The Bear Regales Sellout Audience

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Listening to Bear Bryant talk is like listening to Frank Sinatra sing.

You know it's not a new song but you understand why it sold a million records. Or won a lot of football games.

The Alabama Bear regaled a capacity audience of 1,200 Thursday night in the Virginia Tech football awards banquet at the Roanoke Civic Center.

It was the inaugural affair under Coach Jimmy Sharpe, but the Tech grid boss promised it would not be the last. "We'll make this the biggest thing in the Roanoke Valley," said Sharpe. He found a lot of willing Hokies agreeing.

The Bear, once he finished his numerous small stories about his speaking disasters around the nation—don't believe any of them—had a message for the Tech players and the audience.

Bryant offered the following recommendations:

- Learn to compete if you're going to make it.
- Find something to compete in. If you're going to compete, set some goals.
- Have some plans. Plans you believe in, so strongly that you won't compromise.
- Tie (up) to winners. Tie to leaders. Include in your plan some lessons you've got to learn.

These, said the Bear, are those lessons:

- Learn to work. Discipline.
- Sacrifice. Fight. Teamwork.
- Learn when to say I, me, you and us.

"If you do all that," said Bryant, "what do you really have? Intangibles. That's why one man succeeds and another fails at the same undertaking.

"And none of that is worthwhile if you aren't willing to pay the price."

That is the disciple according to the Bear.

Tech passed out numerous awards, including a newly established Frank Moseley Leadership Award, named after the school's athletic director.

The first winners of the Moseley Award were fullback Tony Houff for the offense and back Billy Hardee for the defense.

Also honored were last fall's seniors, including co-captains (named by the squad after the year) Charlie Martin and Randy Vey.

Awards also were issued for performance in the recent spring game, which concluded what Sharpe called "a real good spring practice."

Those winners were offensive back George Heath, offensive lineman Blair Buskirk, defensive linemen (tied) Tom Beasley and Keith McCarter, and defensive back Gerald Sheehan.