Tech's Strock Named Co-Back of the Week

By BILL DEEKENs

Virginia Tech quarterback Don Strock today has some window dressing to go with all that yardage.

For a brilliant performance against Houston last week, the 6-5 Strock shares National Back of the Week honors with Joe Ferguson of Arkansas.

Strock completed 34 of 53 passes for a staggering 627 yards in the Gobblers' 27-27 tie with Houston Saturday at Blacksburg.

The second most productive afternoon in the history of NCAA football vaulted Strock to the No. 1 spot nationally in passing with a per-game completion mark of 21.8.

He also is No. 1 in total offense with an average of 288.2 yards a game.

"I'm delighted," said Strock today on hearing the news of his selection. "It's a great honor with so many fine backs in the country. I only wish we could have won the ball game.

"A lot of the credit ought to go to the offensive line. They did a great job of keeping my uniform clean Saturday."

NO SURPRISE

Strock's back of the week honor comes as no surprise to Houston coach Bill Yeoman.

"Has there ever been a better passing game?" he said in disbelief after the Lane Stadium game.

"I'm just glad to get out from under Strock—he is a senior, isn't he?"

Before coming to Blacksburg, Yeoman单身 out Strock's forte.

"I doubt if there's a better quarterback in the country at reading defenses."

Strock's teammates agree.

"He passes great every game," said split end Craig Valentine, "but his greatest strength is reading the coverage."

"I don't worry about the passing yardage," said Strock. "When I read the defenses and read them right I feel I've had a good game. And I feel I have the best receivers in the country."" -

Confidence also is a Strock trademark.

"I never give up on myself. I think I'm a good quarterback," he says.

Tech coach Charlie Coffey agrees.

"I wouldn't trade my quarterback for any in the country," he said. "I'm just sorry we haven't been a strong enough team to provide him with the window dressing and thereby the recognition he deserves." -

Strock picked the defense apart by first going to tight end Mike Burnop, a seldom used target in earlier games, repeatedly, then switching to wide receivers and backs.

"No, I wasn't mad at Mike in those other games. They're all my friends," said Strock. "Houston at first wasn't keying on him. When they did that left someone else open."

With his great afternoon, Strock replaced Florida State's Gary Huff as the national passing and total offense leader.

"How does he compare to Huff?"

"I don't want to irritate Huff, we've got to face him," said Yeoman. "But you get the idea of how he felt."

Ferguson won a share of the national back of week honor by completing 20 of 42 passes for 304 yards and four touchdowns.

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