Tech Takes It Easy
But Still Wins Big

By BILL CATE
Times Sports Writer
BLACKSBURG—Don Strock, his helmet beside him on the Virginia Tech bench, his long, tangled hair moving southwardly in the breeze, looked across the bench at the back Bruce Arians—with the ear phones on.

Strock smiled. "It feels great," Strock told Arians, "to come out of the game with eight minutes left."

Strock, the Tech quarterback who passed for 360 yards—29 completions in 44 attempts, had just completed dissecting South Carolina's pass defense. He watched as Arians did the rest, finishing what appeared to be an easy task of pounding the Gamecocks, 45-20.

Not that it matters, but Tech could have made it much worse. The Hokies, refusing to further embarrass Paul Dietzel, let the Gamecocks off the hook slightly in the final quarter. Tech coach Charlie Coffey played everyone who was healthy.

"There was no use in humiliating them," said Strock. "Sure, we could have really poured it on. It could have been much worse, but it's far better for people like Bruce (Arians) to get experience than it is to embarrass somebody."

"I know how Coach Dietzel felt," said Coffey. "Standing there on the sideline, when nothing is working, gets frustrating. I've been there before."

Although Tech gave up 20 points, it was probably the finest defensive effort of the year. Until Coffey called off his regulars, the Hokies intimidated South Carolina, holding it to minus three yards total offense for much of the second half.

Strock found South Carolina's pass defense no challenge, and that was a surprise. "They hadn't played anybody who throws the ball like we do," Strock said. "So we really didn't know what to expect."

But what Strock found was that he could throw the short pass at will. Then he found he

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Hokie Holton

Gov. Linwood Holton was pleased with the returns in Blacksburg Saturday, living it up as the score mounted. He wears two buttons, "Virginia Is For Lovers" and "Hokie."
Times Photo by Howard Hammerness Jr.

**Strock Sets Passing Marks**

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could throw the long one. And South Carolina found just how well Strock could do both.

"Strock is even better than I thought he was," said Dietzel, "and I thought he was pretty darned good. We put a heavy rush on him quite a few times and he didn't even

flash. He's a champion and Virginia Tech is a good football team.

Tech had some trouble with its goaline offense, but it also had much opportunity to work on it. The Hokies had a first on the USC two once and a first on the four and came away with only three points, that being, of course, a fielder

by Dave Strock who kicked three out of four, missing another chip shot, but making one from 39 yards.

Dave Strock set a new Tech record—he has now kicked 14 field goals and another one with 60 points—for the season— with his toe.

Tech ended the first quarter, leading just 3-0 after pushing South Carolina around. Strock drew 98 yards in 16 plays, had first down on the USC two, but put nothing hot the holder. However, earlier Tech had a 56-yard punt return for a touchdown by Jerry Schurrus called back because Randy McCown clipped.

Tech got three more early in the second when Dave Strock kicked another fielder, a 24-yarder. The Hokies got their first touchdown a short time later when J. B. Burder scored from the two. The key play was a pass from Don Strock to Ricky Scales which covered 30 yards. Dave Strock's kick made it 10-0, and Dietzel began making changes.

He sent starting quarterback Debby Grossman over to the corner of Lane Stadium to play with the schedule and inserted Bill Icray, the former Virginian, who directed the Gamecocks to a quick touchdown by passing 16 times, the last a touchdown flip, six yards, to Mike Haggard who met a USC record with his eighth TD reception of the season.

Aboud 157, and after a 41- yard kickoff return by freshman Joe Johnson, Strock went Tech 10 yards on five plays before completing a pass, another touchdown. The one which counted was a 41-yarder to Craig Valentine. Dave Strock made it 17-0.

The second half was all for fun. The Tech defense, making some adjustments after Trubbi at the half, had the USC quarterback dashing, dodging and picking himself off the ground.

Dave Strock kicked a 39- yard field goal to open the second half, and Tech [4-1] led 20-0, with all the points coming from Dietzel's running back.

Strock took the rest of the day off, loafing around on

the bench, s h a k i n g hands, smiling, while Atkins threw a 24-yard scoring strike to Steve Galloway.

Carolina scored twice late in the fourth period, thanks to Caffey's manner.

South Carolina rushed 30 times for a measly 17 yards. The Gamecocks passed for 229, much of it against those who were in the game for experience.

Tech's offense totaled 516 yards, 453 of it by air. Scales had seven receptions for 197 yards. Valentine caught six for 86 and Galen Steer three for 97.

The victory was watched by some 10,000, maybe a few estimate, which included some dignitaries as Gov. Lawrence Holton, who had not seen a Tech team win since he assumed the governorship. Chris Kraft, a NCAA award, and probably more importantly, some 20 prospective football players with whom signing grants-in-aid some time after Dec. 8.

Although the Tech win was a good one, it was also costly. Starter Andy Hovencik broke both bones in his right arm and is out for the rest of the season. Freshman defensive end Doug Thacker suffered a knee injury and will likely require surgery.

Now, Tech must face Alabama in Tuscaloosa Saturday with freshman punter Bruce McDaniel, "With 90,000 hostile people standing on top of him," Caffey said, "he may not even see the first snap."

However, for the first time in four years, Tech, with a 5-1 record, will not have a losing season.

*Times Photo by John Cook*