VPI Strong Safety
Backs Up Sharpe’s
‘Big Year’ Outlook

By CHARLES KARMOISKY
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Jimmy Sharpe expects heavy questioning on off-season tours of Virginia Tech alumni social-rally sessions, but Friday night at one such revival staged in Hampton the Gobbler’s football mentor appeared “ready for anything.”

When someone inquired as to how the quarterback situation was shaping up, the “some old scores” are going to be settled, or if the Gobblers are truly ready for their rugged schedule which opens up with Texas A&M, Sharpe called in his strong safetyman to field the questions.

In this case “the SS” was Dennis Windmuller, who played for York and Tabb High Schools before migrating to Blacksburg where he’s a rising junior following in the footsteps of brother Eric. The latter was a regimental commander of the corps at Tech but has no more eligibility.

The latest of Tech’s Windmullers, who in 1978 may be joined by younger brother Steve, was first called to action after Sharpe for the third or fourth time was asked about the key quarterback job in the Wishbone attack.

As Sharpe had told the quizzical ones earlier, Windmuller reiterated, “We don’t have anything to worry about. There are three or four who can do the job and do it well. Maybe you don’t think they have enough experience, but we think you’ll find that they’re going to do alright.”

Windmuller was referring to David Lamie, the likely No. 1 aspirant, Don LaRue and Jeff Manry, although there are an assorted few others, including Mike Zouzalk.

While the Peninsula young man, who’ll play strong safety at about 185 pounds, didn’t mention it, but Sharpe cited “great overall speed in the backfield” as something which should make it easier for the quarterbacking candidates to gain experience.

“We never had that kind of speed when I was at Alabama” as an aide to Paul “Bear” Bryant, said Sharpe, who still hasn’t yet gotten over how well Spring drills went for the Gobblers even though, at times, numerous injuries complicated his chore of readying his squad for the ‘77 campaign.

Besides returning veteran Roscoe Coles, Sharpe had in mind the likes of Mickey Rogers, Dennis Scott and Karry Lewis of Danville, who was honored at a recent awards back as one of the standouts in the Spring intrasquad game finale. Lewis had touchdown runs of 70 and 67 yards as the Maroons beat the Whites 38-10.

Another great factor, by SS Windmuller’s assessment, will be the togetherness of the Gobblers.

“I’ve never seen anything like it,” says Windmuller, who carries special distinction as a walk-on who earned himself a scholarship.

“There’s more unity than ever,” the Tabb graduate points out, adding confidently that the 1977 Gobblers “will reach all the goals we’ve set.”

“I’ve really enjoyed my first two years at Tech,” concludes Windmuller, “but I think my last two are gonna be just great.”

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Virginio Tech head football coach serves oysters to Susan Levy while her husband Mayer, president of Gobblers’ chapter of Peninsula alumni, and Doug Petty Class of ‘28, at left) enjoy the fun at booster meeting and seafood feast late Friday afternoon on Hampton waterfront.