Sharpe Pleased
With Tech Squad

BLACKSBURG—Jimmy Sharpe, head football coach at Virginia Tech, praised the VPI football players as “the finest and most enthusiastic” I have ever been associated with” and added “I have been around some mighty fine teams.”

He made no prediction as to the number of games that would be won this fall.

He made the statement as principal speaker at the May luncheon of the Blacksburg Chamber of Commerce Tuesday noon, May 13, held at Hardie House Restaurant.

The players this spring built on the enthusiasm and drive that had been engendered ever since the second half of the VMI game last fall, Sharpe explained.

The enthusiasm and morale of the players, he said, is high as evidenced in the spring drills which end this coming Saturday, May 17, with a regulation game in which the squad has been divided into two teams of relatively equal ability.

Bill Brill, sports editor of The Roanoke Times, will be associated with one of the teams, and Bill Millsaps, executive sports editor of the Richmond Times-Dispatch, will be associated with the other. When Brill’s name was mentioned, there was a ripple of laughter that ran through the luncheon audience.

Sharpe was asked particularly about Phil Rogers. The coach confirmed that they were working with Rogers as a quarterback because of his running ability and speed.

The weakest part of the Gobbler football squad, Sharpe said, is the defensive line and secondary. When someone asked about kicking, he admitted that more work would have to be done there.

His low key approach and his sincerity about the importance of “heart” and “guts” made an impression on the listeners. Sharpe explained that there were a number of players who had both heart and guts. Some who didn’t have “God-given natural playing ability” were making the most of their enthusiasm and heart.

He thought the team began to jell during the second half of the VMI game last fall in Richmond, or maybe, he conceded, it started on the way home from that game.