By BILL DEEKENS

Coffey’s status as head football coach at Virginia Tech seems secure—at least for a year. Coffey had two meetings with Tech president, Dr. T. Marshall Hahn, over the weekend, to discuss plans for next year.

Tech insiders say Coffey would resign if he has another bad season rather than be subject to firing, despite he’s working with a five-year contract...The Tech coaching situation is likely to be stable for the next two weeks. Hahn is on a scientific mission to Anarctica.

Despite the 2-9 record by the football team, Gobbler recruiters say they’re having a banner year. They expect to have most of their targets in the fold by Dec. 8, the first day a recruit can be signed... Tech assistant Jack Prater says there’s nothing to a report from Roanoke that a lot of Tech football players are leaving school. Prater should know. He makes the room assignments.

Prater also read the account that VMI “might not be able to field a football team by the end of the season” due to dropouts. But Prater saw a lot of able-bodied Keydets in the 22-21 loss to VMI.

Coffey’s disappointment in the season is reflected in his final open letter to the student body: “This has been the longest season of my coaching career — times three. It has been kind of a reverse story of a Cinderella team... Football is a game of preparation and emotion, and we never did gain any real momentum... All losses are tough. The last one always is the toughest. And against an in-state rival, it’s just that much tougher. ‘Adversity at the moment seems to surround us, but that’s what life is all about — overcoming adversity. And that’s what we intend to do, starting immediate-