Coaches Comment On
Crucial Hokie Win

CHARLOTTESVILLE—Virginia Tech head football coach Jimmy Sharpe had no hesitation when the Hokies desperately needed a first down in the fourth quarter while trailing 10-7.

"We gave it to our best runner behind our best blockers."

By the best runner he meant running back Roscoe Coles, who ran for the first down and later the winning touchdown. By the best blockers he meant fullback Paul Adams and the right side of the offensive line: guard Barry Miller, tackle Keith "Whale" Gibson and freshman tackle end Mickey Fitzgerald.

"The last year's West Virginia game were running through my head and I said 'no way we're going to happen again.' We reached back and got a little extra. We showed character and under the circumstances I was pleased."

Last year against West Virginia Coles, who had carried the ball many times that day, was stopped short of first down on Tech's final chance to win.

Coles said "They mentioned the West Virginia game in the huddle but they didn't need to. We knew what to do."

Sharpe continued "At halftime we discussed the mistakes we had been making, fumbles and the interception and went back out to play 30 minutes of football.

"Mitchael (Barnes) had been pitching the ball too early in the first half and he did a better job in the second half.

"We got our outside veer going and our people really responded. When Virginia went ahead Rondal Davis (senior left tackle) said 'let's take it down the field. We have plenty of time. Don't go for the bomb. Do what we do best and that's what we did. We stuck to our knitting.'"

As asked about the switch of former backup quarterback Eddie Snell to defensive secondary at strong safety he said: "We definitely need help in the defensive secondary and he can help us. He stepped into a starting role after only three days of practice.

"We regrouped at halftime and in the second half we mixed it up. Mitch did an excellent job of handling the offense.

"Davis, Paul Adams, Dennis Fitzgerald and some others blocked real well."

Virginia's first-year coach Dick Bestwick commented: "We tried to show them the pass every play because we felt that their linebackers would drop, giving us room for run draws and counters... It was a hard-fought football game, I though we played well enough to win, but they had it when they needed it."

A SERIOUS MOMENT—Head football coach Jimmy Sharpe (hand on hip), and some of his coaches and players wear concerned looks as they watch developments on the field during a serious moment for the Hokies.