Record Meet Lost
In Sharp Dismissal

It should be evident to everybody that Virginia Tech did not fire football Coach Jimmy Sharpe because his team won the games this season.

After all, Tech was coming off back-to-back winning seasons, its first since 1967-68, and this year's team would have been ranked on a high note by smashing state champion VMI, 27-7.

Yet controversy swirls around Sharpe ever since the coach, who is scheduled to meet with Athletic Director for a decision on his future at a meeting of the Roanoke Valley Sports Club.

All full, there has been rumor after rumor coming out of Blacksburg the past couple of weeks. Sharpe would have been fired had he not been saved anther year. Athletic director Frank Moseley would retire, or be retired. He announced his retirement this morning.

Now the burning question remains: Who will select the successor for Jimmy Sharpe?

The answer: Tech boosters. Tech backers do not want Moseley to make that decision. They hold him responsible for the school's recent coaching failures, although former president Dr. T. Marshall Hail, Jr., hired Charlie Coffey.

Took to the North

Some things seem obvious to Tech officials as they begin the search for their fourth head coach since 1970.

The school does not need another Alabama man. In fact, it probably does not need a coach with a southern background.

If the Hokies are to succeed, they need to hire a coach who has a strong background in the fertile northern recruiting grounds of the Midwest and New England.

Other than Virginia, Tech must concentrate its recruiting efforts in those states.

That, of course, is to be many successful head coaches around who would be interested in the Tech job, which will pay well and where the facilities are among the finest.

"If Tech had the job, I should probably take it," said Cuill Mills recently. "Wake Forest Coach Chuck Mills said recently.

That is the attitude expressed by most coaches. Of course, somehow, Tech has managed not to succeed consistently.

Given its resources, facilities and ambition, Tech should have found one experienced series like VMI, Richmond, William and Mary and Wake Forest.

Yet, since 1969, the Hokies have lost 14 games and tied one with those schools. Of those five schools, only VPI has Tech's potential, and the Cavaliers are even farther behind in realizing it.

State Teams Alienated

Tech's attitude toward its state rivals has irritated many of them. Keith Pimmian, William & Mary's fullback, expressed the feeling of many state fans when he said before the game last year, "I hate Virginia Tech. I'd rather beat them than anybody."

Instead of whipping up on the state teams and ACC dominant Wake Forest, that providing a nice cushion for most every Tech, Tech has been seeking ways to get some of those teams off its schedule.

Both Richmond and William and Mary go off the Tech schedule in 1981, and at one time VMI had been scheduled too. The three schools recently were put back on.

Tech needs to hire a coach who can solidify the situation, presumably a man who is a proven winner.

The Hokies desperately need to quit dreaming and get to the business of winning. The only way they can be a real-time contender is by winning on the recruiting front.

Evil Tech president Dr. William E. Laverny said, after he got up to his desire for the Gobblers to be a Hokie power. In a recent interview with a Richmond reporter, Laverny said he thought it was realistic for Tech to rank in the top ten "once or twice in 10 years."

Laverny said he considered as Tech's peers in football the Baltimore Colts, the Atlanta Falcons, the Pitt, Georgi State, Penn State, Auburn and Texas A&M.

Somebody at Tech has to quit kidding. Top 20, maybe, but Top Tech. Pop Warner has no place in the Top Ten and probably none ever will, but that's no disgrace.

Tech also does not have the advantages, either tradition or financial, of Pitt, Penn State, Maryland or North Carolina.

But what the Hokies can be, the very good, they can be without the money. They can win with a solid defensive unit and hire a solid man who can produce that kind of team, they should be happy.

Illusions are the tools with which coaches' graves are dug.

Tech can not afford to make a mistake this time. No program can succeed if it is fired or hired every three or four years. If the Hokies don't believe that, they have all they do to look at what has happened in Charlottesville for the past quarter-century.