Kicking Game Is
“First Priority”

BLACKSBURG—“The first 15 players to be put on the traveling squad next Sept. 12 will be members of our specialty kicking teams,” Virginia Tech Coach Jimmy Sharpe announced to the Gobbler squad when spring practice started here a few days ago.

The kicking game was Tech’s most definite shortcoming during the 1974 season, and Sharpe and company have started off spring practice to rectify that phase of the Gobbler game plan.

In emphasizing the importance of an effective kicking game, Sharpe noted that the Gobblers averaged 25 kicking situations a game last season.

“That’s 25 plays a game you can participate in if you’re a member of the specialty kicking units alone,” Sharpe told the squad.

As further evidence of priority on the kicking game, this spring the entire kicking unit is listed for pre-practice, specialty period work.

And the Gobblers now have a substaff for that work. Red Stickney, latest addition to the Gobbler staff, heads a coaching group that includes Bill Brown, Derrick

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Kicking

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Weatherford and J. B. Barber.

“We’ve promised ourselves that we’re going to have a kicking game worthy of the name,” Sharpe says.

In seniors Bruce McDaniel, punter, and Wayne Latimer, placekicker, Tech has experienced specialists for those aspects, and all leading return specialists, including Billy Hardee, Morris Blueford, Roscoe Coles and Greg Payne, will be back.

Considering that the Gobblers did virtually no work on the kicking game last spring, it appears certain that Tech will be more formidable in that department in 1975.