The guessing game begins

Okay, fellows, now comes the guessing game.

It's tough for the sportswriters to hold the sports spotlight of the area as the Gobbiers begin their search for a new athletic director—and, more urgently, a new head football coach.

The guessing game in such situations is something to behold. Our sports reporter and all plain sport fans have his ideas as to who should be and who should not be the new top man.

But more universal—and much more frustrating to the officials at Tech trying to do a job—will be idle writers in the halls and on the coffee break trying to make projections—most of them wild and unfounded—as to who will get the jobs.

These folks probably have honest motivation but, nevertheless, they are not only not up with the super schlep and to have the pleasure of telling the tale and all, they were the ones who "broke" the story.

It's a sad state of the things that comes with the game. But it is also something that should have some kind of respect as well.

Writers will be checking all airports and other transportation methods for any coaching or AD candidate passing this way. They also will be gussing for "inside" information on what, if anything, could happen. You could even resort to some Watergate-type wiretapping; they really pity the officials at Tech who are entrusted with the important task of selecting the coach and AD.

And I also pity the sporting public, who, no doubt, will be besieged by a rumor mill and will try to follow the career of the actual coach and AD are named.

Two men needed

There are rumors—some of them wild—to cast stones at what has transpired in the football program at Tech in recent years. There are leaks and slams and walla walla and some behind-the-back moves that would do any close-knit-and-tight group proud.

Not the time to add to such criticism. I feel certain much has been learned in Blacksburg during these years that can only have made them much smarter and more prepared for their jobs of giving Virginia Tech football its proper position among the nation's leaders.

I'm certain the Tech officials realize that it will be much more likely that a coach will be productive for all concerned if two different individuals are hired as football coach and athletic director.

"We are in the process of screening candidates for these two key positions," university president T. Marshall Bailey, one of the best known of Tech coaches, said. "It was to put Frank Moseley in charge of the committee that was formed yesterday to consider these candidates and interview raters. We will have an agreement, I think, within the Tech scene—its proper top man among the nation's leaders."

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Moseley has announced that he will retire as athletic director at the end of the season, and is still in the Tech scene.

"Moseley knows what it takes to be a head coach—especially in these high-powered days of bigtime football. He is an excellent selection for the current coach who has done the job and done it outstandingly at a small college."

He will look for a coach who has high morals, academic standards and national reputation and the personality to project himself to the administration, alums and to the players. He will also be a man who can make the proper selection of his assistant coaches and athletic director.

No time for mistakes

There are some who claim it might be tough to hire, and others who have their jobs and their athletic director will be. And there are those who claim the coach must be "hot" as a recruit will know who they will be playing for.

I don't think there is any definite order of selection. Both jobs should be pushed with care and deliberation. If the proper AD is found first, then name him. But if the coach isn't in the picture first, I can see we can't wait the other.

One of the only advantages in getting a coach first is the knowledge that Moseley and his assistant—Bill Mathews—are on the scene and can use conduct the AD duties until a replacement is in name.

It was encouraging to will Virginia Byrd's Billy Bush follow through on his announced intentions and sign his contract at the Tech football meeting Wednesday night.

There likely are other players who will cast their lot with the coach in the next few days. The naming of the new coach is important. However, the need is not urgent.

I agreed with Charlie Osterby when he made one of his departing remarks last Friday after resigning as the Gobbiers athletic director.

"There is everything right here at Virginia Tech for a new athletic director," he said. "The school is in a prime position to sign a man from outside. The Gobbiers ranks with the best in the world. The players are here and the cooperation with the administration and alumni is tremendous. Virginia Tech should have a place with the really best football programs in the entire country.

"It is with much enthusiasm and optimism that I look ahead to the next season at Tech. I feel that Tech alumni will receive their deserved winning pro-

Bolt

McLellan

Sports Editor