Grid Coach Dan Henning Tells Virginia Tech Tales
Vince Snidow (left) and Philip Ward (right) listen to the Gobblers' top coaching aide at the Peninsula Virginia Tech Alumni chapter meeting Friday at Hampton Holiday Inn. Snidow served as president of the group and Ward was one of two Peninsula youngsters who received scholarships to university's All-Sports Camp. Arthur Jones was the other scholarship recipient.

Henning Tells VPI Alumni Gridders Have More Skill

By STAN SHALETT
Daily Press Sports Writer

Dan Henning, offensive coordinator of the Virginia Tech football team, summed up the changes for the 1973 team at a dinner meeting of that school's Peninsula Alumni chapter Friday night.

"We have a lot more talent than we've had before and except for lack of depth in both lines, we expect to have a good football team."

Henning took time off from his vacation to speak to the Alumni.

"I'm camping right now at Jamestown Beach, by wife and I, our five kids and a dog. I may talk all night and sleep right here," the William and Mary graduate joked.

"But I think since I've come back to Virginia Tech from Houston, I've seen great changes in the athletic program and in the University as a whole."

"It appears that the University has jumped ahead and is now ready to blossom. I think that athletically, what happened in the NIT was indicative of what's going to happen to the rest of our athletic program."

"We (the football coaching staff) took a lot of running after the basketball team did so well, beating Alabama and Notre Dame on successive days."

"Actually, we were very proud of the accomplishment of the basketball team as anyone connected with Virginia Tech must be."

Henning noted that the Gobbler football team will have a great deal of talent and depth at the skill positions, passing, receiving, and rushing but is limited in both its offensive and defensive lines.

Since Henning works exclusively with the Gobbler offense, he didn't comment on the team's defense except to state that the entire club is in the image of its head coach, Charlie Coles.

"The team is Coffey-recruited and Coffey-coached and I don't think we've ever seen Charley Coffey smile so much as he did during Spring practice."

Henning said the Gobbler offensive philosophy has been to take what the defense gives us: "To do that right, we'll have to be able to run more in the future."

"We've been known as a passing team, but we feel we have the talent now to have a more balanced attack and this may be the year for us."

"We'd like to beat Alabama this year and would like to have the chance to play Notre Dame."

Henning said this year's receiver corps, led by Ricky Scales, is the best group he's ever coached, including the powerhouse at Florida State.

Arthur Jones and Phillip Ward received scholarships to Virginia Tech's All-Sports camp. Jones is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Jones. He attends Jefferson Davis Junior High.

Ward is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Ward and attends Carver Intermediate.

Don Moore was elected president of the chapter for the 1973-74 year. The other members of the incoming slate are William Whitten, Charles Whittington, James Wampler and G. Thomas Hanks.