JAMES A. (JIMMY) SHARPE

Head Football coach
4th Year

Jimmy Sharpe, 37, is "more totally involved in our overall program -- offense, defense, recruiting -- than I've ever been before."

At the same time he credits his staff for "joining hands" in an exceptionally fine working relationship in which "not everything comes across my desk now."

A native of Montgomery, Ala., who played for and then started his coaching career under Paul (Bear) Bryant at Alabama, Sharpe was one of the earliest and most enthusiastic exponents of the wishbone attack.

In his 11 years on the Crimson Tide staff he had stints on each side of the field, and he learned the meaning of flexibility and change.

In three seasons at Tech, which include a nightmarish 4-7 initial record before 8-3 and 6-5 marks, Sharpe and company have added wrinkles on both sides of the operation so that the Gobblers now align themselves in multiple defensive schemes and conduct a more balanced offense out of a variable wishbone.

"I'm excited about it," exudes the perenially effervescent Sharpe. "There's only one season I can remember looking forward to as much as I do this one."

Biggest reason for his bright outlook this particular year is that he evaluated Tech's 1977 Spring practice as "the finest I've ever been around."

He is married to the former Anne Alford, also a native of Montgomery. They have a son, Jay, and two daughters, Shannon and Valerie.