It was just over a week ago that Virginia Tech Coach Jimmy Sharpe made the fatal mistake of saying 85 ain't the limit. Since then, the Seminoles are improving their record and that was how Richmond beat the Hokies.

The boo-birds will be on Sharpe in frocks if he has 85 victories per year. Liked to be Tech's countdown to greatness and losing to two in-state teams is far from greatness.

Sharpe's games as it is, he doesn't feel too comfortable in Blacksburg and is beginning to believe that his new house of glass is not.

Apparent, Sharpe is feeling pressure most people aren't aware of. Sharpe wears a short shirt and trousers every game, which was made just for him. But it's in style for a 63 coach.

Things might get worse before they get better for Sharpe. He'll be doing well to win six games next year, next just because his schedule is tougher but because he loses the heart of this team this year.

Charlie Coffey resigned under pressure at Tech and no one cried when he left. But in retrospect, Coffey's players are the ones who have been the nucleus of Sharpe's team. Sharpe had really not done as well recruiting as Coffey did.

Paul Adams, George Heath, Tom Beasley, Ronal Davis, and Mitchell Barnes and Moses Foster are just a few of the players Coffey recruited for Tech. The team that Sharpe's crew has recruited include Roscoe Coles and Rick Razzano.

The Gobblers had a chance for a good season this year, especially in 64 or 74, well, they are one the most standards. But Hokie fans have a right to be disappointed. If Tech couldn't do it with the talent they have, then they couldn't do it to next year with what is left over.

But maybe Sharpe isn't the man to blame. Terry Claybrooks probably the one person that is; he's a top-notch coach, but he couldn't get the job done in Tech.

He was canned during his last season which was 45-7.

One of Sharpe's big problems is his wishbone. He may not run it, but he's feeling pressure that it should. A few years ago, the wishbone was the best offense going, but it isn't going much anymore.

Sharpe was weened on the wishbone. He'll never find fault with it. But when Tech is training and needs a quick touchdown, chances of the wishbone producing are slim to none.

Because the Hokies' have lost to Richmond and William and Mary, the alumni will be grumbling. There won't be any loud cries for Sharpe's head, but there will be some moans of discontent.

Should the Gobblers lose to Florida State, they will have lost their last three games. That's a pattern.

But Tech lost its season when it lost to Texas A&M. That game changed Tech as a team and Sharpe as a coach. He still rolls out that down-home southern drawl, but he is careful about what he says. He isn't as reachable for the press or as visible to the fans quite as often.

The thing people took for granted, Tech's team this year was its defense, but Tulsa and Southern Miss were able to break it, not to mention the job William and Mary did.

Sharpe can't explain what has happened to his team this year. He said that it hasn't been up. With the switching of personnel in the secondary, the Gobblers have been vulnerable to the pass. But they have also been vulnerable to the run; and that wasn't expected.

I think the truth probably is that Tech isn't as good as a question mark about everyone, including Sharpe, thought. He can't be blamed for a bad job of coaching. The Gobblers were overrated before the season started and have probably done as well as they should do.

A loss to one team, like W&M, can be explained as a fluke. It wasn't better team that beat them when Tulsa and 'A&M won, but Richmond's showing proved that W&M's win wasn't an accident.

Tech fans should just accept the fact that the Gobblers are still building. Sharpe goes off this pass of himself (and his talent when he expected big things this year. He gets a little lost this enthusiasm.

This season has to be more disappointing than his first year when Tech went 47. The Gobblers weren't expected to do well that year. Last year's 8-3 season spoiled people. Before the season even started, Tech fans were talking about bowl bids. Now, however, the fans should realize that Sharpe has built the Gobblers up to a good team, but not a great one.

If Tech wants greatness, Sharpe should be given a few more years to work. That's no product it. He made the team respectable but is still aiming high.

The illusions of grandeur that Hokie fans had to start this year have been shattered and shouldn't be pumped up next year. But Tech won't be bad and that's reality. There are a lot of teams that would more than settle for that.

What would the Tech people be saying if their team had Virginia's record?