Fulmer outlines UT needs

Finding a QB is ‘absolutely critical’

By Mike Strange
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When Tennessee’s football squad returned to practice Wednesday after two days off, it was with its attention divided between the present and future.

Head coach Phillip Fulmer and coordinators Larry Marmie and David Cutcliffe were in the here and now at Upper Hudson Field.

The other seven assistant coaches were scouring the countryside for future Vols.

The UT staff took advantage of an open date to evaluate high school prospects for what Fulmer termed another critical recruiting year.

It’s a safe bet one of the Vol talent scouts was working on a quarterback prospect somewhere. Heath Shuler and Jerry Colquitt will be seniors next fall and sophomore Todd Helton’s football status is unsure because of his pro baseball future.

“We need a young quarterback coming in with Jerry and Heath being seniors,” Fulmer said. “We need to sign a guy who can do the things Heath has done for us. We’re basically in a national search and we’re in on some good players.”

Mike Grein, a freshman who is being redshirted, is already on campus, but Fulmer said the Vols need competition and depth at the most critical of positions.

“It’s an absolutely critical year for a quarterback,” Fulmer said.