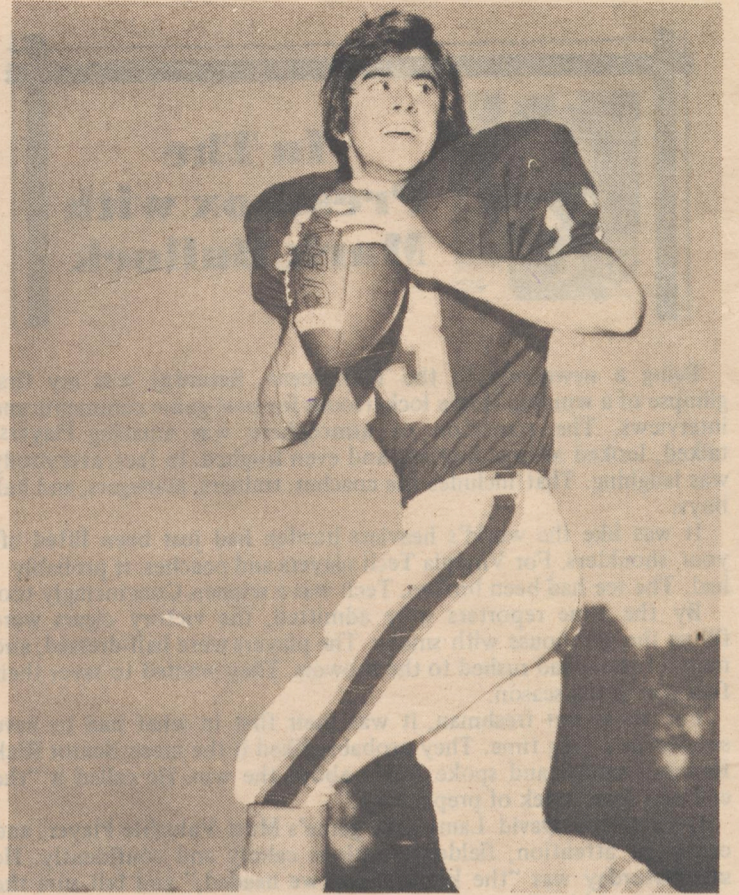


Jerry Sheehan



David Lamie

Lamie Is Most Valuable Player

Lamie-Sheehan Share Bowl Spotlight

By MARK BULLOCK
Staff Writer

It's a shame there can't be more than one Most Valuable Player in any bowl game where the honor is awarded. Despite this, Virginia Tech's David Lamie and Jerry Sheehan shared the spotlight in Saturday's Tobacco Bowl win over William and Mary.

Lamie won the award, and Sheehan won the hearts of Tech

fans in the 17-8 victory, the first of the season, and first since November of 1976 for the Hokies.

Responding to congratulatory remarks about winning the MVP award, Lamie smiled. "I felt like I had a good day, he said. To date, it was his best day, as he rushed for 121 yards in just eight carries, and scored both Hokie touchdowns.

"This was the kind of day we needed to get Virginia Tech back on its feet," the handsome junior from Bristol continued. "After losing the first three, it is a great turnaround." It was a turnaround indeed, as the Hokies did not look like the same team that had suffered three straight setbacks, and were embarrassed by Clemson a week ago.

"It started Monday," Lamie explained. "We had a team meeting," just the players. We talked about a few things that were bothering us. Coach Sharpe came in and just listened."

Whatever they talked about, it

worked. Lamie did his part in silencing a few critics, and for the first time this year the Hokies put together a team effort.

"The whole team played together," agreed Sheehan. "We finally put it all together. We are all in the same boat here. We just decided to talk to each other."

As a result, Sheehan said, "we played with more enthusiasm." That word would mildly describe how Sheehan played. He turned in his finest game ever in a Tech uniform, combining for 31 tackles on the day. He also recovered two Indian fumbles. The 6-1, 212 pound junior played with what he called "a positive approach" and was in the William and Mary backfield as much as Indian quarterback Tom Rozantz.

The quiet giant showed little emotion in the locker room following the win, but his

teammates' obvious exuberance rubbed off a little as he drew on a victory cigar. When asked about the four William and Mary fumbles recovered by the Hokies, he broke into a sheepish grin. Taking the cigar from his mouth, his only comment was, "We hit 'em hard."

Sheehan was involved in more than one bone-jarring tackle, and the hitting of the Hokies helped establish a Tobacco Bowl record for fumbles in the game lost by one team (four).

Playing beside Rick Razzano, Sheehan could give the Hokies one of the best insidelinebacking duos in the South. The two combined for 46 tackles Saturday, better than one-third of the defensive stops.

If the Hokies can continue to put it all together, David Lamie and Jerry Sheehan will play major roles in the squad's continuing success.



WINNING COACH—The winning team's trophy in the 1977 Tobacco Bowl game, sponsored by the International Tobacco Festival, is presented to winning coach Jimmy Sharpe of Virginia Tech following the end of the game.