VPI Assistant Nelson Stokely Diagrams Strategy

Seated in the foreground (from left) are Sussex Central Coach Dennis Webb, Waynesboro Coach George Buzzard and Stan Pope, also of Sussex Central.

Gobblers’ Sharpe Gratified By Coaches’ Clinic Success

By BILL THOMPSON
Daily Press Sports Writer

There’s a certain sparkle in his eyes and an unmistakable enthusiasm about his mannerisms when Jimmy Sharpe speaks of his inaugural season as Virginia Tech’s head football coach.

One comes away with the feeling that the 35-year-old former Alabama assistant brought something concrete with him to his new post, a quality of determination that bodes well for the Gobblers’ gridiron future.

Sharpe was in Hampton Thursday to coordinate a two-session coaches clinic at the Hampton Holiday Inn. From all indications, the confab was a rousing success.

“We were very excited at the turnout of area coaches,” says Sharpe. “We had 25 show up for the morning session on offense and over 45 during the afternoon. Personally, I’d like to hold this clinic every year.”

Sharpe firmly believes in the value of such get-togethers. “I don’t go along with the idea of keeping secrets,” he says. “This interchange of ideas is as valid a learning experience as I hope the upcoming season will be at Virginia Tech.

“We’re not a great team yet, maybe not even a good one, but with the proper attitude of mutual caring and learning to benefit from games, win or lose, success will come.”

Sharpe and his assistants plan to meet with the team July 23 for a team meal and meeting before camp opens in earnest July 25.