For Tech’s Charlie Coffey: A Defeat ‘I’ll Never Forget’

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BLACKSBURG—The questions having been asked and the answers duly given, Virginia Tech football coach Charlie Coffey departed, perhaps thankful that he wasn’t skewered by the blunted ball-points of his interrogators.

It was, indeed, a terribly embarrassing stand-off in the room reserved for interviews—a handful of witnesses to the 31-24 execution of Tech by underdog William and Mary, and an obviously distressed coach in the aftermath of a defeat “I’ll never forget.”

It was, of course, a baffling predicament in which Coffey found himself, losing to a lightly regarded state rival in the opening game of the season. But there was nothing puzzling about the manner in which William and Mary severed the head from the body and deposited the cadaver on the doorstep of the coroner, in this case alumni dissidents who grieved over cocktails and plotted expressions of dissatisfaction.

“Four years ago,” the man on the elevator said, “I gave $25 and complained. Now I give $225 and I’m still complaining. I think I’m going back to $25.”

He, and his associates were totally unprepared for the setback, and with 10 games left, they look to Kentucky, West Virginia, SMU, Houston and Alabama (all on the road) with re-

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

“We stuck it to ‘em. There’s been a lot of talk that last year (when W&M beat VPI) was a fluke, and we were determined to prove those people wrong. Every player and coach on this team knows we’re for real.”

—Jim Root, William and Mary
sured the win with a touchdown from the two with 8:56 left and the inevitable path to the dressing room was strewn with orange-shirted Techmen, losers in six successive openers.

"I think we outclassed them," said tight end Dick Pawlewicz. "Some of the guys were saying it might have been too hot for Tech out there."

It was suspected he wasn’t talking about the temperature.

"Yeah, I’m tempted to gloat," said Derry, the quarterback. "All the football talk seems to be up in this end of the state."

But at the bitter end, the public address announcer was encouraging motorists to "drive home carefully."

One fatality per afternoon, he seemed to be saying, was enough.