Tech gets the 'Bear' word

By BOB McLELLAND
Sports Editor

Bear Bryant, who describes his speechmaking as equivalent to a blocked punt, proved otherwise last night as he scored some touchdowns before a packed house at the Virginia Tech football banquet in the Roanoke Civic Center exhibition hall.

Bryant was the speaker for what Tech Coach Jimmy Sharpe says will become an annual affair and the biggest of its kind in the Roanoke area.

"We'll grow so large we'll have to hold it in Victory Stadium," said Sharpe. "Coach Bryant has assured me he will take care of the weather."

Civic Center officials said the crowd was about 1,200—the largest ever to hold a banquet in the building.

Bryant said the only reason he was able to attend the function was the fact Joe Namath found another caddy for the day.

Once the famed Alabama coach had finished with his jokes and anecdotes, Bryant warmed to his subject of the need for determination, sacrifice, teamwork and fight in the world as well as in athletics.

"Those who succeed in anything are those who are willing to pay the price," he said. "Nothing worthwhile is won without a struggle."

Sharpe announced the creation of two new football awards to be based on leadership on and off the playing field. They will honor long-time Athletic Director Frank O. Moseley.

The initial awards went to halfback Billy Hardie on defense and fullback Tony Houff on offense.

Several other awards were presented. Noseguard Charlie Martin and center Randy Vey were voted captains by their teammates for the 1974 season. The awards for outstanding play in the spring game last Saturday went to George Heath, offensive back; Blair Musirkir, offensive line; Gerald Sheehan, defensive back; and Keith McCarter and Tom Beasley (tie), defensive line.

The banquet was sponsored by the Roanoke Valley Chapter of the Virginia Tech Student Aid Foundation.