Tech Jury Still Out

The jury is still out on Virginia Tech's momentous football experiment but the judge (coach Jimmy Sharpe) has not given up on the possibility of converting running back Phil Rogers to quarterback for the 1975 season.

Rogers guided the Whites to a 33-13 victory in the annual Maroon-White game concluding spring practice at Tech Saturday and Sharpe expressed pleasure at the progress of Rogers and the entire Tech football program.

Sharpe Pleased

"It got a little sloppy out there but I'm pleased overall with the way things have progressed," added the second year coach. "Attitude is the best thing we have going for us right now and the kids are playing with a bit of intensity. Last year at this time we had zilch but this spring I can sleep easy for awhile anyway."

Asked about the quarterback situation, Sharpe was not ready to commit himself. "We have four kids in line for the job right now and we hope to redshirt two to pro in the fall. Rogers could be the quarterback, I don't know at this time. He started slow but he's been coming on and we're hoping he can do the job for us. We're not about to put him back to running back until he has had time to prove himself at quarterback."

A senior, Rogers was Tech's workhorse as a running back on last year's team that went 4-7 in Sharpe's first season at the helm, toting the ball 153 times for 163 yards and seven touchdowns.

Rogers Unspectacular

Rogers was anything but spectacular Saturday, having his first pass intercepted and winding up the game with 2-of-4 for 25 yards passing while rushing for 29 yards and scoring two touchdowns.

Senior Greg Millinax and juniors Mitchel Barnes and John Mason also saw duty at quarterback Saturday and Mason may have been the most impressive, hitting on 5-of-10 passes for 91 yards and one touchdown.

Depth A Problem

"The good got better and some of the others came around so we have to be pleased with the spring drills," Sharpe continued. "We've had an unusually large number of injuries and we were not deep to start with but we hope to have everyone healthy starting the fall."

"We need help in the defensive line and at line backers. We're strong at running back and in the defensive secondary so we know what we have to do."

"We'll have a problem with depth all next year but we feel we can line up one team that'll go after people and get some tail."

Tech's Phil Rogers