Coach Sharpe Says Team Put It All Together For Keydets

RICHMOND—When he was asked how he got it together in Tech’s fifth game for the offensive explosion that toppled VMI, headcoach Jimmy Sharpe of Virginia Tech nodded in the direction of his team in the locker room and said, “I didn’t. Those guys in there did. They got it together. We can do it every Saturday.”

“Our opponent had a great football team... George Heath’s leadership helped Mitchel Barnes execute well. Roscoe (Coles) and Paul (Adams) ran great today.

“Defensively (Keith) McCarter, (Tom) Beasley, (Stuart) Patterson and some others were just doing their thing.”

Reminded that Tech put no passes in the air all day Sharpe replied, “I don’t care if we pass or run as long as we win.

“Roscoe did a super job of blocking on the corners.”

Asked about criticism after Tech lost to William and Mary last week Sharpe smiled and said, “They’re the folks who put the dollar down” and added: “Everybody was questioning and negative but I had faith in these people. The game has to be played with desire. They were all up for it. Maybe it’s because we only practiced three days.”

Asked about the jacket he wore which said “head coach” on one side and “I’m a Hokie and proud of it” on the other side he said he had made it himself and noted “I’m proud to be associated with Virginia Tech.”

Commenting on senior Greg Payne who had several outstanding punt returns including one for a 70-yard touchdown he said “Payne did a fine job. He ran back two other kicks for touchdowns, in the spring games of the past two years. We’ll try to run it back any time we can.

“South Carolina (last year) was the last time we didn’t throw it at all.”

Asked whether he had definitely decided on a quarterback Sharpe replied: “I thought Mitchel played real well” and also complimented Eddie Snell and David Lamie.