Sharpe Wasn't Fired Because of Record

It should be evident to everybody that Virginia Tech did not fire football Coach Jimmy Sharpe because his team lost the game. After all, Tech was off cooling off back-to-back win-

ning seasons, its first since 1967-68, and this year's record was not marred by

smashing state champion VMU, 27-31. You can't fire a football Coach ever since

the coach publicly apologized for his conduct at a meeting of the Roanoke Valley Sports

Club. Sharpe is an elegant fellow and too smart to keep coming out of

Blackburg. Sharpe would not fire. So, the new athletic director Frank

Mosley would retire, or be retired.

There was no mention of Mosley in Monday's team. False Illusions are the

Tech. Yet surely the case is not closed in Blackburg.

Maryline Mosley, 65, and many influential assets want him out. A delegation of Richmond alumni signed a peti-

tion 10 days ago, calling for Mosley's ouster.

The athletic department's criteria which will se-

lect the successor for Jimmy Sharpe?

It may perhaps, Tech officials do not want

Mosley to make the decision. They hold him re-

sponsible for the school's recent coaching failures, although

famous coach for T. Marshall Rachel, Jr., hired

Charlie Gofery.

Tech Needs Strong Recruiter

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

now.

The school does not need another Alabama man. In fact, no school need not go to a south-

ern background.

If the Hokies are to succeed, they need to hire a coach with a better knowledge of the Notch north-

ern recruiting area of Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, and West Virginia. Richmond and Central Virgin-

ia concentrate its recruiting efforts in those states.

There are bound to be many successful head coaches in other parts of the country, but Tech is the

job, which will pay well and where the facilities are abundance.

"I think that should be a helluva job." Wake

For

State

East

Region

riches.

That is the attitude expressed by most coach-

es. Only, somehow, Tech has managed not to

considering that.

Given its resources, facilities and ambition, Tech

is the place to go, according to many observers, VM.

Richmond. William & Mary and Wake Forest.

Yet, since 1968, the Hokies have lost 14 games and

the most with these schools. Of these five losses,

only UVa has Tech's potential, and the Cavaliers are even
er better because of their facilities.

Tech's attitude toward its state rivals has irritated

many of them. Keith Firmian, William & Mary's full-

back, expressed the feeling of many state fans when he said before this year's
game, "I hate Virginia Tech. It's the toughest game we play all year.

Instead of whipping up on the state teams and ACC, dormant Wake Forest, thus provoking a nice four

city series, the Hokies have been content to seek better teams, who

been seeking ways to get some of those teams off its sched-

ule.

Both Richmond and Virginia did not offer Tech

the schedule in 1968, and at one time VMU had been scheduled to take

off, although the Keystones eventually were back on.

Lavery Thinking Big Time

Tech needs to hire a coach who can satisfy the situa-

tion, presumably next year, and that's what A. Larry

Thomas needs to do.

The Hokies desperately need to cut dreaming and
give the business at hand, which is holding a competi-

tive program. They need to win seven games on a reg-

ular basis.

Even Tech president Dr. William E. Lavery can get

upset in his desire for the Hokies to be a big-

time power. In a recent interview with a Richmond re-

porter, he said Tech was not good enough to bring up in

as a team to rank in the top ten "once or twice in 10 years.

According to Dr. Lavery, Tech debuted in college foot-

ball "the members of the Atlantic Coast Conference, Florida

George Tech, Penn State, Auburn and Texas

A&M.

Somebody at Tech has to quit kidding, top 26.

Storey, ex-US Army coach, a big man with the

drive to win 10. Don't let that last game come any
close to the Top Ten and probably none ever will, but

that's the game Tech fans expect.

Tech also does not have the advantages, other

traditional, geographical or financial, of Pitt, Penn

State and Notre Dame.

But what the Hokies can be is very, very good.

They have the potential to be, and the way to get

in touch with that, and hire a solid man who can produce

that kind of team, they should be happy.

Fans from which coaches' graves are dug.

Tech can not afford to make a mistake this time. No

program can afford a new coach is hired every three

or four years. If the Hokies don't believe that, then

all they have to do is look at what happened in Char-

lottesville for the past quarter-century.