Alabama Aide Choice
Of Tech's Committee

By T-D Sports Writer
BLACKSBURG—Speculation and reality appear to have become one insofar as the Virginia Tech football coaching vacancy is concerned.

The No. 1 choice of the speculators for more than a week, Alabama assistant coach Jimmy Sharpe Saturday became the No. 1—and only one—that the coach-hunting committee would recommend to the university as a replacement for Charlie Coffey, who resigned unexpectedly early this month.

“We actually have not offered him a contract,” said retiring athletic director Frank Moseley, who heads the committee.

“That's up to the university,” added Moseley, who has spent the last 23 years as either football coach or athletic director—or both—at Tech. “I can only make a recommendation.”

It was understood, however, that Moseley and his committee had made Sharpe their recommendation. Sharpe is expected to make another visit to Tech Monday.

That's when Moseley feels “we will make him an offer (of a contract) and would hope that he will accept.”

However, there are still a great many details to be worked out—from both the university's and Sharpe's sides.

The 34-year-old Sharpe, who has spent the last few days speaking at coaching clinics, etc., in such places as Dallas, Boston and Pittsburgh, reportedly is “excited” about his next visit here.

“I have a lot of questions to ask them (Tech officials) and I am sure they have a lot of questions to ask me,” he is

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reported to have said of the prospects of his next meeting, which presumably will include Tech president Dr. T. Marshall Hahn, who has not participated in any of the preliminaries of Moseley and the committee.

"I guess we will iron it out on Monday."

A three-year letterman for Bear Bryant at Alabama—two years as both offensive and defensive guard—Sharpe has been a varsity assistant under Bryant since his playing days ended in 1962. During his three playing years, Alabama went 8-1-2 in 1960, was unbeaten (11-0) and national champion in 1961 and 10-1 with a 17-0 win over Oklahoma in the Orange Bowl his senior year.

Sharpe, a native of Montgomery, Ala., has spent the last four of his 11 years as Alabama aide overseeing the Crimson Tide's offense and is very much a proponent of the wishbone offense with which the Crimson Tide rolled over 11 foes this past season before losing the national championship—and the Sugar Bowl—to Notre Dame by a point New Year's Eve.

If the search for a new Hokie football coach is, indeed, at an end, there is still the matter of an athletic director to replace Moseley, who has oversen the growth of the Tech athletic facilities that rank with the nation's best and a program that has reached national prominence.

"I'm not on that committee," said Moseley, "I don't know who they have interviewed."

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