VPI Heroes
On Defense
Doom SMU

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BLACKSBURG — Wind-battered, fumble-plagued Virginia Tech put its defense to the ultimate test Sat-

day afternoon and came away with the most palat-

ing of results.

This first-ever combat with Southern Methodist University proved to be un-

anxiously full of mistakes.

Yet in the final second of

what became a 13-10 success

for the Goldblitz, it was that
defense which emerged with

the crucial role.

With 2 minutes and 33 sec-

onds to play, the previously

unbeaten Mustangs recovered

the 1th fumble of the wild, cold afternoon.

Then, they drove slowly

from the Tech 30, not towards

a possibly tying field goal, but

towards their third victory.

Finally, it was fourth down

and the Techs hoisted only

a yard from sudden victory.

Two hosts with their third less in

as many ventures this season.

Quarterback John Black-

lier, a sophomore who had not

started, kept the ball, bob-

bled it slightly, then tried to

make the end zone off left
tackle. He was thwarted most

physically by sophomores line-

backer Tom Shirley and Andy

Tennessee.

There were 11 seconds left.

Tech let the clock run out

with not one snap of the ball

and for the first time in four

years it had won before losing

as many as four times.

Next week it tries to even

its slate at 2-3 here against

Houston.

As all, three were 13 turn-

overs. The Goldblitz lost four

of nine fumbles and had three

guns fumbled. SMU lost

3 of 5 fumbles and had two

passes picked.

This is the second-year coach

Charlie Claffey was called

"the greatest defensive effort

I've ever been by the Gold-

blitz's ambitious leader.

"It was only fitting that it

should be won that way at

that place on the field after

what had unfolded before. It's

great to beat someone we

weren't supposed to beat."

Technically, the triumph

was locked up when Dave

Stock converted a 23-yard

field goal, the first of two, to

demolish scoring with 9:23 left

in the third quarter.

That was set up on a

blown field goal attempt by

SMU's Clint Hackney.

The ball was smothered by Tech's linebucker Donnie Spence and picked up by Kent

(Butch) Lewis, who run from

the Mustangs' 41 to their 17.

With the exception of the

invaders' 31-yard field goal

by Hackney with 29 seconds

left in the first half, all points

were the results of those end-

less mistakes or turnovers.

The Methodist's Alvin Mar-

son tallied first from four

yards out after Ted Thompson

had intercepted a pass. Hack-

ney kicked the point.

Tech's Donnie Reed tied it

at 7-7 by taking a pass from

Don Stock for a 42-yard scor-

ing play, with Dave Stock

converting. That brought

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SMU 31-10 Tech

Tech 7

SMU 10

First downs 16 13
Total yards 271 333
Punts 2 6
Penalties 4 3
Penalty yards 44 7

Fumbles lost 3 4

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