Strock: ‘Everything Quarterback Could Do’

For the past Year and a half, Virginia Tech’s Don Strock has been the most offensive football player in the Old Dominion, one of the most offensive in the nation.

He ran behind Gary Huff of Florida State but there was a bit of difference in the Seminoles and Strock’s Virginia Tech nationally-ranked teammates.

But this past weekend, as the Gobblers had it within easy grasp of a second straight win over “somebody we’re not supposed to beat,” Strock ran behind no one. He merely stood behind good protection and put on the most fantastic passing exhibition ever seen in the Commonwealth, and it was appropriate that the Old Dominion’s chief executive was on hand.

Houston coach Bill Yeoman, who watched his Cougars barely pull out a 27-27 tie, would have preferred being someplace else, playing some other quarterback — maybe Huff. He felt that the 6-5 205-pound senior was just too much like “John Brodie (San Francisco 49ers). He doesn’t know what third and long yardage is. It’s just third down to him.”

And most of the downs were passing downs, as Strock put the ball in the air 53 times and made connection 34 times (64.2 per cent) for a near record 527 yards (Greg Cook had 17 yards more in 1968 when he was at Cincinnati University). Amazingly, he did not connect for a touchdown, which would have really been great since there was a tendency on the part of his running backs to fumble.

“I thought it was a great thing,” said Tech coach Charlie Coffey, “for anybody to complete 34 passes. It’s even more amazing that he did it out of just 53 tries.

“It’s a tribute to him the way he moved the team up and down the field against as good a defensive team as Houston. He did everything a quarterback could do — scored a touchdown (three-yard run) two-point conversion, everything.

“If he’s not National Back of the Week, nobody should be ever.”

That’s something the wire services must decide.

The Times-Dispatch has decided that Strock is the Offensive Player of the Week in the Old Dominion, overwhelmingly so.