TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (AP) — While snake-bitten Coach Charlie Coffey of Virginia Tech is worrying about his quarterback situation in tonight’s football game with Alabama, Coach Paul “Bear” Bryant is calling on his secretaries for help.

With two quarterbacks out with injuries, freshman Eddie Joyce will be making his first start for the 1-6 Gobbler in the matchup with 7-0 and second-ranked Alabama.

Bryant says the apparent disparity between the teams has him concerned.

It was easy, he says, to get his Crimson Tide fired up for last week’s 42-21 victory over Tennessee, a major Southeastern Conference foe. “Now we have just the opposite and this is where coaching comes in,” he says. “We have to have everyone helping, from the secretaries up.”

Bryant has been playing 60 to 70 men a game, but so far he hasn’t had to call on the secretaries.

He has called on 17 running backs and eight of them have more than 100 yards each, led by Wilbur Jackson’s 375 on just 54 carries.

Quarterbacks Gary Rutledge and Richard Todd have added wings to Alabama’s wishbone by completing 30 of 47 passes, most of them long gainers, including scoring tosses of 85 and 80 yards.

Fleet Wayne Wheeler, called “The Greyhound” by his teammates, is averaging almost 27 yards a catch.

Coffey says his team “will really be tested” against Alabama. “We have some exciting young players,” he says. “I just hope they can show something against Alabama.”