Moore Wants to be a Hokie...

Most senior football stars have no idea as to which school they want to attend and therefore when the girdiron season is completed, college coaches beat a trail to the young man's front door or to the high school which he attends hoping to have the star's signature on a four-year grant-in-aid.

Here in this area, Va. Tech had to battle the ACC schools as well as the Southern Conference members and several SEC teams for Blacksburg's Sidney Snell and Floyd Co.'s Lewis Stuart.

And while coaches have been heavily recruiting these two prep stars, all Mountain Empire quarterback Paul Moore from Fort Chiswell, was left out in the cold.

Before the season started Moore was thinking about playing for the Hokies that was provided his senior season at Ford Chiswell was a good one.

So he (Moore) led his Pioneers to the Mountain Empire title, defeated R.B. Worby (Saltville), 20-4 in the playoffs and advanced his team to Natural Bridge where the bubble burst.

All this time he continued to impress visiting coaches as well as sportswriters. And his statistics for the season continued to dazzle the eye.

However, when it came time for the coaches to beat a path to his doorstep, hardly any showed up.

Oh, there were the small colleges like Lenoir Rhyne of North Carolina that wants him but certainly not the William and Mary's or the UNC's.

But Moore, the honor society product didn't really want to be playing in the Southern nor the ACC unless his favorite school Va. Tech was in either conference.

"That's the school he's always wanted to attend and play college football," declared Fort Chiswell football coach John Hinkle recently.

"He wants to be a Hokie more than a Tar Heel or an Indian because his first love has always been Tech and its athletic program..."

But the Hokies, who must be knee deep in quarterbacks for the upcoming season, have certain requirements that football players must have prior to signing. One of those is to run a 4.8 which just happens to be Paul Moore's stumbling block. According to Hinkle, Moore has run a 4.9 but hasn't been able to crack the 4.8 mark yet. So, therefore, Tech has failed to ink the talented senior.

It seems odd that here on red letter day (National Letter of Intent) that a quarterback like Paul Moore, who has been termed "The Best in Southwest Virginia" by MED coaches, can't play football at Va. Tech, his first and only choice. And that some small school or junior college will probably accept him where he will emerge just as well as he did for the "Fort."

It doesn't seem at all fair, for area fans would much rather see Moore join Snell and Stuart in Lane Stadium, than to travel to "Joe Blow" Stadium in "Timbuctoo" or Hickory, North Carolina to watch Moore perform.