Foes Clemson, VPI
Raise Danger Flags

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College football fans migrating to Blacksburg for Saturday’s 1:30 p.m. Clemson-Virginia Tech fracas had better be forewarned. There could be a double knockout!

If overall appraisals of the two head coaches, former Alabama teammates Jimmy Sharpe and Charlie Pell, are to taken seriously, both are alarmed about the mental and physical status of their squads.

Pell, whose Tigers of the Atlantic Coast Conference came off a narrow loss to Maryland to beat Georgia and Georgia Tech, is wary about his team being “emotionally drained” and being “up” to taking on the victory-starved Gobblers (0-2).

Sharpe, on the other hand, sounds as if any minute he might apply to the local Red Cross chapter to stand by with disaster-aid units.

“If somebody a month ago would have told me our team would be so bruised and battered before only our third game, I couldn’t have believed it,” moans Sharpe.

According to the “hospital report” at midday Thursday, star linebacker Rick Razzano and standout defensive back Gene Bunn “are doubtful” for Saturday’s action.

On top to that, the Tech squad which lost three regulars before its season opener has been decimated by the possible loss of two other members. Injured and out are senior Mike Heizer and sophomore Carl McDonald.

Judging by that, Clemson’s 12-point role of favorite appears to be solidly established, since the Techmen also have been hampered in their preparations for the Tigers’ invasion.

Sharpe says “very little” was accomplished Monday because a sizeable segment of the squad had to perform in a junior varsity game at West Virginia, then cold and rain limited workouts Tuesday to some drills without pads, so the Techmen didn’t do anything resembling a good scrimmage until Wednesday.

Clemson doesn’t appear to have any such problems. Physically, the Tigers ought to be fully ready, so Coach Pell is concerned only about his squad’s mental approach — the fear that it will take the winless Gobblers too lightly.

However, Pell might just be practicing a little psychological deception. Clemson publicist Bob Bradley reports the ex-Tech aide who succeeded Red Parker as sizing up the trip this way:

“We are looking forward to going to Virginia Tech and playing. We are very See Gobblers, Page 37, Column 1