Tech Coaches Make Quick Switch From Drills To Recruiting Trail

BLACKSBURG, Va. -- Virginia Tech concluded its Spring football practice early and on a light note here Wednesday.

The Gobblers worked out in shorts for an hour and still had an allotted practice session remaining, but Coach Jimmy Sharpe declared the Spring workouts at an end. "We certainly didn't accomplish everything we would have liked, but we were extremely pleased with the enthusiasm and hitting throughout the Spring, including last Monday's practice which could have tended to drag," he said.

"There was a lot of individual progress; some of the young players really improved," he pointed out. "We're not prepared yet to field a winning team, but we definitely have a start."

The end of drills will give players a chance to concentrate on books and exams which begin on June 3, but for the coaches it means hitting the road for future recruiting and clinics.

"There'll be no vacations this year," the first-year coach said. "We have too much to do to get ready for operations in August which is just around the corner."

The Gobblers advanced appreciably with the wishbone offense during the 19 Spring sessions, and their 5-2 defense made strides and gained considerable confidence. The kicking game definitely didn't get its share of attention.

"The kicking game obviously will have to get top priority when we start getting ready again in August," Sharpe said. "We will have to spend the first three days in shorts when we start, and that will be a good time to concentrate on details of the kicking game.

"We hope that offensively and defensively we'll be able to pick up where we're leaving off here at the end of Spring practice."

Virginia Tech's coaching staff hung up its coaching togs here Wednesday afternoon and almost in the same motion hit the recruiting trail.

Some of them headed for familiar territory, like Buddy Bennett who was on his way to southwest Virginia and eastern Tennessee.

Some, like Charley Pell, were familiarizing themselves with new areas. Pell headed toward Roanoke and Danville.

Nelson Stokley, after several years in the bayous of Louisiana, will be traveling in the Shenandoah Valley.

Perry Willis is in the Richmond area.

Danny Ford will be working from Charlottesville.

Dickie Roberts will be in his home state of West Virginia.

Terry Don Phillips will be in the Newport News and Norfolk areas.

Joe White will be in the vicinity of his native Suffolk.

Jack White will traverse the southside of the state.

And Bill Brown will make the rounds in northern Virginia.

Jimmy Sharpe, head coach, meanwhile, will be on an almost month-long speaking tour throughout the state.