Virginia Tech Hires

LSU's Nelson Stokley

Newly hired Virginia Tech Coach Jimmy Sharpe has upped his assistant coach count to four.

Tech’s coaching staff is taking on a distinctly Alabama-Southeastern Conference-youth movement look.

In the last two days, Sharpe has hired three coaches who played at Alabama and one who played for Lousiana State. The coach’s ages are 32, 29, 26 and 26.

The newest addition to the staff is Nelson Stokley, one of the SEC’s all-time great quarterbacks. Stokley has served for the last five years as a varsity assistant at LSU.

Stokley was the Sophomore of the Year in the SEC in 1965 and led LSU to a Cotton Bowl victory over Arkansas. He sustained a shoulder injury early in his junior year and sat out most of the season. But in 1967, he returned to pace the Tigers to a good season and a Sugar Bowl win over Wyoming.

Stokley is the all-time leader in LSU passing yardage and total offense. He is 29.

The other three assistants, hired since Monday, are all University of Alabama graduates. Charley Pell’s hiring was announced Monday.

The other new members of the staff are Danny Ford, a former assistant at Alabama, and Perry Willis, who coached at Livingston University in Alabama.

Willis and Ford were teammates from 1967 through 1969 on teams which played in the Cotton, Gator and Liberty Bowls.

Ford was an All-Southeastern Conference offensive tackle as a senior and served as a graduate assistant for two years before being moved to the varsity.

Willis coached the offensive backs at Livingston.

Sharpe expects to name five more assistants before the weekend.