Baseball Clinic At Virginia Tech Draws 400–Weather Hurts Attendance

BLACKSBURG—A major league catcher who attended Tech and the former baseball coach of the Hokies’ current third baseman highlighted the second Virginia Tech Baseball Clinic recently.

Hokie baseball coach Bob Humphreys, the host, termed the attendance of 350-400 good considering severe cold weather and bad highway conditions. “In good weather we would have drawn 500,” he said.

High school players and coaches attended from Patrick, Carroll, Franklin,

Alleghany, Henry and Wythe Counties, the Richmond area South, as well as Port Chaswell, Galax and in the immediate area from Roanoke’s Northside High School.

Clinic speakers included former Tech standout Johnny Oates, now with the Los Angeles Dodgers. Oates, a catcher, played earlier for the Baltimore Orioles and Atlanta Braves.

A visiting coach who addressed a clinic was Charlie Spence of Miami-Dade University. South, a junior college attended by senior third baseman Rick Wade, who set a new Hokie stolen base record for a single season last year. Humphreys described Green “one of the best fundamental coaches I’ve ever seen” and said “he did a super job on pitching.”

Gerry Thomas of Lynchburg College spoke on hitting and another speaker was Ray Barlow of Kempsville High School, whose team has won three state championships. Barlow spoke on how to build a high school baseball program.

Other clinic speakers were Tech trainer Ed Moteley, coach Kenny Holt of Altavista High School and Humphreys.

Some college players and coaches were among the attendees.

Humphreys said that the main purpose of the clinic is to let coaches (and possibly future coaches) be exposed to different coaching philosophies from which they can select what appeals to them.

The coach noted that having more than one active major league baseball player can draw a large attendance at clinics but added, “that’s overrated. I know coaches who can teach baseball better than the pros. The coaches do a better job of communicating.”

The clinic was one of four for Humphreys, who has been booked as a guest at three others. Last week he attended a baseball clinic at Shippenburg State College in Pennsylvania (which was on Tech’s schedule last season) and he goes this weekend to Menchusville High School in tidewater Virginia.

Humphreys also will attend the Bethesda, Md. Little League Clinic Feb. 18-19 at Bethesda.

The Hokie baseball team has been working out in the Charles Rector Field House since Jan. 10 and will move outside as soon as the spring thaw sets in. Tech’s first game will be Thursday, Mar. 3 at Newberry College, N.C., the first stop of the spring southern swing. The Hokie home schedule opens Monday, Mar. 14 with a doubleheader against the University of Connecticut.