SHARPE AT VIRGINIA TECH TODAY

BLACKSBURG, Va. (AP)—Jimmy Sharpe, an Alabama assistant the last 12 years, was scheduled to meet today with officials at Virginia Tech amid speculation the Gobblers were set to name him as their new head football coach.

The Bristol Herald-Courier said flatly Sunday that Sharpe, 34, would be named to the post today, and another state newspaper quoted Tech officials as saying he was the leading contender.

The Tech job became vacant earlier this month when Charlie Coffey resigned unexpectedly after three years, reportedly with four years remaining on a seven-year contract.

Coffey had a 10-20-1 record in his three seasons, but the Gobblers dropped to 2-9 last fall after going 6-4-1 in Coffey's second year. The loss of several assistants and players reportedly contributed to Coffey's decision not to stick it out at least one more year.

"I have a lot of questions to ask them (Tech officials) and I am sure they have a lot of questions to ask me," quoted Sharpe as saying of today's impending meeting.

Athletic Director Frank Moseley, who will retire himself this summer, was quoted by the paper as saying "we actually have not offered him a contract."

Moseley, who has been either football coach or athletic director—or both—at Tech the last 23 years, told the paper the actual hiring of a new coach is "up to the university." He said the coach-hunting committee he heads can only make a recommendation.

But Moseley was quoted as saying he felt Tech "will make him (Sharpe) an offer and would hope that he will accept."

After earning three letters at Alabama, two as both an offensive and defensive guard, Sharpe began coaching under Bear Bryant when his college career ended in 1962.

Sharpe, a native of Montgomery, Ala., has coordinated the Alabama offense the last four years and is a staunch proponent of the wishbone attack.