Bob Teitelbaum

The Grocery Man

It is interesting to know that Don Strock, pre-
paring for his most important season, is at work-
ging at a grocery store in North Miami.

This is about 300 miles from Strock's hometown of
Warwick, Pa. The job probably isn't earning him a
lot of money, but it was the best he could get with
his arm Strock shouldn't have any economic prob-
lem following his senior season. Pro football can take

care of that.

Strock is working with back Jim Polito and
defensive tackle Jim Lawler four times a week.
"I throw to Polito and Lawler run. But you can't
really get your timing down until you work with
your receivers," said the Tech quarter-
back.

A little over a year ago Strock was just ano-
ther name on a long list of Tech players
granted by the new coach Charlie Coffey.
He was undistinguished as a sophomore, though
many people knew he was potentially a fine
passer.

Coffee gave Strock his chance last season.
Don responded by lead-
ing the nation in pass-
ing and total offense for mos-

of the fall. Now, going into his fi-
nal year, Strock figures to be one of the best quar-
terbacks in the nation.

This is Don's final chance. Tech hasn't had a
winning record since he reached varsity status.
And this is like a black mark because it used to be
and the Goldbirds never had a losing record during
a player's career.

"I don't like to make any predictions about
this year," said Strock. But he speak-

in enthusiastically,
I hope we get to a bowl game.

The Tech team was 6-7 last year, but scored
a lot of points. "I remember the big-game stags,"
Strock recalled. "We scored a lot and split. It was a
big disappointment. I just want to be doing the
best it could, but it was all so new to them.

Tech switched from a wide tackle six to a 4-3
defense under Coffey.

"It was a big switch," said Strock. "We had the
personnel to play the wide tackle six, but the new
defense was so totally different.

In spite of last year's outlook, the breakout has
Strock taking a new approach to his elision. "Every-
thing has moved so fast in a year. I never thought
it would be this way," he explained.

Not Worried About Pros

Strock admits he has been "thinking a lot"
about the coming year.

His passing, his stats and his future, how-
ever, are not on his mind, that is.

"Winning is the most important thing and I
care how it's done," Strock asserted. "As we
have to pass all the time, we will and if we have to
run all the time, we will.

"But we need both to make either one go," he added,
assuring people that Tech, in spite of Strock's adding machine figures for passing, hopes to have a balanced offense.

As for pro football, Strock says it's not on his
mind. "I try not to think about the pros," he admis-

sed. "I hope to get a chance. There is little
worry of that.

Tech Must Win

Last year Tech came a long way under Strock.
The Hokies didn't win which is the measure of any
quarterback. But the Goldbirds scored. They played
exciting football. They gave their followers hope in
spite of a second straight losing season.

"I was surprised at the way I accomplished,"
said Strock. "But coach (Dan) Henning (Tech as-

tistant now with the Houston Oilers) gave us a lot
of confidence.

The time for simply playing well may be over,
though. Coming close is no longer good at Tech if
the Goldbirds want to keep improving their pro-

gram.

"I'm not worried about our showing as long as we win," Strock said with authority. "I don't like coming close. That's no good. We absolutely want to win.

Close ones in horseflesh and for the first
year of a rebuilding program. There's no more
bragging for Tech. Class was O.K. in 1971; but in
1972 it means nothing more than another loss. That's
the way it adds up for Tech in 1972."