SHARP IS AS SHARPE DOES

Once these years, according to the law of averages if nothing else, the many-faceted cam-
paigns for achieving national college football
fame ought to pay off for Virginia Tech.
It may be, possibly that the Tech and the Hokies have
insurmountable immunity in that direction by hiring Jimmy
Sharpe.

Sharpe is the ex-member of Bear Bryant's Alabama staff
that has yet to run the gauntlet of his first season as a head coach
whereSerialized these occasions are rising to high
tension to optimism at any degree at Blacksburg.
Nothing except the smallpox of Sharp on this State's football
season.

The man seems to be everywhere, as if fully in-
tending to make up lost ground in recruiting,
for a good yard on recruiting programs that'll spread the gospel of Tech
football

Aim at every sector of the Old Dominion, no matter how large or small, nearby or
remote.

REPORT CARD GOOD SO FAR

"That doesn't make him any different than the other guy, the one (Charlie Coffey) who was there
ahead of him," suggests one observer -- not a Tech alumnus, naturally. In this day of high-
ly-calibrated salesmanship and showmanship, which even includes big-name losers left and
right, maybe he isn't much different than his predecessor.

What could be results. Here, at least initially, the first
reason following Jimmy Sharp's numerous
pronouncements and appearances would have to be ad-
duced - "real" men, "real" football - not
merely blood-in-the-head heartstuck
followers. Even long-time
media critics of past football regimes at Blacksburg say they have been won over by Sharp.

Such favorable reaction, of course, doesn't win ball games. Jerry Caldwell says Point 700
how short
memories can get. He won games, put Tech into two Liberty bowls and had close to a .667 winning percentage and still fell to disfavor when he just couldn't come up with a catalytic quarterback.

QUARTERBACK PROBLEM HEREDITARY

This quarterback problem could even haunt
Sharpe now though it'll be another month before he opens Tech's pre season drills. We can't tell
whether he's just whistlin' past the graveyard by a show of confidence in getting that dilemma
cleared up, but it could be said he's headed in the
right direction.

We're not about to get engaged in any guessing game
as to how he'll arrive at a solution. As far as 1974 is concerned, Sharp is a fitting, as they say, with what he's got, but it's what he's doing about guarding against a return of the same problem which is more vital.
After all, one must presume Tech's hungry alumni are allowing Sharp a couple or three seasons to get
turned around.

If that's so, then it's enough to say Sharp is get-
ing along famously in mending broken old fences
and building new ones. His seemingly rush-rush
effort in staging a coaching clinic here last week for Peninsula-area and Tidewater prep and high school coaches is a case in point.

GETTING TO BE HOUSEHOLD NAME

"Contacts" is the name of the game one might
say Sharp is engaged in playing right now. Here
again Sharp is no different than any coach trying to
make his mark, except that his name pops up
more than that of any other in the State when
to someone talks about who was there, here or any
place else.

That's making contacts in the best way known to
have been devoted. So, when a top prospect emerges
-- like this quarterback problem -- can't we ever
forget the name "Sharpe" when they think about recruiting or second-moming the selection
of Tech with pride of the State?

Anyway, based on his ground-covering per-
formance to date, we can't advising in what
Sharpe is attempting and interest in this direction, and
while we'd say suggesting how he might improve on his early efforts this season, but
dare not to offer advice other than to keep on good quarterback. Not having one is the system of
many of any institution, but especially at Virginia Tech.