Virginia Tech Grid Coach
Guessing Game Near End

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The guessing game “who is the Virginia Tech football coach?” should end soon.

Retiring Athletic Director Frank Moseley and his chief assistant, Bill “Moose” Matthews, told members of the board of directors of Virginia Tech’s Student Aid Association that a coach would be named in “eight to 10 days.”

Leading candidate in the still wide-open race for the job opened by the sudden resignation of Charlie Coffey on Jan. 4, appears to be Jimmy Sharpe, University of Alabama offense coordinator.

“I visited Virginia Tech last Friday and was very impressed by the facilities and excited about the prospects of being head coach there,” Sharpe said in a telephone interview Tuesday.

“This was the first time I’d been there since we played. They didn’t make

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any firm offer. I understand that more people were there today (Tuesday).

The Crimson Tide’s defense coordinator, Bill Oliver, is also a candidate. A third assistant, an unnamed aide at the University of Arkansas, was also mentioned.

Another name bandied about is that of Wayne Hardin, now head coach at Temple. Hardin enjoyed some success at Navy before taking the job in Philadelphia.

A surprise entry, too, is Coffey’s former coordinator of offense, Dan Henning. Originally he declined to file an application but now says the current program as first designed can be successful and would like the opportunity to revive it, which would minimize the problems of transition from one head coach to another.