Jim Barber sets up V.P.I. score
Fiv-Yard Advance Put Ball on Houston 2
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and Tech’s advantage had dwindled to 27-21.

Once more Tech bounced back only to suffer a bad break. John Dobbins made a 14-yard kickoff return to the Gobblers’ 42 then Strock passed to Donnie Reel for 16 yards to Houston’s 43.

On the next play, though, Phil Hahn hit Barber trying to run the middle, Barber fumbled and once more Steve George gained possession for Houston at its own 42.

From this point, for the second straight week, the Gobblers’ defense seemed to stiffened adequately, checking Houston’s next goalward advance at Tech’s 6 with 4:51 of action remaining.

Unfortunately, the offense which was on the verge of running the Cougars out of town in the first half, could post only one first down (with 4:14 remaining) and a sparkling runback on the ensuing punt set up the Gobblers to be deprived of a near certain triumph.

Split end Brian Willingham raced up the sidelines after first fumbling and returned it 36 yards to Tech’s 33. At that moment, the clock showed 2:05 still to play.

Short passes from Nobles to Basler and Bob Ford sandwiched around a four-yard gain by Jones made a first down at the Gobblers’ 20, then immediately on the next play Nobles found Willingham wide open in the end zone.

After Terrell’s kick sailed wide to the left, leaving the teams tied at 27-all, Tech could not move and tried a 70-yard field goal rather than risk a long punt return.

Houston ran off one first down to its 31 but then stalled and the Gobblers could hit only for a 23 yarder, Strock to Valentine, to their 37, when time ran out.

As a result, laid almost to waste were the Tech offensive fireworks dominated by Strock and receivers Valentine, Reel and tight end Mike Burnop.

Strock’s 53 aerial tries and 34 completions topped his previous highs of 45 and 23 set against Oklahoma State last year. His 527 yards beat his former mark of 376 versus Ohio U. in 1971.

Bunup tied the record of eight catches in one game, set by Gene Fisher against Richmond in 1965. Burnop got 117 yards on his catches, Valentine 140 for five receptions, Reel 100 also for five catches.