W&M Plan: Ram Ball Up Middle

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BLACKSBURG — William and Mary had done what it had planned and worked on for three weeks. It had rammed the ball right up the middle when it needed to, worked the ends when it needed to and even passed when it needed to.

The Indians coaches were happy, the players were happy and Virginia Tech was very unhappy. Everything had gone according to plan for W&M which scored a 31-24 win.

We rammed it up in there like we had planned. We've been working on it in drills," explained coach Jim Root. "We thought we could move in there like that."

Virginia Tech's defense was a question mark before the game started and Saturday it showed that either the Indians have one of the best defensive lines in the country, or the inexperienced Tech linemen have a long, hard season ahead of them.

"We missed a few assignments. We thought we could move well on them and we did," said Indian offensive coordinator Paul Schmuel. "We didn't make a substitution in the whole game in our line. We just went out there and did the job like we knew we could."

Offensive tackle Tom Waechter played the whole game and loved every minute of it, especially the final run. "We wanted them real bad," claimed Waechter. "They were as good as we expected them to be, but we were able to hold them in the middle and run through there. We planned to run inside and we were able to. It was a hell of an effort by the offensive line as well as the whole team."

Winning by overpowering Tech is something that wasn't expected. Sure Tech's defensive line was inexperienced. Sure William and Mary has a top-flight quarterback in Bill Deery. Sure the Indians had beaten the Gobblers in their last confrontation.

But Virginia Tech gave out 60 scholarships last year alone while the Indians have just 70 scholarships in their whole program. W&M is rated as one of the top three teams in the Southern Conference, but the SC isn't well known for its good football teams.

"They say Tech has a good program and we have hardly anything at all. We showed today that we have a great team," said Dick Pawlencvil who is a blocking back for the Indians.

"Last year, it was too wet for Tech and us to really do much. Maybe today it was too hot for them."

W&M finished the game with 256 yards running and just 40 passing. The Indians didn't need to go to the air often because they had such good success penetrating Tech on the ground.

The leading tacklers for the Gobblers were the linebackers and deep backs, as linebacker Tommy Shirley was in on 17 tackles while safetyman Jerry Scharman had to come up and make nine assisted tackles and help on five more. Monster back John Bell was in on nine tackles.