KUNG FU TACKLE?—Freshmen wide receiver Ron Zollincoff of the Gobblers does his best to hold on to the football on a pass reception while Drew Schuett of the Cavaliers has one foot high, apparently to assist him in the tackle. Airborne at right is Cav Tony Blount.

Coach Sharp Disappointed
With Tie-Comeback Was Good

BLACKSBURG—"I just feel empty inside," said Virginia Tech head football coach Jimmy Sharpe after his team rallied for 11 points in the second half to tie a team that ranks among the nation's least impressive, the University of Virginia.

Asked if there was any consolation in the tie he replied "I'm proud of the way they came back. Admitting that a tie is better than a loss he added 'winning is the ultimate.'"

Describing the late fourth quarter drive that led to the touchdown and two point PAT that prevented a defeat he said: "On the last drive it was a combination of things. Something started the adrenaline flowing more. We had good execution. (David) Lami was very calm. During a time out he told me 'We're going to score. What do we want to do on the extra point play?'. We went to our drop back passing game."

The coach said he felt that Tech had the advantage in the first half but "We made a game of it (for Virginia) with our mistakes. In the first half we stopped ourselves with our mistakes. I thought they would be up emotionally."

"In the first half we didn't make anything happen. In the last part of the game we used two wide receivers. They were triple covering Ellis Savage."

"(tight end) Mickey Fitzgerald makes things happen. On one play he blocked that guy 15 yards downfield."

The coach confirmed that Tech's plan after tying was to try to get the football and let Paul "Chile Bean" Engle attempt a field goal. Earlier in the game Engle kicked a 56-yarder, the longest of his career and third longest for a Tech kicker. Wayne Latimer still holds the record of 61 yards.

Sharpe went on: "The defense was outstanding in the second half and played with more enthusiasm. They stopped Virginia and held them from a first down at a critical time."

"Until we stop making mistakes we'll just be an ordinary football team."

Commenting on opponents defenses, he added: "Everybody is keying on Roscoe (Coles, who passed O.J. Simpson's college rushing mark Saturday). They're stacking the linebackers and trying to overplay the outside game while giving us the fullback."

He felt that the turning point in the game from an enthusiasm viewpoint was Engle's second field goal. Tech punted from inside Virginia territory at one point in the game. The coach said that he didn't try for a field goal at that time since Engle would have had to kick into the wind. The kicker missed in a similar long distance into wind attempt earlier.

When asked about turnovers, which have plagued Tech all season he said: "We have fumble drills and practice two hours each day catching passes and handling the ball."

A reporter asked Sharpe if he would be in favor of a sudden death playoff to play out ties in college football games. The coach replied that if such an option were available he would take it.

The coach was asked if the Hokies would pass the ball more against Richmond next Saturday since their comeback against Virginia was largely due to pass completions. He responded: "I'll do whatever it takes to win."

Asked whether his own emotion for the season which now shows Tech's record as 1-3-1 is in any way diminished he stated: "No siree. I come of good stock. I learned to fight early..."

Sharpe responded to another question saying: "I thought we had an intelligent plan for game preparation." He admitted that he did not know that Chip Mark would be Virginia's quarterback until game time. The selection of Mark to head Virginia's offense was not made by Virginia coach Dick Bestwick until shortly before kickoff.

Bestwick Comments:
"Give them credit. They did the same thing last year."
"We're still a team that makes the big mistake at the wrong time. We just haven't matured enough to get it done. I think we will. It's a matter of time and we're that much closer."

"I didn't actually make the decision to use Chip until this morning but I had it in the back of my mind since earlier in the week. I didn't even let the coaches know until this morning. He was extremely poised and executed our game plan very well and if he's not hurt, will start next week."

"On the 2-pointer, we expected them to get on the corner and to either run or throw."

"I think the turning point was when we got that holding call on third and short."

"We were getting underneath coverage and reacting to the ball on their last drive."

"Football's just like life. When you do something good you do it in the last moment not the first. We have that to learn."

"And when we do, we'll be a pretty good football team."

"We also miss not having a long range field goal kicker."

"We thought we were going to win. You're darn right I'm disappointed."