Hokies To Shake Their Slow-Start Syndrome

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In the past, Virginia Tech has wel-
tered its football opener the same way that a four-year-old looks forward to his first day of nursery school—reluctantly, and with a great deal of wailing and wailing and grinding of teeth.

"I can't really be held accountable for what happened the seven years before I got here," Jimmy Shane, named as the season opener, laying in the Tubbs, and Madison, will be hopefully to upend the season-opening tie that Glenside State that kept the Duke from the 1-8-2 record last year, while Cavaliers Conference renegades Richmond (5-6 last year) will be visiting Atlanta (7-4-2).

In the ACC, North Carolina (5-7-1) will be facing Duke. Florida State Menage to direct its fortunes against Tangerine Bowl champ Miami of Ohio (11-1-0) at 1:30 in Atlanta.

Menage, a defensive back as recently as two weeks ago, became the Tar Heels' starting QB after injuries to the other three candidates for the job.

A little later in the day, Robert "Bo" Rei will receive his baptism as N.C. State's new head coach as the Wolfpack takes on the Hokies. In this game, Rei's debut is expected to be a successful one, although the Wolfpack will be without injured fullback Ralph Stringer, a two-time ACC free safety.

Virginia Tech's Shane, for one, could tell Rei a little about injuries. Two weeks ago, the Hokies had to call off all scrimmaging because 19 players were unable to take part in contact work, and at least on offense, safety, Henry Bradley, is questionable for today's game.

"It's a probably non-starter," conceded Shane. "We're going to give him a still-sole shoe before the game and see if he can push off on his ankle. If not, we're not going to play him.

Sharpe's worst fears proved groundless as defensive huluver Tom Beauley and Bill Howard returned to the active list. In fact, their absence from drills proved to be a blessing in disguise as Sharpe was able to oversee a couple promising freshmen, Steve Halverson and Doug McDaniel.

The Hokies' two-deep also includes wide receiver Ricky Hall, a high-school star who transferred from Virginia Tech (7-4-2) last year, will be visiting Atlanta (7-4-2).

"It seems like things are clearing up really well," said Shane. "I don't think any defensive football coach goes through more nauseat-
ing experiences than anybody else," said Shane. "Just the other day, I was half,sic to death when Mitch Barnes turned his ankle in practice."

With Barnes and Gage out, it's a true concern that Virginia Tech might be on the ropes, but Sharpe's concern is overstated.

"We haven't talked about Wake Forest, we haven't mentioned revenge," Sharpe re-
terated. "We'll go into this one cold-blooded-
ed just like we tried to do every other game since I've been here."