Tech Is Coachless; Search Is Under Way

Because of "normal procedure," the new head football coach at Virginia Tech, whenever he is named, will have a free hand in picking his assistants.

Tech Athletic Director Frank Moseley discarded the last relics of the Charlie Coffey's era Monday when he fired the six coaches who served as assistants under Coffey.

Coffey resigned as the Gobblers head football coach Thursday. Earlier, the whole defensive coaching staff had resigned after the Hokies suffered through a 2-9 season.

The six assistants who got the ax Monday were offensive coordinator Dan Henning, administrative assistant Jack Prater, end coach Marshall Taylor, offensive line coach Richard Trail, defensive tackle coach Carl Ellis and freshman coach T.D. Phillips.

"It's only normal procedure to dismiss the remaining coaches in a situation like this," explains Moseley. "Now the new coach can choose his entire staff himself and the others have a chance to find another position."

Moseley is handling the search for a new coach, but he isn't ready to do any selecting yet.

"We've gotten a number of real good suggestions and a lot of calls recommending different fellows," Moseley says. "We've asked for assistance from other coaches in suggesting suitable coaches. Some of the names we've gotten aren't qualified, we feel, but we haven't closed the door on anyone yet."

According to Moseley, who is retiring this year after 20 years as Tech's athletic director, "The decision will be made jointly by me and a committee. Both of us are working on it, but we haven't even had a chance to have a committee meeting yet."

Even though Coffey had come under fire after Tech's poor showing this year, his resignation came as a surprise to most people. Just two days before he resigned, Coffey thought he had filled the vacancy of defensive coordinator when Bill Clay of South Carolina had tentatively agreed to take the post.

Clay, however, changed his mind and two days later Coffey stepped down.