Tech's Back-of-the-Week Strock Prefers Winning to Records

From AP Dispatches

Just about every time he throws a football, quarterback Don Strock sets or adds to some kind of mark at Virginia Tech, but Strock said, "I'm not really shooting for records—the most important thing is to win."

That's something the 6-foot-5, 205-pound senior from Warwick, Va., didn't accomplish last Saturday, even though he completed 34 of 53 passes for 527 yards, just 11 yards short of the NCAA single-game record set by Greg Cook of Connecticut four years ago.

For his performance in a 27-27 tie with Houston, however, Strock was named co-back of the week by The Associated Press with quarterback Joe Ferguson of Arkansas.

"I think we should have won," said Strock, "but I guess the fumbles cost us. We were inside their five twice and fumbled. He blamed himself for one—"it wasn't a very good handoff.""

Ironically, it was one of the few games in the last two years in which Strock hasn't thrown a scoring pass, but he ran for one touchdown and also ran for a two-point conversion.

Houston coach Bill Yeoman afterward compared Strock, now the national leader in both total offense with 288.5 yards per game and in passing with 21.5 completions per game, with John Brodie when the San Francisco 49er quarterback was playing for Stanford.

"It was nice of him to say that," says Strock, whose own pre favorite is Joe Namath—"He's the best in the game," but Strock says, "I don't style myself after anybody—I just try to be myself."

As a sophomore, Strock played in eight games, threw only 46 passes and completed 17 for 189 yards. Then came a new coach, Charlie Coffey, with a new offensive outlook, and last year Strock hit 160 of 306 passes for 2,577 yards and 12 touchdowns.

Though Strock was No. 2 in the nation in passing and No. 3 in total offense, Tech had only a 4-7 record. The Gridironists are 1-2-1 this year, but Strock says, "the way we've played, we should be 4-0."

FERGUSON EARNED his share of the honors with his performance for nine minutes of the Razorbacks' 27-13 comeback win over Texas Christian. In that span, he completed 13 of 17 passes for 235 yards and four touchdowns to pull Arkansas from a 13-0 deficit. For the night, he was 20 of 32 for 304 yards.

Virginia Tech QB Don Strock and Girl Friend Pam Cvetnick Survey 'His World'