Bennett Joins Tech Staff

BLACKSBURG, Va. (AP)— Former South Carolina quarterback Buddy Bennett, who coached the Georgia Tech secondary last year, Thursday was added to the Virginia Tech football staff.

Bennett, 36, became the fifth assistant chosen by Virginia Tech’s new head coach, Jimmy Sharpe. At least one more assistant coach is expected to be appointed within the next few days.

Three of the assistants thus far named—Danny Ford, Perry Willis and Nelson Stokley—will be concerned primarily with offense while Bennett and Charley Pell will work primarily on defense, Sharpe said.

Out of a job since the recent reshuffling of the Georgia Tech staff, Bennett is known for his expertise in pass defense. Secondaries he coached at Tennessee, East Tennessee and Arkansas led their leagues in interceptions.

Bennett played for South Carolina in 1958-59-60. In his last two years, the Gamecocks led the Atlantic Coast Conference in rushing.

He was a high school coach for several years before joining the South Carolina staff as a graduate assistant.

Subsequently he spent four years on the staff of John Bell at East Tennessee, two under Frank Broyles at Arkansas and one under Bill Battle at Tennessee before moving over to Georgia Tech.

Bennett, a native of Jessup, Ga., is married and the father of four children. He will report to Virginia Tech immediately.

“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 our program,” Sharpe said in announcing the appointment.

Sharpe, former offensive coordinator for coach Paul “Bear” Bryant at Alabama, was appointed head coach at Virginia Tech week before last.

He succeeded Charlie Coffey, who resigned the Tech head coaching job in the wake of a 2-9 season in 1973 with four years remaining on a seven-year contract.