Rallying VPI 27-14 Winner

Strokes Stand Out In Gobbler Victory

By STAN SHALET
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BLACKSBURG — Virginia Tech tried to be the perfect host to its guest, Mississippi Southern, Saturday afternoon and failed.

The Gobbler football team allowed the Southerners to dominate the first half which ended with the visitors six plays to score. Quarterback Buddy Pallazza pitched to tight end John Sawyer, who was all alone in the end zone. This was the apogee of the losers’ effort.

For the remainder of the second quarter, Guy’s prodigious punts kept Tech deep in its own territory.

Guy is the nation’s leading punter. Saturday he kicked seven times for an average of 43.6 yards.

“We had a big decision to make,” Tech Coach Charlie Coffey explained. “We had to See Superb. Page D-3, Cols. 1-3

DON STROCK ABOUT TO DO WHAT HE DOES VERY WELL
Virginia Tech Passer Pursued By Mississippi Southern’s Fred Cook

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statistic</th>
<th>S. Miss Va. Tech</th>
<th>S. Miss Va. Tech</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First downs</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rushes yards</td>
<td>55-150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Passing yards</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>260</td>
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<tr>
<td>Return yards</td>
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<td>Passes</td>
<td>18-36-2 14-8</td>
<td>4-1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fumbles-lost</td>
<td>4-3</td>
<td>1-0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Penalties-yards</td>
<td>9-72</td>
<td>2-14</td>
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In the final 30 minutes, Tech came back to score a solid 27-14 victory.

To show you how hospitable the Gobblers were in the first two periods, their super quarterback Don Stock completed only four of 15 passes for 26 yards. Strock is the national passing leader and is averaging over 300 yards a game. You can guess the limits of the Tech hospitality.

However, the visitors couldn’t take advantage of their good fortune. They lost the ball twice on fumbles, the first occurred on the Tech 2 and was recovered by Ferguson product Jerry Scharman. This stopped a potential scoring drive.

The Southerners also missed two field goals. Between these errors they managed to score twice.

The first tally came on a 64-yard punt return by a freshman, who wasn’t even listed on the roster. Barry Gibson just ran through the Tech punt return team to earn the visitors a 7-7 tie.

The second Southern Mississippi touchdown was set up by a pass interception. Ray Guy grabbed a Don Stock toss at the 44 and returned the ball to the 23. It took the
ball for third period and have the wind at the end." The wind in question blew out of the north at a steady 20 miles an hour with gusts up to 35 miles.

As expected, the Southerners kicked off into the end zone and for the sixth time in the game Tech had to start at its own 20. The next two plays changed the game around.

On the first play from scrimmage, Strock passed 18 yards to Randy Schurr coming out of the backfield. The next play was something special.

It was a screen pass with a double fake and a different formation. The prime receiver was sophomore Ricky Scales. He caught the pass behind the line, took three steps back, and then sailed up field. "I had a couple of blocks to get strated, then I ran for my life," noted Scales in the locker room. He covered 64 yards to score, running past a host of tacklers and through one last-ditch try.

The effort put him in the Tech record book with six touchdown receptions.

The Gobblers' final touchdown came on a long drive. The Techners moved the ball from their own 64 to paydirt in eight plays. The score coming on a 22-yard pass from Strock to Craig Valentine. It was a beautiful play, the ball thrown right between a pair of defenders.

The other six Tech points came on eye-opening field goals by Dave Strock, one of 59 yards and the other of 55.

Both were wind-aided but were dead on the mark. Dave missed a short kick earlier in the game. "I thought it was good," he laughed in the locker room.

The passing Strock finished the day with 14 completions in 35 attempts for 260 yards. Don was hit pretty hard as the Southerners' fine defensive end, Fred Cook, lived up to his advance billing.

"They were tough," Don Strock said. "But the wind was more of a factor. You have to throw hard with the wind and even harder into it. They tried to make us throw the ball over people and the wind hurt you on those kind of passes. We made little adjustments in the halftime interval and that seemed to pay off for us.

"I'm sort of sorry that my college career is coming to an end. It would be nice if we could win the rest of our games and play in a bowl game."