Texas A&M Brings Big Team To VPI

BLACKSBURG—"They’re going to have to bring them in on two planes!" Virginia Tech Coach Jimmy Sharpe declared of Texas A&M’s nationally ranked Aggies.

"They’ll probably only need a 30-passenger jet for their backs, but they’ll have to have a 747 Jumbo for those linemen and linebackers!"

"They are big, strong and swift—one of the top teams, if not the top, in the country. We played them last year, so we know what to expect. "We’re concentrating on an all-out effort to keep from beating ourselves. "Field position is going to be a very key factor; we have to make them go the distance. Last week Kansas gave up 14 points to A&M by fumbling twice inside its own 20."

Still, Sharpe’s overall approach to the Gobblers has been very low key.

After all, many of the Tech players remember as well as Sharpe last year’s 19-0 pounding at College Station, Tex., where the Aggies simply powered through a super effort by the Hokies, especially the defense. Saturday’s contest, expected to attract a crowd of 30,000 or more despite the fact that the university’s Fall quarter hasn’t begun yet, is the biggest opener for the Hokies since Alabama came here in 1969.

Sharpe and company have whittled down the offensive and defensive game plans to basics, but they’re still juggling personnel, trying to compensate for some key injuries which have occurred during the Hokies’ three weeks of preparation.

Whatever the starting combination Saturday, Tech’s defensive unit will at least be experienced, although none of the ends, David DeHart, Kent Knupp, Sleepy Johnson or Charles Novell, were starters last season.

The first offensive unit will have a few new faces—tackle Ed Lewis, fullback Dickie Holway, wide receiver Ellis Savage or Ron Zollicoffer and quarterback David Lamie or Don LaRue.

The Hokies are preparing for warfare, aerial or otherwise.