Three Assistants Added by Sharpe

BLACKSBURG — New Virginia Tech football coach Jimmy Sharpe said over the weekend that he hoped to have his staff completed this week.

He got at least halfway there Tuesday by announcing the addition of three more assistants, bringing to four the number in the fold.

The latest was the appointment of former Louisiana State University quarterback Nelson Stokley, 29, an assistant to LSU's Charlie McClendon for the past five years. Stokley is the first Sharpe aide named who does not have an Alabama connection.

Earlier in the day, Sharper, who last Tuesday was named to succeed Charlie Coffey, announced the signing of Crimson Tide assistant Danny Ford and Perry Willis, former Alabama graduate assistant who has been an assistant at Livingston University the last two years.

Charley Pell, coach and athletic director at Jacksonville State and one-time Bear Bryant assistant, was the first assistant named by the 34-year-old Sharpe, who spent the last 15 years playing for or assisting Bryant at Alabama.

In 1965, Stokley was SEC Sophomore of the Year and led LSU to a Cotton Bowl victory over Arkansas. He was All-SEC, LSU's MVP and winner of the Corbett Memorial Award as Louisiana's outstanding athlete in 1967, when he directed the Tigers to the Sugar Bowl and victory over Wyoming. He still holds numerous LSU records, including passing yardage and total offense.

Both Ford and Willis played for Alabama 1967-69 and began as graduate assistants to Bryant. Pell, 32, was a teammate of Sharpe at Alabama in the early 1960s and both were graduate assistants to Bryant.

Willis, 26, a split end and defensive back, has worked with the offensive backs since joining the Livingston staff in 1971.

Ford, an All-SEC offensive tackle his senior year after two seasons as a tight end, was promoted to Alabama's varsity staff in 1972 after two years as a graduate assistant.