Tech's Fantastic Defense Stuns SMU

By BILL CATE

TIMING OF A WINTER
BLACKSBURG -- Mary Poppins would have loved it. Polyanna would have been right. A victory, or loss, by any other means would have been a travesty.

Virginia Tech's defense, something of a phantom all day, repelled Southern Methodist University on four fourth-down plays inside the Hokies' 10-yard line with less than a minute to go here on Saturday afternoon and defeated the previously unbeaten Mustangs 13-10.

It was a storybook finish. It tied to end that way.

"I knew we'd stop them," said Tech Coach Charlie Cof- fey. "Tech ran the clock out as quarterback Don Strock fed on the fourth down." It was a day for the Tech defense, a maligned unit ever since the glory days of Jerry Claiborne. The defense, real- ly, allowed three points the Tech offense gave the Mus- tangs seven.

About MASON, the fifth leading rusher in the nation who came into the game av- eraging over 100 yards a con- test, was allowed but 79 yards in 28 trips. His running mate, freshmen Wayne Morris who was averaging well over 100 in conference, was held to a mere 55 on eight carries.

"SMU could have converted a offense effect I've ever seen," said Coffey, who played on some pretty fair defensive units at Tennessee. "I've nev- er seen anything like it. It was the game we stand was fitting. It was the only way."

"We wanted to win it in the fourth quarter," said Coffey, "and we wanted the wind at our backs." Tech got it, be- cause SMU chose the ball. "I would have taken the wind if it had been my choice," Coffey said.

Another guessing game was played on SMU's last offen- sive play. The Mustangs lost that one, too.

"I thought they might try the quarterback sneak be- cause Florida State had some success against us with it," Coffey said. "It didn't matter. We were going to stop them at every run." After watch-

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SMU

SMU-Mason 4 7 11 14 17
SMU-Wake Forest 3 2 0 7 10
SMU-Notre Dame 21 21 21
SMU-Duke 21 14 7 7 3

First downs 42 33 27 33 27
Penalties 13 15 15 6 7
Penalties yards 65 69 67 3 4
Passing yards 170 178 114 120 104
Punts yards 35 42 35 33 40
Kickoff return yards 42 43 40 40

SMU Vs. Tech

SMU Vs. Wake Forest

SMU Vs. Notre Dame

SMU Vs. Duke

SMU Vs. Wake Forest

SMU Vs. Notre Dame

SMU Vs. Duke