Another Game of Inches

BASEBALL, AS EVERYONE knows, is a game of "inches." There come times too, when football becomes a game of inches. Like yesterday in the muck and mud at City Stadium.

Virginia Tech's favored Gobblers and William & Mary's Indians were locked in a 10-10 game in the fourth quarter. Tech's kicking specialist, Dave Strock, had missed an attempted 31-yard field goal, and the Indians had moved from their 20-yard line to the Tech 43. The stadium clock showed less than three minutes playing time. It was second-and-six for the Tribe.

Bill Deery, W&M's sophomore quarterback, threw the ball high into the air. Mark Smith, Indian tight end, and Bobby Dabbs, Tech's left cornerback, went up for the ball. It was a unequal contest in the battle for the ball. Smith stands 6-3; Dabbs 5-9 1/2. The latter was giving away 5 1/2 inches. Smith grabbed the ball and went in for the touchdown which, with Terry Regan's extra-point conversion, was to mean a 17-16 upset victory for the Williamsburg Tribe.

The Deery-to-Smith touchdown, with Regan's kick, gave the Indians a 17-10 lead, but they don't call themselves the "Fightin'" Indians a 17-10 lead, but they don't call themselves the "Fightin' Gobblers" without reason. Overcoming a holding penalty, the Gobblers, aided by pass interference on the W&M six, swept 84 yards for a touchdown. The score came on Don Strock's pass to Ricky Scales with 13 seconds on the clock.

There was no choice for the Gobblers and their coach Charlie Coffey. They played to win and lined up in regular

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How Sweet ‘Lucky’ Can Be

WILLIAM AND MARY’S first-year coach, Jim Root, summed it up this way: “How sweet it is! How sweet it is! Things had to turn around for us sometime and they did today. You just need some luck to win (close) football games and I’ll be the first to admit we had some luck today.”

What Root was referring to was after three defeats by a total of 11 points (W&M lost a fourth time to West Virginia), the Indians were overdue in still another game where the outcome was in doubt right to the finish. And, as he said, “We also had one helluva effort. We couldn’t have played any better.”

For the Gobbler, who had rallied after losing their first two games to win two games and tie the one against Southwest Conference and Big Eight teams, the loss to the Tribe was bitter.

Like W&M, the Gobbler are now all even for the season with a 3-3-1 record. The defeat also evened Tech’s Tobacco Festival record of 2-2. It was the eighth Tobacco Festival game for the Gobbler who are now 4-4 in the game.

Virginia Tech won a dramatic Last Game of the Season, Virginia Tech lost a Festival game by one point. In 1958 the Gobbler lost to West Virginia by a 21-20 score when an ineligible West Virginia receiver was penalized for an area drawn cone for a two-point conversion. The officials failed to detect the “ineligibility” of the Mountaineer receiver and, on the scoreboard, he was “eligible” forever.

Strock Improved Statistically

STATISTICALLY, YESTERDAY’S game was as close as the score, with the Indians having a big edge in rushing and Tech in passing.

Strock, the nation’s passing and total offense leader, and the player who sold out the stadium, actually improved his statistics. Passing a total of 43 times (the Gobbler rushed the ball only 29 times), Strock completed 24 for 349 yards. “Sacked” for big-losses twice, Strock had a minus-four yards running gain. His touchdown was drawn 220 yards. He went into the game with game-average total offense of 301.8 yards. He “upped” that average to 306.6 yards yester- day.

As it was, Strock would gladly have swapped his 335 yards for Devery’s total offense of 224 yards, if the score could have been reversed. Devery, a high school, third-year sophomore from Oaklyn, N.J., attempted only five passes in the first half, which wasn’t a crowd-errer. The Indian quarterback com- pleted three of those passes.

In the second half, however, the Indians went to the air more often. Devery completed 11 of 13 passes attempted in the second half, including 25 yards in a touchdown. A fortunate Miss Smith was wound up the afternoon 13-for-20 for 175 yards and gained 49 yards (net) rushing.

W&M a Double Winner

THE INDIANS PLAYED it cautiously in the first half and threatened only once. That threat came in the second quar- ter, after Tech had gone up 0-7, with the Davie Tech-5 yard field goal. After Doug Gerhart returned the ensuing pass to give the Tribe a first down on the Tech 23. A pitchout was fumbled, however, and Tech recovered the fumble after 50 yards.

Midway of the second quarter Strock cut loose with a long pass that Demie Reel took near the end zone and fell in for what appeared to be the go-ahead touchdown if a Techman had not been in the motion. The ball was brought back and the Gobbler penalized five yards for illegal procedure.

After the Techman recovered, the two teams turned the second half into a cliff-hanging thriller. Just before the sec- ond-half kickoff the sun broke through the gray skies. That breakout, after an overcast, overcast and more of the same yesterday morning, turned out to be a happy omen for the Indians.

William and Mary was double winner, for Miss Chesterfield, W&M freshman Connie Wilds, was crowned Queen of Tobacco and the during the half-time ceremonies.

Coffey’s post-game lament: “We had all sorts of scoring opportunities, and we didn’t make the most of them.”

In the afternoon, at a W&M victory party, Root said: “I hadn’t been in Williamsburg but three or four days when I learned which game our alumni wanted most to win.”

“Yesterday’s was that game.”