Dave Strock’s ‘Shortie’ Clips Cowboys, 34-32

By HAROLD PAEARNSON
Times-Dispatch Sports Writer
BLACKSBURG Whether you take the long or the short of it, Saturday worked its way down to a day for the “other Strock.”

It was a Virginia Tech Centennial, to be sure, since this educational plant in the mountains first was given life in 1872.

And, to be further sure, it was a Virginia Tech Homecoming, since most of the 36,000 filling Lane Stadium were old grads.

But just as certainly, it was a day for Dave Strock.

After all, it was the left-footed kicker who filled the old grads’ hearts with jolly when he kicked the 18-yard field goal with 12 seconds left that gave the Gobblers a 34-32 decision over nationally ranked 19th Oklahoma State in the “biggest” game Sever unfolded before such an appreciative audience.

It was the shirtest field goal of the 24-year-old Pennsylvanian’s career. Earlier, he had kicked his longest, 53 yards.

And there was no reason to believe that the shortest was not something that was coming. Just over a minute earlier, Cowboy defensive back Darryl Stewart had “blown in from nowhere” to block Dave’s try from the 17.

Moments before that, the senior specialist had missed from the 22 but was given new life and a second chance by an Oklahoma State of-fsides.

Ikley Like Loss
It seemed, however, that this was going to be another afternoon that quarterback Don Strock was to have a great game (he did hit 20 of 40 for 355 yards and two touchdowns) only to have the Gobblers fall to the Big Eight leaders.

A gang of Gobblers Larry Bearekman, John Sprenkle, Donnie Sprouse, all defenders wouldn’t have it though.

Following that block of the second attempt, the Cowboys, who ranked second in the country in rushing and had 356 yards against the Gobblers, had the ball on their own two, with 1:15 left on the clock.

They chose not to try riding out the clock, and the handoff was to George Palmer, a big fullback who had been the thorn in Tech’s side most of the day with 128 yards in 29 carries had been the reason the visitors were then up 32-31.

Palmer immediately lost his hero’s halo. Hit 4y several of the Gobbler defenders—Bearekman, Sprenkle, Sprouse, etc. the 20-year-old, 212-pound sophomore came loose from the football and Sprouse fell on it. The clock said 1:10.

Three James Barber tries got it to the one, with 0:15 left.

“We waited,” said second-year Tech coach Charlie Coffey “to call time out (their last).”

It was time, a third time in less than a minute and a half, for the “other” Strock.

The Charmer
The third time was a charm. Tech’s No. 2 citizen of Warwick, Pa., had his biggest moment (brother Don has had many and ranked No. 1 here, as well as nationally in total offense and passing).

And the Gobblers were coming through with their biggest

Two Strock This Time
BLACKSBURG — Oklahoma State’s Cowboys, 20 in the toughest of college football conferences. The Big Eight, were forewarned about Don Strock, Virginia Tech’s great passer.

The scouting report of State’s assistant coach Doug Cathey, who scouted the Gobblers last week against Houston, included these remarks:

“Virginia Tech’s quarterback, Don Strock, may be the finest prospect in America. He’s 6-5 and an ideal dropback passer. He’s strong and he can see over people. He’s a great thrower, but doesn’t run unless he’s forced. He’s the best dropback passer I’ve ever seen.”

The 21-year-old Tech senior from Warwick, Pa., is a nice, obliging young man who doesn’t believe in embarrassing coaches or scouts. He wasn’t about to make a liar of the Oklahoma State scout Saturday as Lane Stadium was bathe d in “Hahmish” weather, meaning the sunny weather Tech’s president T. Marshall Hahn, Jr., "orders" for Tech’s big games.

So Strock went out there against the Cowboys, who two weeks ago defeated No. 3 ranked Colorado, 31-6, and made believers of every Cowpoke, from head coach Dave Smith

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By Chauncey Durden
Times-Dispatch Sports Editor
Tech Lets 'Dave Do It

Continued from 1st Sports Page. A big story coming out of Tech's 50yardback another nationally ranked team. Florida State has been shut out 3 times in past toe.

"Seems really either time..." said Coffey. "It seemed even more when than after last week. We were building the team up. But Houson when Don Strock was a Cataclasm and scored 18 points, and of 13-0 upset of SMU two weeks ago. "But, for there...and another 18 down to the wire. And OSU still went against the Mustangs at the University of Oklahoma.

"They had the chance to lay down many times," said Jeff Smith. "But as a team, we were under...stressed. With less than two of the second half and the game (1-14) visaged, the cowboys were up 18, having converted an interception to a second half touchdown. But a high second pass (first had been in) by Smith (who blocked that second half touchdown attempt of the Tech 14) and returned to the 14. Only took two plays. However, they were too fast for the Tech. Tech was too fast for the Tech for the historic.

"It wasn't even to make them think of a reclining position. You can't have a three run lead. At 8:42, Eugene Jef-

Farnsworth intercepted Jeff Smith aerial at the Cowboy four. But the run from there 20, and it got it out.

Cowboys by 14:4

After 11 plays and five minutes (4:16 left), return quarterback Jeff Trout went the final three and OSU was up 14-4.

"Full exchangers followed behind. But that was a big story. Tech defensive right tackle, fell on a 1-1 yard Smith fumble at the OSU 30 and Tech had an opportunity. With a 1-7 yard pass, Smith was at the Tech 20. The opportunity was con-

firmed. The offense with seven plays, five plays with Barber going the final seven yards up the model.

"I thought J. B. (James) was on the pass. But Strock's running back after the OSU 20. Strock had run with Strock and left two TDs but didn't have a second chance to a fumble. He fumbled twice inside the OSU four a week ago," said Coffey. "I had a...is worked harder out of nowhere. That was a...that's a good story. He had a death grip on it."

This game came with 2:56 left and it was just over two minutes, 10:56 left. Denver Barber, Don Strock also opportunity. Strock was intercepted on the Tech 23, but Palmer fumbled first on the pass and Sprague fumbled next. The last Tech fumble on the 10th play, ninth of the 10th play, ninth of the 10th play. Strock went the last two yards of the 7-yard move and Dave Strock missed the last 14 yards. Strock missed the last 14 yards. Strock missed the last 14 yards.

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