Devoe's Almost Ready

BLACKSBURG — There was a story in Wednesday's papers that caught the eye and fancy of Virginia Tech basketball coach Don DeVoe. The story was about the "best idea" football coach Lee Corso had ever heard.

Corso, who moved from the University of Louisville to Indiana University last January, learned his football, psychology and politics in the service of Tom Nugent. He's had a lot of ideas since he became a professor (at Lehigh) after serving his coaching apprenticeships at Florida State, Maryland and the Naval Academy.

The story was for someone who worked with the imaginative Nugent, creator of the I-Formation, who has to bind a mind in constant ferment. Corso's "best idea" is to hire, as his next assistant coach, a woman. Not just any woman, but one peculiarly prepared to work with a vastly football squad.

Women's lib has nothing to do with Corso's idea. Nor was the idea any hair-trigger brain storm. The Indian coach thought it all out. His woman assistant would have a Ph.D. in education, be athletically inclined and attractive. Her title would be something like assistant coach/cheerleader/graduate assistant in counseling. Her responsibilities would be academic counseling and problem-solving, and, oh yes, recruiting.

DeVoe was eager to discuss Corso's idea on the Wednesday night dinner that kicked off Virginia Tech's annual Sports Carousal. Tech's basketball coach thought the idea of a woman assistant was "퓨리". He was on the record of a man assistant who served as basketball coach, as well as a football coach, well, Devoe thought.

He's Marianne DeVoe, Don's lovely young wife, is nearing her doctorate in guidance and counseling. She fits Corso's mold perfectly. She'll have her Ph.D. As a coach's wife, she certainly appears to be athletic and she could help with the problems of college athletes. And is Marianne DeVoe ever attractive.

When the Tech basketball coach is ready to hire his woman assistant, he won't have to leave home to sign her.

What a Beautiful Summer

DEVOE, WHOSE HOKIES won the NIT championship last March in the most sustained, over-four-game period, excitement ever generated by any college basketball tournament, says his team is enjoying a summer of the most beautiful sunny weather he's ever known. He's relaxed — as Dean Martin appears to be on television. But, whereas Martin's relaxed manner is perhaps a studied and practiced thing, Devoe's is natural.

The NIT championship, as he puts it, may have been a once-in-a-lifetime happening, but it was pure happiness in the making, and signs are the team is enjoying a beautiful summer. He was relaxed, he was relaxed as the many letters he received from alumni of other Tech's NIT championship, the entire State took pride in DeVoe's Hokies, championship. As the entire State took pride in DeVoe's Hokies.

Golf is the major sport at Tech's Sports Carousal, and never have so many attacked a golf course with so little success as did those of us who were written off as athletic不及格 students. Golf is, the Scots say, an "unprofitable" game, but the 98-100 (and over) shooters here are far from humiliated by their scores. They were very far from putting the knuckle on the golfers "call them "mossy mouth disease" that is golf," they "hoof it all day and mouth it all night.

Rogers' description of golfers is, of course, only half true today. The Johnny Duffers and Bill Bogeys are no longer hoovers; they ride in golf carts.

DeVoe is no golfer. He was president, Marshall Hahn, Jr., or football coach Charlie Coffey. They go in for board tennis. There's competition in that game, too.

An Experience in Houston

BEST OF THE golfers Thursday morning was Dan Henning, who returned to Blacksburg as Coffey's offensive coordinator after one year with the pro. Henning played the Blacksburg course in 75 strokes.

Henning, who took the offensive coordinator at Florida State, was the first assistant hired by Coffey when he became Tech's head coach. Henning installed the Florida State offense here and, with the exception of the Hokies' offense, of the best, statistically, in major college football. Then, Florida State coach Bill Peterson was hired by the Houston Oilers. Henning was the Oilers' head pro and was also an assistant's help in his salary to the pro coaching ranks.

The offer Peterson made Henning was one of the former Wally Jenkins' questions. Henning refused it. Henning's offer was one with the pros Henning was more than ready to return to Blacksburg. And Coffey welcomed him back.

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