Bear Bryant Says Jim Sharpe A Hard Worker

By JERRY RATCLIFFE
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BLACKSBURG—New Virginia Tech head football coach Jimmy Sharpe met with the leftovers of a 2-9 season Wednesday afternoon and outlined his philosophies to the Gobbler squad.

Sharpe repeated to his team what he told newsmen gathered for a press conference Tuesday, "I told the players that it's not their team, it's not my team, it's our team, Virginia Tech's team."

Sharpe is expected to name some of his staff within the next week, and meanwhile got support from his old coach whom he played under three years and coached under 11, Bear Bryant. "I've always had the feeling that Jimmy would make an outstanding head coach," said the legendary Bear.

"He was a standout guard for us (1960-61-62). He wasn't very big (5'10", 180), but he would fight until the final second. He put as much into playing as anyone I've ever seen, and he coaches the same way. He has all the qualifications to be a fine head coach."

Bryant added of the 34-year-old Montgomery native, "He is intelligent, is a good coach on the blackboard and on the field, gets a lot out of his players, and is a good recruiter. He's a hard worker, and that is where it all starts. You don't outcoach anyone, you try to outwork them. Jimmy will work."

Sharpe played in three bowl games while at Alabama, and coached all 11 years under the Bear at Alabama, the last seven primarily with the offense.

He is married to Anne Alford of Montgomery and the couple have three children Jay 11, Shannon 9 and Valerie 3.

The new Tech coach faces a busy schedule of organizing a staff, doing make-up work on recruiting and the like. Sharpe will have about 23 more scholarships to offer since Tech has given only seven so far.

The Gobbler skipper says that there is still a lot of talent around yet to be signed.

"Everything down South, Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, South Carolina, has been signed," the new coach points out. "But from North Carolina up, there are still a lot of players unsigned. North Carolina, northward, there is traditionally late signing dates," he said.