Alabama Is Dynamite

Tech May Be In For A Long Day

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There are those who feel Virginia Tech is playing Alabama at the best possible time—right after the Crimson Tide polished off LSU and just before the finale with arch-rival Auburn.

But there are those who beg to differ.

"First of all," said one Tech official, "there isn't any best time to play a team like Alabama. Next, Alabama is out to prove a point. They are mad at not being the No. 1 team in the country. "They think they are better than Southern Cal and they will be out to prove it against us. They'll be trying to score as many as they can. It could be a rather long afternoon."

Tech will be in Tuscaloosa tomorrow afternoon for a 1:30 appointment with coach Bear Bryant and his deep, tough and talented 'Bama boys. It will be homecoming for the Tide and this will only add to the enthusiasm of Bryant's boys.

The Gobblers go into the game with a 5-3-1 record and are assured of at least a break-even record. Alabama has rolled over nine opponents and has piled up an impressive average win of 36.1 to 11.4.

Despite the fact the defensive record is in the top five in the nation, Bryant isn't satisfied.

"I'm hard to please," Bryant said. "I'm dissatisfied if we give up a point. But I must admit we have been scoring more points than I had expected."

Tech could test the Alabama defense with a pair of Strocks who are the best in the nation at what they do.

Quarterback Don Strock leads the nation in passing and in total offense and is called by Bryant "the best passing quarterback we have faced and certainly one of the best I have ever seen."

Brother Dave Strock supplies the foot to the Tech offense. He now leads the nation in points by kicking—averaging 7.1 per game.

Depth is certain to play a major role in the game. Injuries have taken their toll of the thin Tech ranks while the Crimson Tide has been pouring in players against all opponents with little loss in efficiency.

Tech has had problems running the ball and this could put more pressure on Strock. The Tide defense is likely to forget the run and put the big rush on Strock.

The Gobblers have been averaging just a shade over 100 yards per game running. This is a big difference from the Tide's average of 292.2 with its effective wishbone attack.

Alabama has averaged 4.7 yards each time a Tide runner has carried the ball.

"We'll have to mix up our defense as best we can," said Tech defensive chief George McKinney. "We'll take some chances and do some blitzing. But what we'll be doing most of the time is praying."

Tech's problems were complicated further this week when defensive end Rich Easterling again quit the team. Easterling was caught this week breaking training rules. After being told what his punishment would be and agreeing that it was fair, Easterling disappeared.