Tech Recruits Danville Area But Unable To Reach GW

(by Al Milley)
Virginia Tech recruiting has moved within 50 miles of Danville but the Gobblers have yet to crack the North Carolina stronghold on blue chip football players. Put out annually by Alger Push at George Washington High School, Tech's statewide recruiting campaign under coach Charlie Coffey has reached Martinsville, 50 miles west of Danville, and South Boston, 50 miles east, but GW remains virtually untapped by the Blacksburg institution.

Since 1969, when GW went unbeaten on the way to the state title, college scouts have been frequent visitors to Danville. GW followed the 11-4 title season with a 5-4 mark and then successive 3-1 records before the current contingent goes into this week's final game with a 7-1-1 mark.

Danville has a strong alumni association and the school is kept up to date on the prospects...so what's the problem?

"I wish I knew," commented Tech's Coffey after Saturday's 21-14 win over Southern Mississippi at Blacksburg. "I have told Alger we'd like to get some of his boys up here and I've even offered a full scholarship to any boy he would recommend."

In the past 10 years there has been only about one from Danville to attend VPI on football grants, two quit and one, David Evans, died in a tragic accident at home following his sophomore year.

Martinsville has sent its share to Blacksburg in the presence of linebacker Tommy Carpento, wide receiver Ricky Scales and running back Anthony Hairston. Carpento, a senior, has been a solid member of the key defense team for the past three years. Scales and Hairston are both sophomores and Scales is fast becoming the favorite target for quarterback Ben Strock, the nation's leading passer.

Saturday's Scales caught four passes for 150 yards including a 60-yarder that put the Gobblers in game in favor of Tech trailing Southern Miss 14-7 at the half. Strock hit Scales on the second play of the third quarter and the 5-10, 176-pounder went all the way for the touchdown. "The run by scales got us back in the game and it was a little bit of pressure on the defensive team for the past three years. Scales and Hairston are both sophomores and Scales is fast becoming the favorite target for quarterback Ben Strock, the nation's leading passer."

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Strock felt the effects of the strong pass rush in the first half, being held to 38 yards on 4-11 completions and having two intercepted.

In danger of falling far off his average of better than 300 yards per game in the air, Strock came back with 190-20 in the second half to finish with 290 yards.

After hitting Scales with the game-winning touchdown, Strock threaded the needle with a 22-yard scoring strike to Craig Valentine to make it 21-14. Brother Dave Strock then put the game out of reach with a pair of field goals, a school record 50-yarder and a 42-yarder, both aided by the wind.

Don Teterman and Jack Crews, both from North Bunker Hill, are seeing action with the varsity as freshmen. Teterman, the Western District's leading rusher a year ago, ran the ball four times Saturday gaining 30 yards and caught up for 19 yards. Crews, a true freshman, saw action on the speciality teams and both are being counted on in Tech's future.

"Teterman is an excellent young prospect with a lot of football savvy," Coffey added and he held on to the football..."after the game..." he has Virginia Tech now is 4-2-1 on the way to a number one ranking in basketball and has a real chance for the title this year."

He worked hard and he played...""