Football drills start

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This time around the low key approach to collegiate football in the state is in order. Virginia opened fall practice Thursday, Virginia Tech on Monday and VMI started earlier than that.

But while years past, now one is predicting big seasons. Two years of losing and a couple of new coaches are the reason.

Since the coaches are excited and the alumni are excited, I hope we all aren't too excited. At Tech, coach Williams worried about the "Our biggest problem at Tech (Tech's first foe) started practice on the 20th. They have the jump on us. It gives them an additional week for all practical purposes."

But Sharpe admits he feels the spirit of the occasion. "I can't sleep. I wake in the middle of the night and think about the players. It's a high." So are they.

"We've got our plans for the season. Our practice plans are ready. We've done as much as we could possibly do going on the field."

You know a football coach is the most miserable person when the players aren't around."

VMI Coach Bob Thalman might have had plenty to be optimistic at, one time until losing quarterback Tom Schultze to academic problems."

"We've got more experience than before," said Thalman. "There are nine or ten experienced players on offense and seven on defense except at quarterback."

Roger Spells, who will replace Schultze, will be no easy matter. Four freshmen and Ron Bongiovanni, a backup to Schultze, are the ones from which Thalman will choose a new leader.

"We're pleased with the caliber of players, Thalman continued. "We've had great practices so far. But it's too early to tell about our quarterback situation. That will come next week."

The VMI program is preparing for its opening game at Navy on Sept. 14. The Cavaliers' problem is one of schedule.

"We've got 30 freshmen on scholarship," said Randle. "We've also got 22 walk-ons. If nine or 10 freshmen can't make a definite contribution to the varsity, we are in a world of trouble, but we didn't do too good a job recruiting."

Still things are good to get inside the head of a coach if you don't work to the minds—the bodies aren't worth a damn."

Sharpe says that Tech is aware of its weak points. After 10 days of spring practice, he observed, "we know our problems areas and what to do about them."

But in the time we have to get ready