STROCK, COFFEY PICKED

PETERSBURG (AP)—Virginia Tech quarterback Don Strock and his coach, Charlie Coffey, today swept Big Five football honors in a poll of the Virginia Sports Writers and Sportscasters Association.

Strock, the nation’s leader in both total offense and passing this season, completed 228 of 427 passes this year and was named Big Five player of the year for the second straight season.

The 6-foot-5 senior from Warwick, Pa., lettered as a sophomore but was only a third-string quarterback that year.

When Coffey took over as coach the following spring, he put Strock in as his regular quarterback and the 205-pounder responded by finishing second in the nation in passing and third in total offense.

Strock went on this fall to lead Tech to a 6-4-1 record, passing for 3,243 yards and 16 touchdowns with 3,170 yards in total offense.

His career totals included 440 completions in 829 tries for 6,127 yards, 29 touchdowns and a total offense of 5,871 yards.

Coffey, who came to Blacksburg after being an assistant coach at Arkansas, will coach the Gray team in the annual Blue-Gray game Dec. 27 at Montgomery, Ala. Strock will be one of his quarterbacks.

His 6-4-1 second season has won him a new five-year contract from Virginia Tech and the honor as Big Five coach of the year.

A native of Shelbyville, Tenn., the 39-year-old Coffey played college football at Tennessee, captained the Volunteers in his senior year and received an award for maintaining the highest academic average for a four-year period. He then coached high school football and was an assistant at Southeast Louisiana, George Washington and Tennessee before becoming defensive coordinator under Frank Broyles at Arkansas.

Strock was an all but unanimous choice as player of the year with one vote being cast for flanker David Knight of William and Mary.

Coffey beat out Richmond’s Frank Jones, who saw his Spiders win their last four games for a 6-4 record and second place in the Southern Conference, and new Coach Jim Root of William and Mary.

Small college honors went to linebacker Mike Leidy of Hampden-Sydney as player of the year and a tie between Walt Lovett of Virginia State and Stokely Fulton of Hampden-Sydney as coach of the year.

Jerry Sazio of Group AAA runner-up Maury was named high school coach of the year.