Virginia Tech's Scales Heads All-Star Parade...

Only three years ago, a Martinsville youngster named Ricky Scales pulled on a football uniform for the first time. He had blazed to record performances as a Bulldog backfield star, and Mavah head football coach Dick Hensley considered the slender speedster that he had a future in football as a wide receiver.

The results should greatly enhance Hensley's reputation as a prophet. Scales became an outstanding high school player during his senior year, using his speed (100-yd. dash) to confound opposing defenses, and won All District and All Regional honors.

Great-in-Judy offers poured in, and Scales decided to cast his lot with VPI's Gobblers.

Today, after only one season with the VPI varsity, Ricky Scales holds five Hokie records in the pass receiving department, and seems certain to break all records there before his career is over. He is pictured on the cover of the Tech football brochure, is already being courted for All American honors, and is listed in the pro scouting reports as a blue-chip NFL prospect.

The "instant" attention and recognition has not greatly affected the soft-spoken Hokie junior.

"It hasn't changed me any," he moaned. "As far as that goes, I'm the same person I was before all this happened."

Scales does admit to being "a little surprised" by his success, since he did not know how much ability he had "until I got out and started playing."

Last year, Scales had a national passing leader on the throwing end of his receptions, but Don Strock's departure raises the question of the ability of his replacement.

"We have Bruce Ariens," Scales said, "and he can get the ball to me. Of course, it's seldom that you have anyone who can throw like Don. Bruce is a different type player, who can run as well as pass, and he can get the job done."

Scales also is pleased at the return of Coach Dan Henning, who left VPI to spend a year as a Houston-Oklahoma assistant.

"With someone like him running the offense we can make anything go," Scales enthused.

Asked if the success of VPI's basketball Nit champions would have any effect on the rest of the Hokie athletic programs, Scales instantly answered "Yes." It certainly will. In fact, it already has. Right after they won the Nit, Coach Coffey started telling us about what it would mean to win a bowl game," he continued. "That would be similar. The coaches started working us harder after that, so we felt the effects of it."

Scales feels that this year's football Hokies have the opportunity to add to the stature of Tech athletics, and that they will rise to that opportunity. He was asked about his feelings concerning the possibility that he will play this season against some of his former Mavah teammates, and he answered with a laugh that "You have to learn that you don't have any friends on the other team while the game is on. If anything, he declared, "there is a little more desire, actually. You know you may meet when you're home, and if you are rivals anyhow, like us and UVA, then you want to be the winner."

Asked about his plans for the future, Scales says he intends to "just play it by ear."

"I have thought about graduate school, and with his high scholastic average (3.0 on a 4.0 scale with a major in Biology) he would certainly be eligible, but he adds that "I don't know how this football thing will come around. I hope I'll be drafted in the professional football draft, and if that happens I'll have to give it a try."

ANTHONY HAIRSTON
Virginia Tech

At the beginning of this sophomore year at VPI, former Mavah ace running back Anthony Hairston seems confident, but not to the point of cockiness.

"I think we'll have a pretty good team," he declared, "the morale is good, and I'm really looking forward to the season. This team wants to be noticed as a state power, and go to a bowl," he continued.

Asked if the Hokie success in last season's basketball wars might spur the football team on to greater things, Hairston answered simply, "We want to be known in our own right."

Hairston promised to be a superstar during his early high school years, and became one of the most dangerous runners in the state as a junior. However, an injury jinx kept him crippled or below par for much of his senior year, and the bright promise was never really realized.

Now, he may be on the verge of college stardom.

"I was on the freshman team last year," he said, "and I didn't play with the varsity until the spring game."

When he did get a chance, he made the most of it, logging 49 yards and one touchdown on only five carries for an impressive 10.8 yard average, making it a certainty that the Hokie coaching staff will take a good look at his abilities this fall.

Can be earn a starting berth as a sophomore?

"I hope so," he laughed. "There's always a chance, but you have to work for it, and I'm going to do my best."