Virginia Tech Coaches Making Recruiting Rounds

By DAVID PARKE
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Personable Carl Ellis, Virginia Tech's premier recruiter, arrived in Bristol late Monday doing business as usual after the announcement came from Blacksburg that head coach Charlie Coffey was in the process of replacing the entire defensive coaching staff.

Ellis, whose on the field duties have included instructing the defensive tackle, will be the lone holdover on the 1973 Tech Staff from the 1972 defensive staff. But he may be given new duties on the field and already has been given expanded duties in recruiting, which has been his specialty.

Known throughout the South as coach Golic, Ellis was unshaken by the recent shakeup at Tech. "Coach Coffey is taking the steps that he has to take in order to make the team in order," said the ex-Tennessee Vol coach, "and I'm confident we'll get our problems solved.

WHAT DOES the future hold for Ellis?

"Right now, I'm co-ordinating the recruiting at Virginia Tech," said Ellis. "Our staff is spread out throughout the recruiting area and six men are doing the job of nine men. I'll co-ordinate the recruiting until our new staff members arrive."

Ellis, who wasn't among those expected to be fired because of his excellent recruiting reputation, said he didn't know what his on the field duties would be in the future.

"I will have more responsibility in our recruiting," he said. "Whether I return to the field as a defensive coach depends on coach Coffey's assignments and the new defensive co-ordinator. If a co-ordinator brings in a linebacker, secondary and defensive end coach, he may want me to coach the defensive tackles. If he has a defensive tackle coach in mind, coach Coffey may want to switch me to another position."

A KNOXVILLE newspaper said Monday that Tech administrative assistant and chief recruiter Chuck Robe was rumored looking for another position. If so, it's possible Ellis may be in line to become the chief recruiter. When asked if Robe was leaving, Ellis said he knew nothing of the rumor.

Asked who might be joining the staff, Ellis said he didn't know. "Whomever comes in will be the best in the business. That's the Virginia Tech tradition. We haven't gone second class in anything."

Tech's shakeup among defensive staff members was inevitable Coffey, who has four years remaining on his current contract, wanted no time making changes when the night

TECH'S CARL ELLIS . . . Co-ordinating Recruiting through the 1973 season ending and his staff was immediately on the road recruiting. Ellis was in the area yesterday and both he and offensive coordinator Dan Henning will be making the rounds here today.

TECH'S CURRENT goal is 30 top-flight signees and the Gobbler staff, which has landed two consecutive quality groups after a lean recruiting year in their first season back in 1970 when they arrived late, is hoping to make it three in a row. Signing date for high school stars is December 8.

"We'll be in our fourth year in 1974 and all the recruits will be the ones we have brought in," points out Ellis, who says recruiting will be more selective than ever this year because of the 30-limit imposed by the NCAA. Tech had previously been signing around 40-45 per year.

"All recruiters are looking for players now according to their needs," says Ellis. "One team may need backs, another line men. They'll be after the players at the positions in which they are thin. In our case, we're especially interested in the good, big linemen and defensive players."