Roscoe Coles, stellar offensive back, made the biggest defensive play of the game last Saturday, and Virginia Tech's secondary is still beleaguered with injuries, but no, Coles will not become the latest addition to the weekly guessing game of who's going to be in the Hokie defensive backfield.

One who did voluntarily make the move, quarterback Eddie Snell, started at strong safety and performed so well that he likely will remain in the secondary game of musical chairs.

Momentarily, Tech's defensive backs include a pair of converted wide receivers (Dale Babione and Chip Keatley), an erstwhile tight end (Tom Cooper), a converted linebacker (Steve Scott), a couple of walk-ons (Denny Windmuller and Matt Mead), some walking wounded (Henry Bradley, Chip Keatley, Gene Bunn and Gary Smith)—plus some wounded who finally couldn't walk (Nick Rapone, Gippy Belcher and Rick Harman).

Harman returned as a holder specialist in the VMI game.

Smith, starting free safety until sidelined two weeks ago with a shoulder injury, is expected to return for this week's homecoming clash with Kent State.

Rapone, who underwent pre-season surgery for a shoulder injury, is back to working out.

And Coach Jimmy Sharpe has announced that his number one priority for the week is to try to work in such a way that at least some of the many injured might be healed before Saturday.

As usual, Coles is among that number, but, as usual, he'll be operative by 1:30 p.m. Saturday.

After three straight neighborhood brawls, during which many of the existing injuries occurred, one might anticipate the Hokies being "flat," but at least two factors are working in the direction of the Gobblers being quite ready.

Most of the Tech squad remembers last year's 17-11 defeat at Kent State.

And this being homecoming, the Gobblers have a well established tradition. Hokie teams have won 17 of their last 20 homecoming contests. And the three losses were by a combined total of five points. That adds up to Tech teams playing well before the old grads.

Perhaps an even more important consideration is that the Gobblers last Saturday proved to themselves that they're capable of doing a first-rate job when the chips are down.

With momentum and the lead swung in Virginia's direction and just 7:12 left in the imbroglio, Tech used up more than six minutes while marching measuredly to victory.

Aside from Coles' clutch tackle, the Hokies didn't get what would be called a "big play," but the Gobblers did get consistently confident play most of the day.

And confidence has become the name of the game. In the first four games of Sharpe's regime, which started in 1974, Tech went 0-4. Since then the Hokies are 16-8, and they firmly believe that they're meant to be winners.

Disregarding whatever the tune might be for this week's musical chairs with the personnel board, the Hokies will be better prepared for getting the job done.