Coffey Calls Defensive Effort ‘Best I’ve Ever Seen’

BY MARSHALL JOHNSON
Associated Press Writer

In three starts was the result of what Coach Charlie Coffey called “the greatest defensive effort I’ve ever seen.”

With Strock having thrown a 42-yard scoring pass to Donnie Reel and brother Dave Strock having kicked field goals of 34 and 26 yards, the Gobblers were clinging to a 13-10 lead with 3:34 left Saturday when Southern Methodist recovered a fumble at the Tech 29.

Quarterback John Blackburn hit tight end Rory Best with a 21-yard pass on a fourth-and-eighth situation, and running back Alvin Maxson moved the ball to the one in three plays. But, with 13 seconds left, Tech stopped Blackburn short.

“T’n was only fitting that it ended the way it did,” said Coffey. “You just can’t say enough about that defense. Pressure was put on them over and over again and they stood up there.”

BARBER STOPPED - - Virginia Tech running back J.B. Barber is stopped cold by a host of S.M.U. Mustang defenders on this play Saturday at Blacksburg. The Gobblers wouldn’t be denied on this cold and windy day as they upset the previously undefeated Mustangs 13-10. (pcs photograph)