Bill Cate

Tech's Charlie Coffey: 'I Don't Mess With Flops'

BLACKSBURG—The deck is respectable enough, organized like a bank president's. There is no cry of noes or aye's or any of those things. Coach Coffey to pick up and go answer "there will be a state meeting in the conference room in five minutes." Anyone who has a general idea of the Coffey way of doing business knows he's never going to make a mess of it.

"It might be considerable," Coffey says. "He really wants to play.

Coffey adds the door to his office, sits down in his comfortable chair and thinks a moment.

"You know," he says, "the day of reckoning is coming. It's not going to be too long until we know what the difference is between the two or whether or not we've got it. No, it isn't going to be too long until the day of reckoning is here.

"That's something I'm going to decide," he says.

Translated, Coffey is saying that its time the football team did some talking. Talking, in this case, meaning some techniques.

"I never set any time limit," Coffey says. "I never say this is going to happen this year. When I get the game over myself, when I get them doing the things I know it takes to win, when I get the team together as a whole, then I'll know if we've got it or not. So, as much as I have that, then we're going to win.

1 Passes, 2 Catchers

"I won't live with myself under any conditions less than five wins. That isn't one of our losses. I don't mess around with flows in anything. I don't intend to.

"I want to win five, and I want to win five. I don't want to come away around here who don't want to be part of one either.

There is no doubt the situation at Tech is better than it was a year ago. But Tech is still Tech. When Coffey took over five months ago, he inherited a group of players that were lesser than I am with buttwax as wise.

"I'm lucky enough," said Coffey, "I could not have been successful. As a matter of fact, I think I'm not going to get to that.

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Ticket Sales Increase

This will be the first time in five years Tech has taken less than 75 per cent, but the pressure in low.

"It's a long time ago that we started to look in the future, and that's what we're doing," Coffey said.

The time has come when Coffey is ready for his football team to sell the tickets. He is no longer under any pressure to sell tickets, but a Blacksburg football coach. The publicity for his football team, he says, is going to be the most important of the year.

"I'm not sure," Coffey said, "I don't think I'm sure.

"I think we're getting all the place where we will sell them," he says. "I think I'm not sure.

The first time in five years that Tech's promotion included some people, especially alumni of the college, is a matter of fact. The first time in five years that the people in the city who like us, whether or not they were Tech people, went to Coffey, said the people in the city.

Every Saturday and another (intellect who doesn't have a fan at all) went to Coffey for tickets. But Coffey didn't get the job done the best way how you know. You're not going to do it, so you're not going to do it.

It is a fact, however, that Coffey has some player with great talent. He has enough to have a good football team. The comparison with the present and two years ago is the day and night.

"Yesterday afternoon," Coffey said, "I ran for 15 minutes and a mile and a half of power. I didn't do as well as I would have, but I would have been looking for tea in it."