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game. I firmly believe we’re two positions away from being a
great football team.

Those positions are quarter-
back — vacant since multi-
talented Phil Rogers
graduated — and one
linebacker spot — where Doug
Thacker graduated.

The leading quarterback
candidate is Mitchell Barnes,
a 6-0, 190-pound senior. He
rushed only 22 times last fall,
for 39 yards, and completed 14
of 28 passes. Barnes’ best
attribute may be his familiar-
ty with Tech’s Wishbone, since
it takes a well-seasoned player
to handle the option offense.

Returning to the backfield is
junior Roscoe Coles, who, if he
maintains his present pace,
should break Tech’s career
rushing records. He had 1,045
yards last year and 10
touchdowns. He has a goal this
year of at least 1,500 yards.

Further experience can be
found in senior fullback
George Heath, senior Paul
Adams and senior Chuck Nu-tycombe. If Sharpe wants to
turn to speed, he can use Dick
Holway, Larry Fallen, Dennis
Scott and Ellis Savage.

The defense is in solid shape,
a far cry from that night in
1973 in Tuscaloosa. Ally All
of the down linemen return, led
by ends Keith McCarter and
Stuart Patterson. Linebacker
Rick Razzano, a two-year
starter, is a possible All-
America.

The secondary lost corner-
backs Bill Hardee and Flash
Davis. Junior Henry Bradley
should have one corner
position, while sophomore
Gary Smith should start at free
safety.

It’s a talented, motivated
and experienced Tech team for
the upcoming season. It’s also
a team with a favorable
schedule — eight of its 11
games are inside Virginia.

With our players and
coaches more familiar with
our total operation, we hope to
continue to improve at an even
faster rate that we have in the
last two years,” Sharpe said.

Last yeat’s record: 8-3
Lettermen returning: 37
Lettermen lost: 17
Starters back: 10

STRENGTHS: A defense that allowed only six touchdowns in its last five games, in-
cluding meetings with Peach Bowl invitees West Virginia and Houston. Running back
Roscoe Coles is a solid athlete who anchors the Wishbone offense. Coles rushed for over
1,000 yards last year, and has scored 16 touchdowns in his last 19 games.

WEAKNESSES: There is no proven quarterback on hand, who can take over the
Wishbone. Senior Mitchell Barnes is the leading candidate. Although the job could go to
sophomore Eddie Smeltz, who sat out last year, or sophomore David Lambie.

COACH’S COMMENT: “We have high hopes. We know we’ll have good starting units
and we can develop the depth. We are getting super team leadership from the seniors
and (Rick) Razzano, who’s unusual because he’s started for so long. We have at least
three and maybe five pro prospects. That’s a big change from when we first got here.”

THE SCHEDULE: SEPT. 2 — William & Mary; 9 — VMI at Richmond; 16 — at Virginia; 23
Kent State; 30 — West Virginia; NOV. 6 — Tulsa; 13 — at Richmond; 20 — at Florida
State.