Barber Rolling ‘Real Good’

By Ray Filegar

J. B. Barber is quite obviously feeling fine. Off-season knee surgery behind him, Virginia Tech’s senior tailback showed everyone just ‘how fine’ last week in the Gobblers’ season opening setback at the hands of William and Mary.

Barber rushed 19 times, rolled up 134 yards and logged one of his two touchdowns for the day in the process. “It was a good operation,” he declared, needlessly, this week. “The knee is doin’ real good.”

REAL good. Good enough to have carried Barber to the top of the Gobblers’ record book in the career points category. With 10 games remaining in the 1973 campaign, the 5-11, 190-pound veteran already shares the career mark for most points (144) with former Tech standout Terry Smoot. ; Tomorrow afternoon at Lexington, Ky., where the Gobblers help the University of Kentucky inaugurate the new 58,000-seat Commonwealth Stadium, Barber could conceivably take sole possession of the record.

“It’s nice to be in the record book,” he said this week. “But I really haven’t given too much thought to it.”

Just a little, though
“Oh, yes. A little.”

In getting there, in the record book, Barber has looked, “first for the block. Past that it’s free lance.

“I try to make the defense react ... try to do something to get them leaning, one way or another.”

Not known for his great breakaway speed, Barber depends largely on what he terms, “the knack of making the defense commit itself.”

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