Dick, Hokies Trying to Shake ‘Dreads’

By Ray Filegar

Spring, among other things, is for trackmen. Unless, of course, you are tied up in football drills, which Kevin Dick is at the moment. To be honest, the Virginia Tech tight end isn’t a track star any more. There isn’t time.

"Some people think college football is strictly a fall thing and a little bit of fooling around in the spring," said the former Matoaca standout. "But it isn’t. It’s year-round... with very little time off. And, if you’ve got the dreads, well..."

"There isn’t much fun to be gained from the effort. Dick, then, must be getting some enjoyment out of football as he labors with his fellow teammates at Blacksburg under the watchful eye of coach Jim Sharpe. And coming off a 2-9 season, as the Hokies are, there is a lot of work to be done. "They (coaches) ask a lot of us," admitted Dick, in reference to Sharpe’s staff, which has been charged with the responsibility of bringing Tech’s downhill slide to a halt. "And some people have left or have been weeded out. But the people left really want to win."

WINNING IS SOMETHING

Dick became accustomed to at Matoaca, both in track (under then-coach Al Weaver) and football (under then-coach Bill Moss). By the time Dick left Matoaca, the Warriors had won district titles in football, and Dick held seven school track records.

"I really like the individual aspect of track," said Dick. "I competed in eight events and I loved it. But football’s year around, like I said."

So track is only a memory, albeit a good one.

Dick’s memories of football at Tech, as the record would indicate, are not all that great, however. And that’s why the art major is looking forward more than he is looking backward.

IN THE NEW SCHEME of things at Tech under Sharpe, the Hokies will feature, it appears, the wishbone offense. And that has put considerable pressure on Dick, a rising junior.

"It’s a lot different, as far as my part is concerned," said the 6-2, 220-pounder. "There is more blocking responsibility."

Surprisingly, there also appears to be more pass receiving opportunities developing for the tight end. "We don’t pass Tech's Kevin Dick Working ‘With Enthusiasm’

much," said Dick, "but when we do, it’s complete."

A Wednesday scrimmage, preparatory to the Gobblers’ annual spring game (tomorrow afternoon at Lane Stadium, 1 o’clock), yielded three TD passes from the first-team offense. In addition to scoring strikes of 60 and 34 yards from quarterback Bruce Arrians to wide receiver Ricky Scales, there was a neat little eight-yarder to Dick.

"It was the first time we’ve really come close to executing all the options of the Wishbone," said Sharpe. "It’s not real smooth, but we’re pleased."

Dick, who caught two other passes, agreed.

"Coach told us at the start that it (the wishbone) would be on a trial basis," said Dick. "But right off we knew we had the personnel to handle it."

DICK REFUSED to be drawn into a comparison of the over-all difference in attitude, etc., between last spring and this spring in the Tech football program, but he left no doubt that things were considerably more comfortable all the way around.

"After the disastrous season last year, everyone knew we had to rebuild," he said. "And we went to work... with enthusiasm. That’s one way to fight off the ‘dreads.’ Or, more to the point, try to halt a downhill slide."