BLACKSBURG — Buddy Bennett, who developed two secondaries that led the nation in interceptions, has become the fifth man to join new football coach Jimmy Sharpe’s program at Virginia Tech.

Bennett, 36, coached at Georgia Tech last year, where he had All-America safety Randy Rhino.

A graduate of South Carolina (he played quarterback for the Gamecocks 1958-60), Bennett was at East Tennessee for four years, including 1969 when the Bucs went to the Grantland Rice Bowl and led college division teams with 34 interceptions.

In his one year at Tennessee, Bennett developed a secondary that stole 35 passes, tops in the NCAA. He also coached two years at Arkansas before going to Georgia Tech.

As a player, Bennett led the ACC in rushing in his junior and senior years. He started his college coaching career as a graduate assistant at South Carolina after a couple of years in the high school ranks.

“He has exceptional ability in getting the maximum out of young men and his exposure to football in various sections of the country makes his knowledge of the game a valuable asset to the Tech program,” Sharpe said.

Previously named to the Tech staff were offensive coaches Danny Ford, Perry Willis and Nelson Stokley and defensive coach Charley Pell.