WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.—"Wake came for blood. They came at us hard," said Virginia Tech head football coach Jimmy Sharpe of the Wake Forest Demon Deacons defeated by his team 23-6 in its opening game Saturday night.

The coach continued: "Mitchell (Barnes, starting quarterback) took four basic plays and operated them well . . . it helped us to move the ball faster. Mitchell understands what's going on.

"Paul Adams and George Heath ran real well. The defense wanted a shutout real bad. Roscoe (Coles) got a bruise from a helmet that hit his thigh. I don't know if he'll be ready for Texas A&M.

"Penalties and mistakes were costly to us. We'll get better." Sharpe also praised Coles' running, a good recovery on a kickoff return by Ellis Squires and a key interception by Gene Bunn as well as a timely hit by sophomore Gippy Belcher. Starting in place of the injured Henry Bradley, Belcher hit a Wake pass receiver at the right time to cause a fumble recovered by Rick Razzano.

Sharpe reiterated an earlier statement that the team was in the best physical condition at the start of fall preseason training of any team with which he has been associated.

Commenting on the showing of former redshirt Eddie Snell who relieved Barnes at quarterback late in the game he said, "Eddie waited two years for his chance and he surely did well tonight."

Also coming in for individual praise from the coach were defensive end Stuart Patterson, defensive tackle Tom Beasley, strong side linebacker Rick Razzano, side receiver Moses Foster and others.

Coach Mills of the Deacons commented, "We didn't look very outstanding out there tonight. At certain positions people were just not pressing. The offensive line was one and there were one or two in the secondary."

Mills went on, "Our defense played well. In the first half they played damn well."

Asked about a brief discussion he had with the officials during the game, Mills said he inquired about a play on which Wake Forest intercepted a Virginia Tech pass only to have the ball given back to Tech. This came after a personal foul was called on the Deacons on the same play.

Mills declined comment on Sharpe's statement that Wake "came at Tech hard" other than to say "I'm surprised that that coach didn't call a time out with two seconds left, but don't get me into that."

Commenting on the race in Wake's conference, the ACC, he said that Maryland obviously is the favorite; with the strongest team and the weakest schedule.

Wake's schedule, he said, is one of the toughest, adding, "That's one of our conveniences here." Asked if the schedule would ever be softened he replied, "Not in my lifetime or in the lifetime of the next three coaches."