Wave Of Bad Conundrum Engulfs Sharpe

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A long succession of events, starting with pre-season injuries to key personnel and ranging through a charge of public unprofessionalism reaching behavior and more injuries, turned into a tidal wave which inundated and wiped out a career Monday at Virginia Tech.

Jimmy Sharpe, who might have had fleeting thoughts Saturday that a 2-7-1

inertial arch of rival Virginia Military Institute could turn back the wave of from-which mounted with almost every passing weekend, lost his job Monday.

The action, which came in an announcement from President William E. Mosesley, had its financial ramifications to Sharpe, who had a 2-7-1 campaign following winning records of 8-8 and 6-6, would be honored. Gesu's team home and with only a semi-final for a lesser reasonable amount (not mentioned) is possible.

Preusmably, a committee appointed by Dr. Laver was undertaken the task of reviving and screening applicants for Sharpe's successor, but that project has not yet been outlined.

Normally, Athletic Director Frank O. Mosesley, who was called out of retirement to conduct a national search for the new AD, had been on the staff of Paul "Bear" Bryant with Sharpe at Alabama, had done his best for ECU and was ready for a new, bigger challenge.

PLAYING GOBBLERS ANGRY

Presumptuous as these name projection, had been, at least in the estimates, they must (7) now be given serious consideration — even by a team. About midway Monday, Jimmy Sharpe had lost his Tech post after four seasons, leaving a squad described as near-mutinous.

This is the "third in a series" of rebuilding Tech football fortunes about in get under way, but Mosesley may not be a part of it. He's due a "second retirement," and it should not surprise anyone if he decided — right now — that it's about time someone else came along to give the squad direction.

Mosesley must be given a major share of the credit, along with the late Sharpe, E.C. Cade, for starting Tech on the way up. Then four years ago he gave up his college coaching post, looking for the school's football destiny into the hands of Sharpe. That followed the ouster of Charlie Cleary.

FRIENDS BECOME FOES, QUICK-LIKE

Electricity, like lightning, is a "third in a series," and Sharpe's the second, so it's not unlikely that Mosesley could feel that the program should be given a fresh start, as in speaking

with a new AD and a brand-new head grid coach. Even some of Frank's old friends, recently turned critics, might argue.

Whatever, Mosesley would advocate "slow but deliberate speed." We asked "how quickly would Dr. (William E.) Laver, president of Tech, set the wheels in motion to get a successor for Sharpe, and Mosesley replied, in effect, "that's the risk."

It had been pointed out that recruiting would be hampered to possibly a great extent if no quick replacement was found. To that Mosesley replied, "Any time this (changing) situation comes up, recruiting is bound to suffer, but that doesn't mean Dr. Laver or anyone must run any precipitous action.

FINE SCREENING MORE VITAL NOW

"When you are talking about programs, such as ours, with long-range goals, one year of recruiting has an impact, even on seriously impaired is not too much to lose. There's too much at stake," probably meaning that since the "latest in series" has failed, there's a greater need for more careful consideration of Sharpe's successor (and perhaps Mosesley's).

Where asked about possible reaction of fans and alumni of Tech, Mosesley implied that "that's all the more reason for more careful screening of the fans and the alumni." "They've been solidly behind us before, through good and bad, and I believe they'll stick with us again."

Injuries, Rap On Bad Conduct Engulf Sharpe

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of the grounds for dismissal

With the 1971 schedule certain, I saw that only one school in Dr. Laver's thinking

Clemson, also Alabama, one of Sharpe's former assistants at Tech, Charlie Cleary, who was in the on recruitment of surprisingly Fitzgerald, led Clemson to an 8-7-2 record and a bid to the Gator Bowl. Sharpe, it is expected, will take a leave year with the Atlantic Coast Conference Tournament.

Dr. Laver's announcement, which came out of a meeting of the directors of the Southern Athletic Association, expressed recognition of the way Sharpe had "generated a loyalty among the football players that is truly impressive."

Also acknowledged was Sharpe's "energy and enthusiasm, and his drive to give the students and the school a lift," which "makes this indeed a difficult decision. But no one was willing to sacrifice the school's interests, it is what he thought.

My first word, missed in the devaluing of his intercourse with the student body, I do not believe we have a viable alternative here.

"It is evident that the football program, as it is now, needs new leadership. That Virginia Tech is to achieve the potential it obviously has, and I am sorry that Coach Sharpe has not been able to achieve the success he de

I am sure at least for 1977 — seemed doomed even before campaign-

begun.

Just before the first whistle sounded were likely starters Mike Paulson (defensive tackle), Dave Delphi (right end) and Gary Smith (defensive back) missed the first four contests.

Cornerback Henry Bradley's services were also missed in several games, Ed
dinner at Championship game (back) went via sur

gery after the West Virginia defeat, and generally the Gobblers suffered from the cumulative effects of bumps, bruises and hobbling injuries.

As far as the outlook of early documen-
tant was the charge that in a pressroom banquet Sharpe had appeared to be intoxicated. Dr. Laver later ren
ded a "vote of confidence," but it didn't survive the mounting, let re-

cord.

Also remembered as a tone of contentment has been the making of Sharpe's staff of assistants, adjusted as being sus-
picious in reaching talents. The Charlie Cleary and Danny Ford to Clemson also revealed in critical.

Sharpe, CJ, came to the Michigan Tech in the staff of the respectable Paul "Bear" Bryant. His four-year re-
cord with the Gobblers is closed out at 21-2-1.