Moir Profiled

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For most Tech undergraduates the name Charlie Moir was news to them when the new Hokie basketball coach took over last spring. But to Tech alumni and long-time Hokie fans the name is more familiar. Moir spent four years of the 1960's here in Blacksburg: 1963-1967. Two head coaches in succession directed the program then, Bill Matthews and Howie Shammon, and Moir developed the skills to be a successful head coach.

And a success he was. Taking the reins at Roanoke College in 1967, he directed the program to three consecutive Mason-Dixon Conference championships. From dominance in the local area the Maroons moved to bigger and better things: leading in the finals of the NCAA regionals in 1970-71 and winning the Division II national title in 1971-72.

After a 23-6 season in 1972-73 Moir moved into the big time. The program at Tulane turned around with him at the helm, improving from 12-14 his first year to 18-9 last year, the best year for the Green Wave since 1948-49. Moir's residuals were certainly impressive when Tech hired him to take over the Tech program.

The "down-home" demeanor of the new Tech coach reflects his upbringing. A native of Franklin, N.C., Moir spent his college years at Appalachian State, where he played basketball and baseball. He first turned his postgraduate attention to baseball, spending three years in the Cincinnati Reds' organization. After that time he turned to coaching basketball, where he was immediately successful. Eleven years of high school coaching brought him a 22-42 record, leading to higher pursuits.

From this list of successes it is obvious the coach has a winning formula. He has shown it so far at Tech in a pressured atmosphere for a new coach. Hokie fans are used to cage success, with last year's NCAA team helping to set their standards high. Enter the controversy over the departure of Don DeVoe and the subsequent late recruiting start after all the hassles of transition. But Moir has weathered the problems well.

His success lies in a laid-back demeanor and an excellent attitude towards coaching. The coach is calm on courtside, letting his assistants supply the theatrics. Meanwhile he substitutes freely and with excellent timing, as shown with Tech's use of 10 players so far this year. One of Moir's favorite words is "improvement," and it is obvious that Tech's young team is hustling and improving as time goes on. No promises are given by Moir, just hard work.

The new Hokie mentor was chosen College Division Coach of the Year by the Associated Press after Roanoke College's championship season in 1972, a good indication of his capabilities. Tech must have known this to have dumped DeVoe, and it seems that their faith has been well-founded.