Squad At Tech Long On Youth

BLACKSBURG--Coach Bob Humphries, who played baseball in the major leagues, opens his first season coaching the sport on the collegiate level Saturday, March 16 when the Hokies open a new season with a pair of single games at High Point, N. C.

The '74 squad has seven freshmen, seven sophomores, seven juniors and four seniors, among them four football players, catcher Paul Adams and infielder Billy Hardee, joining returnee David Halstead, an outfielder, and pitcher Gary Zetts.

The 24-man squad has nine pitchers, including lefties Dave Stafford of Blacksburg, Tom Bailey of Richmond, Bruce Brushwood of Hampton and Gary Zetts of Struthers, Ohio.

Junior right hander Mike Arrington of Hampton have to carry much of the pitching load, with 

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assistance of Dennis Waxmunski of West Point, the only senior on the pitching staff with more than token experience; junior Bernie Freeman of Fort Belvoir and freshmen John Nielson of Garden City, N. Y.,

and Dave Tinsley of Springfield.

Defensively, Tech has some experience with infielders Tony Varboncoeur, of West Point, Vince Carbaugh of Falls Church, Gene Fornash of Richmond; catchers Danny Shrieve of Melfa, and Jim Wright of Newport News, back for another season.

Two of the freshmen and one soph are locals, or nearly so. In addition to Stafford, a soph, the crop includes infielder Lewis Dillon of Roanoke's William Fleming High and outfielder Sandy Hill of Glenvar.

The other freshmen are infielder Rich Pearce of Voorheesville, N. Y.,

outfielder Jim Folaros of Fort Lee, and outfielder Tom Acree of Richmond.

Bristol native Halstead, a junior, lends experience to the outfield, as does Ed Bowman of Dayton, who was coming on strong as a hitter as last season ended. Freshmen Acree, Folaros and Hill complete the outfield contingent.

Adams, the Castlewood speedster, likely will be used as designated hitter when not catching, providing he recaptures his high school hitting form.

Hardee, of Mulberry, Fla. and one of football's most promising receivers, appears to have potential as a hitter based on his showing in practice. Nielson also has looked impressive in workouts, showing pitching power.

Humphries will probably announce a final starting lineup shortly before the start of the road swing South.