GOBBLERS' QUARTERBACK CORPS—Virginia Tech's offensive coordinator, Dan Henning, left, talks with quarterback hopefuls, from left, Steve Mathieson, Greg Mullinax, Rick Popp and Bruce Arians during practice session at Blacksburg. Arians is most experienced candidate, but if Popp overcomes wrist injury, suffered during summer, starting job could go either way.

Gobblers Driven Indoors, Initiate Artificial Turf

BLACKSBURG (AP)—Virginia Tech initiated new artificial turf in its fieldhouse Tuesday as rain drove the Gobblers inside for both morning and afternoon practices.

The Astroturf rug not only gives the Gobblers a much improved facility but also helps them prepare for the coming season, in which they'll play four times on artificial surfaces, three times on Astroturf.

"It really is a great facility," Tech coach Charlie Coffey said, "although I would really prefer to work outside." And the Gobblers did close the afternoon with 15 minutes of running on the regular playing field.