Tech suffers scalping by Seminoles

By Wendell Weiszend

Virginia Tech suffered an emotional scalping at the deft hands of the talented Seminoles, but the Hokies didn't allow themselves to be simply impaled upon the beaten pavement.

Coach Charlie Coffey, as emotionally drained as he's been at anytime during his head coaching career, promised better things for the Techmen because, for all the mechanical mistakes, he found no fault in the soul of Tech's efforts.

"I thought FSU would blow us out of the stadium there in the first quarter, but we picked ourselves up off the ground. Our players have courage. What we need is a victory under our belts, and one of these days we're going to blow somebody right out of the stadium."

That's not a threat to any particular future opponent; it's a premise to the Techmen and their boosters.

In trying to keep the Techmen physically fresh in battling the quick-footed Seminoles, Coffey and staff substituted very liberally. Many of the subs were first-degree rookies who made some mistakes but who before long will be making the big plays that spell the difference between winning and losing.

Tech, about to start a three-game homestand against SMU, Houston and Oklahoma State, is the first two games have introduced 26 freshmen and sophomores into varsity competition.

"That's a whole lot more than I envisioned before the season started," Coffey concedes, "but physical status has forced us into doing so at some positions, and in other cases we've felt compelled to do something where we haven't been getting the job done."

Most prominent among the new names Hokie fans are apt to hear and see in the next three weeks are running backs Paul Adams and Don Tasterman (first action was against FSU); kick return specialist Full Rogers, receivers Steve Gallaway, Rich Huebner and Ricky Scates, defensive backs John Bell and Chuck Perdue.

defensive linemen Larry Bearekman, Charley Martin, Rich Easterling and Andre Tennessee and linebackers Jack Crews and Tommy Shirley.

In all, 52 Techmen took part in Saturday's action, and almost to a man it was a great effort. As a group, the
linebackers probably accomplished most, but if you wanted to single out an individual for a super job it would have to be the junior safetyman Jerry Scharman.

"If we had won, he'd certainly be a strong contender for national recognition," Coffey declared.

From an unknown who had to wait patiently until mid-season, 1971, to earn a shot at the Gobbler lineup, Scharman has become one of those on the field leaders who helps keep Tech's emotion battery charged every play every week.

And the emotion-drained Techmen sure are going need some super chargers him for the next seven Saturdays, and Scharman be a defensive co-captain week."