Fourth Assistant Hired
As Sharpe Begins Program

BULLETIN:
A fourth assistant coach has been hired by Virginia Tech, head coach Jimmy Sharpe.

The new addition is the first non-Alabama coach and former player--Nelson Stokley, a varsity assistant for the past five years at Louisiana State University. Stokley, 29, is the all-time leader in passing yardage at LSU, where he was Sophomore of the Year in 1965 and led LSU to victory over Arkansas in the 1965 Cotton Bowl.

Sharpe was expected to name four more assistants soon, possibly this weekend, before starting on recruiting.

BLACKSBURG--Head Virginia Tech football coach Jimmy Sharpe has announced the hiring of three assistants, one of which was his teammate at Alabama and all of whom once played for the Crimson Tide.

Thirty-two-year-old Charley Pell, Sharpe's teammate in the early 60's, leaves the head coaching job at Jacksonville State University to join Sharpe at Tech.

After a year of rebuilding, he led the JSU Gamecocks to a perfect 10-0 record in 1970 and a victory in the Orange Blossom Classic at Miami. His teams led the Gulf South conference in defense in three of the last four years.

Pell commented: "Obviously, I'm sold on Jimmy Sharpe, but I also had to be impressed with the situation and the offer at Virginia Tech. It's so ideal. It's going to be exciting."

Danny Ford and Perry Willis, who were teammates on the 1967 through '69 Alabama teams, also were hired as assistants. Those teams went to the Cotton, Gator and Liberty Bowl games. Both men started coaching as graduate assistants on the staff of Paul (Bear) Bryant.

Ford, an All-SEC offensive tackle his senior year after two seasons at tight end, served as a graduate assistant for two years before being elevated to the varsity staff in 1972.

Willis, 26, who was a split end and defensive back for the Tide, later coached at Livingston University, joining their staff in 1971. He worked with offensive backs.

Tech's new head coach said, "We need to start with compatibility among our staff, and these two men definitely know how we plan to do things. We should be well under way before the end of the week."