Tech's Phillips resigns post

Add Terry Don Phillips to the list of football coaches who can not stand the "necessary evils" of big time college recruiting and some of the other things that are involved in a major college athletic program.

Phillips has resigned his position as an assistant at Virginia Tech but will remain in Blacksburg to complete work on his doctorate in school administration at Tech.

The 29-year-old Phillips, an All-American lineman at Arkansas, has been an assistant at Tech since 1971.

"I'm at the crossroads of my career," said Phillips. "I have to decide if I can endure the things that go with major college football or if it will be better for me and my family to coach in a non-scholarship program or simply get out of the game and work in college administration."

The decision to resign at Tech was not one made without much thought. Actually, the seed was planted in January 1973 when former Coach Charlie Coffey resigned and Phillips and the other assistants found themselves without a job.

"I saw a lot of the assistants who were older than I was left without anything," Phillips said. "They had families and no place to turn. I decided then to continue my education, get my masters and work on my doctorate. I wanted something solid to fall back on."

Phillips has his masters and is just a bit over a year away from getting his doctorate. He knows he will miss coaching and said Tech head Coach Jimmy Sharpe couldn't have been a better person for whom to work.

"But I couldn't stand recruiting and some of the other things in a big time program," Phillips said. "I loved the on-field coaching. Nothing is than working with young men in a sport like football."

Phillips and his wife have enough funds for him to complete his doctorate requirements. They have sold their house and made other adjustments. His wife, Linda, teaches at Blacksburg High. But she'll have to resign early next year. She is expecting.

"She is due in April," Phillips said. "We don't know if it will be one or two. Either is great with me. We have been married eight years and are ready to begin our family. That's another reason why I'm taking a long look at my future."

Phillips has proven an enthusiastic and capable assistant. He has the character and principal more assistants and head coaches should have. I hope he can continue in coaching in some capacity.