Sloan was at Vandy for two years, leaving there after the 1974 season for Texas Tech. But while Sloan was at Vandy, the Commodores gained ground recruiting in-state players.

Whereas Tennessee used to have its choice, the Commodores actually out recruited the Vols in-state according to some papers. Whatever, Vandy certainly got 50 per cent and cut down the Vols’ edge.

If there was a change, it came in Nashville. Tennessee used to get a couple of players there a year. But in the last few seasons, Tennessee has landed only one or two.

As for Coffey, he was a successful recruiter at Tech if nothing else. He cut Battle’s recruiting down in East Tennessee and Southwest Virginia.

A good example of Coffey’s role in the Battle story is George Heath. He is now a key player if Virginia Tech is to get its offense rolling again.

Four years ago, Heath was Tennessee’s No. 1 prep standout before he chose to go to Tech.

Memphis State has also gained ground in its program. While Tennessee always had luck recruiting in Florida, Doug Dickey cut the Vols off to some extent when he took over as the Gators’ coach.

So Battle isn’t a bad coach. Unlike past Tennessee coaches, he didn’t have clear claim to all recruits. That’s what happened in Big Orange country and it’s created quite a stir all the way to Pittsburgh.