Players Coach During Summer

BLACKSBURG—Coach Jimmy Sharpe’s first edition Virginia Tech football will report back for its late summer tune-up preceding the start of the new campaign in mid-August.

Does this mean that the players can find a hammock under a shade tree and relax until then? No way. Sharpe feels that if a player really wants to make the grade in football, he’ll go in for a little self-coaching when the opening kickoff is still six weeks off.

The coach commented on his recommendations for the team during the summer season.

“We’ll ask all the players to go home and forget about football for a while. Go to the beach, get a summer job. Then, after they get their mind fresh, we’ll start corresponding with them.

“We’ll send all of them a recommended workout sheet on the first of July. We’ll ask them to work out ‘X’ numbers of hours a week. That’ll intensify. Specialist people, we’ll ask them to start kicking, start passing, starting throwing so that by the time we are within at least two weeks of reporting back, you’ve got down to a really hard workout, working on your specialties.

“They tell me Mike Calhoun (junior from Jonesboro, Tenn.) is a good punter. I’ve never seen him play. Tommy Cooper (sophomore from Stuart’s Draft) is a left footer. He kicked the ball out of the ball the other day. All those people (including punter Bruce McDaniel and place kicker Wayne Latimer) we’re going to ask to work on their specialties all summer, the last half of the summer. Actually, you’re only talking about two months.”

Is there a formula relating the number of footballs kicked or thrown, the number of wind sprints run or the number of weights lifted during the two-month summer of football players to the amount of success in the three months of the football season?

Jimmy Sharpe is sure there is and while he doesn’t take credit for inventing that formula, count him among those who believe in it.