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. Indeed, 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.

Weisend
To Head
ST’Group

COLUMBIA, S. C.—Representatives of seven major football playing institutions in the South met recently in Atlanta, Ga., and formed the Southern Independent Sports Information Association.

Purpose of the meeting—and the organization that grew out of it—is to promote the athletic progress of the major institutions in the South that are not members of any of the athletic conferences.

Wendy Weisend, veteran sports information director at Virginia Tech, was named chairman of the new organization and Ned West, SID at Georgia Tech, was chosen co-chairman. These were the only officers elected.

Other sports information directors attending the two-day meeting included Lonnie Burt of Florida State; Bill Curl of Tulane, Jack Bugbee of Memphis State, Ace Cleveland of Southern Mississippi, and Tom Price of South Carolina.

Two assistant sports information directors—Dave Kaplan of Georgia Tech and Julian Gibbons of South Carolina—also attended the session.

The group laid plans for working with the wire services and other media in the selection and release of independent All-Southern teams in football, basketball, baseball and perhaps other sports, the naming of players and coaches of the year in various sports, and for inviting other major independent institutions, including several that do not field football teams, to participate in the organization.

Tech
Drills
Daily

BLACKSBURG—“Practice makes perfect” certainly isn’t new but Virginia Tech football coach Charlie Coffey is reemphasizing that old adage in a special daily drill for the 1973 Fighting Gobblers.

“Everyone agrees that if you don’t execute well on the practice field you aren’t likely to perform to your capabilities in competition, but we’re going back to the idea of executing to absolute perfection in a daily ‘perfect practice drill’,” Coffey points out.

On both the offensive and defensive fields, a Tech team unit isn’t going to be allowed to proceed to its next assignment until it has executed perfectly three consecutive times on a given play.