Seminoles 'Sick' For Tech Encounter

By Bill Cate

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"Easterling is the best pass rusher we have," Coffey says. "We could have used him in the Virginia game. I know this, I'm damn glad to have him back."

Easterling, who left the Tech squad two weeks ago because he didn't like to play football, apparently has had a change of attitude. "I think he's seen the light," Coffey said. "His attitude is much improved."

How do the other Tech players feel about Easterling's return? "I'm sure they're glad to have him back," Coffey added, "but I really didn't ask them. I would have dressed him at the half against Virginia.

Now with the sick list and missing persons taken care of, what chance does Tech have to win the football game Saturday?"

"We have to play a great football game to have a chance," Coffey says, "and Florida State will have to be a little flat. Maybe they will be flat. ... they've played two great games."

Coffey, who admits FSU has better personnel than Tech, says he'll probably throw more than he did against Virginia. "We'll use more formations," Coffey said, "and we'll probably get it in the air more, if that depends on what Florida State does, if we can throw, we'll throw."

Paul Adams, the freshman fullback who played so well against Virginia, has been elevated to a starting position. Don Testerman, also a freshman, will share the running back duties with James Barber.

"Adams, Rodney Schmarr, Barber and Testerman will divide the playing time," Coffey said. "That's why I didn't play him. He asked me some elementary questions the night before the game that I was worried. And he didn't score too well on the written test."

"He told me after the Virginia game that he would be ready to play this week. He wants to play badly and I think he's ready. He's got some talent."

Tech will still run the veer although Coffey says, "It's not our No. 1 shot. When we get these freshmen running backs some experience, we'll run right at the opposition."

If Florida State's defense is tough as advertised, Tech's rookie runners could get more experience than they want Saturday, beginning at 8 p.m.

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a first down and had to punt. This was the first time in his short career at VPI that Coffey has been over 300. His team is 3-2-1 on the year. In his first season, Coffey was 4-2.

"I'm glad to win after having been the favorite. We've been on the other end a lot. I was concerned about the boys letting down, but they were aware of the mental problems after the exciting three-game home stand. For the most part, we were up," the coach explained.

Tech received the opening kickoff and moved 47 yards in 13 plays. A penalty kept the drive alive after Ohio had appeared to have Tech stopped. The touchdown came on a 28-yard pass from Strock to Mike Barrow.

The Beavers had the ball for six plays before running out of downs and punted to the Tech 37. Shelly fired five passes around a draw play and Tech was up 14-6. Ohio had the ball again for three plays, but failed to get the first down and punted. Tech drove to the seven and Dave Strock kicked a field goal. 31-6. With this much of a lead, the Bobcats loosened up and yielded 11 consecutive Beavers who needed 16 plays to score. There was one humdinger in the drive, Ohio quarterback Rich Bevly faked to the fullback but kept the ball. He skirted the right end and scored, but the fake even fooled the officials who blew the "ball" dead on the visitors' 15. The play cost the hosts the services of Bevly.

Despite an interception, Tech came back to score twice more before the half to lead by a commanding 31-7. Tech was able to move the ball almost at will and young Arians engineered a touchdown just before the game ended.

Afterward Coach Coffey explained he was torn between letting Strock stay in the game and using his future quarterback.

"It's a real problem. I wanted to get Arians into the game and I didn't want to embarrass them but I've got a quarterback who is auditioning for national honors and I have an obligation to play him." Strock, who is a most relaxed player, noted the Bobcats shifted their defenses a lot. "We called a lot of audibles and I know I came close to having a delay-of-game penalty called but I had to take that chance.

"I went to our right end, a lot because he was open against one of the defenses they used." Barrow and Mike Colombo who plays that position caught seven for 129 yards.

Scales is superbly conditioned as a sophomore. "There's not a defensive back in the country I feel can cover me. I believe my speed and moves make me unstopable." He said he had caught three touchdown passes in a game as a high school player. Sales has extreme faith in the VPI passing game and plays that way.