Special to York Dispatch

Virginia Tech is one of the most improved teams in college football, thanks in large measure to Bruce Arians, a determined young man from York, Pa.

Arians, inexplicably passed over as Tech's quarterback in 1973, could have graduated last June. But he opted for another chance to play football under a new regime, and it has worked out well for everyone concerned.

Tech, under new head coach Jimmy Sharpe, installed the wishbone offense during Spring practice, and the Gobblers had some trouble getting it cranked up in the first three games of the season, but with Arians' patient determination Tech during the last month has presented a formidable attack.

"I've always liked the triple option," Arians says, "and I'm a firm believer in what Coach Sharpe has us doing."

In addition to having a new lease on his football life, Arians is working with a pair of coaches who have been unusually helpful, Nelson Stokley (former All America quarterback at LSU) and Alan Lowry (former wishbone qb and All America at Texas).

"I've really learned a lot," Arians notes.

Stokley is high in his praise of Arians. "Bruce has been a very big factor in the improvement we've shown. He's been a tremendous leader with a super attitude. And he has really come a long way in learning to read defensive reaction; in fact, in the last three games he's been almost 100 per cent in reading defense."

Arians, 6-1, 190, has taken a physical pounding, as quarterbacks in triple option offenses often do, but he's been durable. He lacks only footspeed. Despite that, however, he has scored nine touchdowns, which puts him among the nation's leaders.

Last week against Miami Arians engineered a near perfect td drive and culminated it with a masterful 28-yard td pass to wide receiver Ricky Scales.

Tech finally succumbed, 14-7, to the powerful Hurricanes, but Arians and company demonstrated to the Hurricanes and the Orange Bowl crowd that Tech is indeed one of the most improved teams in college football.