Broken Hand Hampers Tech’s QB Rick Popp

BLACKSBURG—Life isn’t going to be a snap for Rick Popp who is temporarily down on his luck but should be competing for Virginia Tech’s number one quarterback job.

Due to a broken left hand, he won’t be able to take a snap from center until about the end of the month, but he still can run and throw—and think.

“It’s going to take a super effort,” the redshirt sophomore allows, but he intends to compete. “I’m going to stay as sharp as I can in the mental aspects of our offense.

“Luck-wise, this is the worst year I’ve ever had,” he points out.

After making all the 1972 varsity trips but not playing, Popp missed the last half of spring practice due to a shoulder injury. He played in the spring game and hurt his knee. He reinjured the knee while handling a chain saw on an early summer job. Then a couple of weeks ago, while making a tag in a softball game, he sustained the broken hand.

His chief diversion is music, “Rock, of course.”

But he’s more than just a listener. He has built his own hi-fi set, which he brought with him. In fact, he brought just one suitcase of clothes because that’s all he had room for; audio equipment had first priority.

And while he listens to his collection of “Progressive Rock,” he’ll hope for soothing fortune to give him a chance to display his talents for Tech this fall.

Rick Popp