Sweet Smell Of Success Permeates
VPI Quarters After Pulsating Finish

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came after freshman Chuck Perdue recovered a fumble at the Gobblers’ 28 late in the first quarter.

Then, Tech went up by 10-7, with 3:26 left in the second quarter when Dave Strock hit his first field goal, this one from 34 yards out. That was the result of an interception by Henry, putting Tech 54 yards away from points.

Hackney’s field goal, which posted the 10-10 halftime count, followed a 52-yard ramble by the bruising Maxson. He actually made it to the 11, but was called back by clipping.

That run and a 20-yard gain immediately after by Wayne Morris were the only plays in which the Tech defense was guilty of physical lapses.

It was, as Coffey suggested, fitting, and also ironic, that from all these mistakes, the fierce play by the defenders and a fumble that was not lost should provide the game’s turning points.

The fumble that was recovered occurred early in the fourth quarter. Tech had just taken a punt on its 39. On second down, J. B. Barber, the game’s leading rusher with 72 yards, fumbled and Southern Methodist apparently recovered possession.

However, the ball kept oozing away from would-be possessors and finally Tech tackle Tom Reynolds pounced on it, giving the hosts a first down on the SMU 47.

No score developed, but this was the only time a ball in the open that was lost by either team was regained. The Mustangs threatened twice after that, but in vain, even though the Gobblers lost a final pair of fumbles.

Also, unfolding in the final minutes was a highly-booted pass interference call against the hosts and a call of “trapped” on an attempted interception by Perdue. That, to c., gnawed the temperment of the throng of 26,000.

The Mustangs had to punt late in that fourth quarter and Barber fumbled from his 36, with Mustang Bob Popelka recovering.

The Ponies went for a first down on fourth and two from their 38. Maxson was maul in the middle and victory seemed inevitable.

Instead, freshman Don Testerman fumbled, SMU’s Ed Johnson recovering to set up that pulsating final push. It was thwarted by the heroes of Blacksburg in storybook style.