VPI 'Regroups' To Face Keydets

"We've been here before," Coach Jimmy Sharpe noted as Virginia Tech was picking up the pieces of defeat. "I think we'll bounce back."

Sharpe and staff, and some of the older players, knew what kind of a fight they would have on their hands before last Saturday's contest, which was a 27-15 loss to William and Mary. The younger combatants soon found out. And they'll likely get another taste this Saturday because it's doubtful that any VMI team ever was "flat" in preparing itself for a struggle with the Gobblers.

Fortunately, Sharpe's approach remains trying to get the Gobblers doing their own thing. He's especially groping for that intangible of "making something happen."

The ball hasn't always bounced Tech's way, but, Sharpe points out, "You make the ball bounce."

While Tech has been searching for almost three weeks for a combination that would make something happen the most stable ingredients have been the Gobblers' upfront defense and the kicking game.

One change appears certain. George Heath, who through the first four games split time at fullback with Paul Adams, is returning to right halfback, putting Adams, Heath and Roscoe Coles in the starting backfield.

The quarterback slot might be up for grabs amongst senior Mitch Barnes, a most knowledgeable operator of the wishbone, and a pair of sophomores, Eddie Snell and David Lamie (lame).

Lamie, who lettered at defensive back as a freshman in 1975, had not played in 1976 until midway in the third quarter last Saturday. He's a scrambler who has an unusual knack for turning a bad play into a good one.

There seems to be no one item that has kept the Gobbler offense from being as effective as in the past, but Sharpe and company are dialing for a combination that will add an explosive dimension.

Before the season opened, Tech expected to have a sound defense, but the kicking game was a question mark.

Except for one return last Saturday, the kicking game has been more than might have been expected. And George Roberts, a junior walk-on (who is no longer a walk-on), in the last month has blossomed as a premier punter.

But a successful football team seems to take a little sprinkle of magic, and at the moment the wand seems to have been misplaced.