Indians Smash Gobblers, 31-24

By Bill Millsaps
Executive Sports Editor

BLACKSBURG — This time, it can’t be called a fluke.

Angered by suggestions that they were able to beat Virginia Tech last year only because Richmond’s City Stadium was a sea of mud, William and Mary’s Indians hung a 31-24 defeat on the Hokies here Saturday afternoon.

“What a way to start the season!” shouted W&M coach Jim Root. “We beat the Turkeys on a dry field.”

To be sure, the Hokies contributed to their own demise before a Lane Stadium crowd of 18,500. Tech, which hasn’t won an opening game since 1967, lost four fumbles in the first half and was assessed five major penalties in the second half.

Still, W&M did more damage to Tech than the home team was able to do to itself. The Indians, who meet North Carolina next Saturday in Chapel Hill, ran the football 66 times for 256 yards. The Tribe’s defense, led by tackle Richmond Hodsdon, end Steve Dalton and linebacker Randy Rovesti, made the big plays when it had to make them.

W & M ................ 7 7 10 7 31
Va. Tech .............. 0 3 7 14 24

W&M—Gerdelman, 3, run (Regan kick).
W&M—Deery, 4, run (Regan kick).
Tech—FG, Latimer, 33.
Tech—Barber, 1, run (Latimer kick).
W&M—Mollicka, 1, run (Regan kick).
W&M—FG, Dalton, 28.
Tech—Scales, 65, pass from Rogers (Latimer kick).
W&M—Gerhart, 2, run (Regan kick).
Tech—Barber, 9, pass from Arians (Latimer kick).
A—18,500.

STATISTICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>W&amp;M</th>
<th>Va. Tech</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First downs</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rushes-yards</td>
<td>66-256</td>
<td>45-223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passing yardage</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Return yardage</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passes</td>
<td>5-43-8</td>
<td>19-27-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punts</td>
<td>2-0</td>
<td>4-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fumbles</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Despite yielding 438 yards to the Hokies.

W&M jumped out to a 14-0 lead, saw the margin dwindle to 14-10, then went out front, 24-10, before the Hokies came back once more. A 65-yard halfback pass from Paul Rogers to Ricky Scales provided a touchdown for Tech on the first play of the fourth period, but the Indians were not to have this one taken away.

On their next possession, they went 76 yards in 12 plays for what proved to be the winning score. Two personal foul penalties against Tech — for a total of 26 yards — helped considerably in the drive.

Tech marched 87 yards for a score in the last four minutes, but with 61 seconds left, the Hokies lost an attempt at recovering an onside kick and...
Rushing Tribe Beats Fumbling Tech, 31-24

On third-and-19 on the Tech 34, Deery fired a pass toward Dick Pawlewicz in the left corner of the end zone. The ball sailed over both Pawlewicz and his defender, Lynn McCoy, but an official ruled that McCoy had illegally bumped Pawlewicz in the end zone.

"There was some confusion about the call," said Coffey. "Our players first thought that the interference had been called on the William and Mary player."

The call, amounting to a 33-yard penalty, gave the Indians a first down on the Tech one, and Mark Mollica scored on the next play to up the Indians’ lead to 21-10.

Another 15-yard penalty (piling on) helped give the Indians the field position needed for Dalton’s 38-yard field goal 3:38 before the end of the third period. Rodgers’ bomb to Scales and Latimer’s extra point chopped the score to 24-17, then the Indians followed with their clinching touchdown.

"We wanted to make it a game of 10 on 7," said Root, "one ball carrier and 10 blockers against their front seven guys. We wanted to jam it up in there." The Indians achieved both goals and, in the process, achieved a victory that no one can call tainted — or mud-stained.

INDIVIDUAL RUSHING

W&M — Deery, 12 carries, 64 yards, 1 touchdown; Gerdelman, 10-40, 1 touchdown; Prochilo, 2283, Pawlewicz, 2-7; Gerhard, 9-7; L. touchdown; Mollica, 8-25, 1 touchdown; Scherer, 3-0, Tech — Barber, 19-134, 1 touchdown; Rogers, 18-88, Popp, 7-0, Scales, 11.

INDIVIDUAL PASSING

W&M — Deery. 3 completions, 4 attempts, 1 interception, 40 yards; Scherer, 2-2-0, Tech — Popp, 12-15-94; Arians, 6-11-0-56, 1 touchdown; Rogers, 1-1-0-6, 1 touchdown.

INDIVIDUAL PASS RECEIVING

W&M — Pawlewicz, 1 catch, 25 yards; Prochilo, 11-1; Pavlich, 1-4; Tech — Scales, 5-117, 1 touchdown; Barber, 3-31, 1 touchdown; Hardee, 4-36; Galloway, 2-12; Rogers, 4-11; Dick, 1-7.