Safety Scharnus
Shines For Tech

BLACKSBURG—Virginia Tech’s offensive quarterback job is up for grabs, but the “quarterback” of the defensive secondary is and will remain safetyman Jerry Scharnus.

“If every player on our squad were as consistent a performer as Scharnus, we’d be in excellent shape,” Coach Charlie Coffey says, adding, “He’s as underrated as any player I know.”

Scharnus always has been extremely high on Tech’s list, but last Saturday’s scrimmage in which Scharnus made 18 tackles, had seven assists and was one of very few bright spots served as another reminder of his worth.

“If we had been playing our opening game, we would have been embarrassed. We had maybe half a dozen players with winning grades. As usual, one of those was Scharnus.”

A 5-11½, 185, senior from Newport News, Scharnus unquestionably is Tech’s finest safety since All American Frank Loria. He has quickness and savvy and is the surest open field tackler on the squad.

“When we want to demonstrate perfect tackling during a drill, we use Scharnus,” Coffey notes.

The Tech coach also might have added that when Tech wants to make sure that a punt is caught in a tight situation Scharnus draws the assignment. “At first he was used because of his sure-handedness,” Coffey points out. “But as the season wore on last year he not only caught the ball but he developed into a real threat as a returner.”