By BOB McLELLAND
World-News Sports Editor

Coach Charlie Coffey figures his Virginia Tech football team will be much better prepared to meet varied offenses and defenses next season. And it will all be due to a more concentrated effort on a veer offense during spring practice.

"We messed around with the veer a little last season," Coffey explained. "I guess we used it about 47 times during the year.

But this time, the Gobblers will have more veer in their offensive playbook. Coffey feels this should help the Techmen both offensively and defensively.

"Last year when our defense ran into a team that had a veer offense, we were greatly handicapped," Coffey said. "We had never worked much against it. Now we will know how to react. We will be more experienced and this should help our confidence."

"The veer also will give Tech a more varied offense and make it more capable of meeting changing defenses. Coffey hopes that he will no longer stand on the sidelines and look at an opponent's defense and moan, "Boy, look at the way they line up . . . if we just had the play to hit it."

Coffey is undecided as to how much the Gobblers will use the veer in their spring game here Saturday afternoon at 1:30 in Lane Stadium.

"We have really been doing only the basic stuff with it in spring practice," Coffey said. "But it will give us more striking power on offense."

The veer should help the Tech running game and since the Gobblers have one of the super quarterbacks around in Don Strock, the opposition should have more worries next fall.

Marshall Taylor, who joined the Tech staff this spring after serving as a top assistant at Texas Tech, knows the veer and has helped install the offense.

There has been a new numbering system, some of the pass routes have been changed and blocking assignments will be a bit different.

Tight end Mike Burnop of Roanoke, for instance, says his blocks will be tougher since the tight end will have mostly delayed blocks on either the corner back or safety.

But the rugged senior via Roanoke Catholic feels he is being well prepared for the need of more agility and balance in his blocks. He and defensive lineman John Sprenkle are the star pupils in a modern dance course at Tech.

(The course is in the physical education department offerings and Burnop and Sprenkle, who are good students, are taking it for extra credits.)

"I told my teacher the other day that the class was doing me a lot of good," Burnop said. "I'm more agile and balanced. She must like my style. John and I got an 'A' the other day in square dance figure calling."

Burnop likes Taylor and claims the new coach "knows what he's talking about."

But Burnop hasn't been completely satisfied with his own play during the spring. "I could have had a better spring practice," he said. "I don't know the reason. I guess it was a lot of little things."

"I don't know how we will look in our spring game but I think you will be able to see a big improvement next season. I just hope I have a better fall than I did a spring."