Delicious Winesaps

BLACKSBURG — Back when jazz was the thing and Benny Goodman reigned as King of Swing, Fletcher Henderson took a Fats Waller tune, "Stealin' Apples," and orchestrated it for the Goodman band. "Stealin' Apples" became one of Goodman's perennials. The Old Master still features the Waller composition when he forms a band for short tours.

William and Mary's football Braves know nothing about swing. Goodman, Waller and Henderson are anachronisms to today's collegians. "Stealin' Apples" they never heard of, but the number would have well served the Indians as their rock and sock theme song Saturday as they defeated Virginia Tech's 10-point favored Gobblers by a 31-24 score.

During the first half, which saw William and Mary build a 14-3 lead, the Indians were busy stealin' apples. Four times the Gobbler backs fumbled the ball and four times Indians came up with the "apple." The first "steal" came early in the game when the Gobblers were on the W&M two, just inches from a touchdown that would have given Tech first blood. Steve Dalton, W&M's sophomore defensive end, jarred the ball loose from Tech sophomore quarterback Rick Popp on the third-down play and senior tackle Eill Stockey recovered for the then beleagured Indians.

After the Indians had marched 95 yards in 10 rushes for a touchdown and a 7-0 lead as Terry Regan added the extra point, Tech mounted a drive that carried to W&M's 16 where it was

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Chauncey Durden’s Sportview

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first down. Again the ball was separated from Popp and again the apple-stealin' Stockley fell on the ball. It was still 70, with the Gobblers on the move, when defensive back Mike Stewart "stole" another apple from the Gobblers. Just minutes later, Tech's "Jungle" Jim Barber was unable to hold on to a low pitchout and Brave Dalton recovered. Four Tech fumbles and four W&M "steals." A 1,000 batting average for the apple-stealers from Williamsburg; an .800 average for the Gobblers. The alert Indians, well prepared for their first test of the season, had something to do with the Gobblers' fumbles, for the Tribesmen were hitting with muscular purpose.

An Indian Houdini

BILL DEERY, W&M's 5-11, 175-pound quarterback, is no picture-book qb, but he is a Houdini operating Jim Root's option offense. He directed the Indians on the 95-yard touchdown drive in the first quarter. Fifty-one of those 95 yards came on two Deery runs - the first for eight yards, the second for 43 yards. Hurt in the second quarter as he got off an 11-yard pass to junior tailback Frank Prochilo, he came back in to score W&M's second touchdown on a four-yard scamper after he'd gained 15 yards in to previous rushes. At the half, Deery had gained 73 yards (in seven carries) of the Tribe's total 163 yards rushing.

He was injured again (right shoulder) in the second half, but after he'd engineered another W&M touchdown drive and Regan had kicked a 36-yard field goal to give the Tribe a 24-10 lead.

Tech made defensive adjustments at the half to Deery's "keeper" plays on the option and he was nailed several times for losses. But he'd done in the Gobblers before his second injury. The Indians lost their big junior fullback, John Gerdelman, in the first half. Gerdelman, who scored the first W&M touchdown and accounted for 40 yards rushing in 10 carries, sat out the entire second half.

Much Yardage, Too Few Points

WITH DON STROCK gone to the pros, Tech was expected to be a rushing team this time - and was against the Indians. Barber tore off 134 yards from the Braves' defense in 19 carries and scored two touchdowns to tie Terry Smoog's Tech career record for TDs of 24. Flappy sophomore Phil Rogers gained a total of 88 yards in 18 rushes. All told, the Gobbler ball-carriers gained a total of 223 yards rushing.

Even so, what with the Indians coming up with the big defensive play frequently, the Gobblers had to switch to the air as they were forced to play catch-up. The Gobbler passers - Popp, Bruce Ariens and Rogers (one pass) - completed 19 of 27 passes for 215 yards. Ricky Scales was the leading receiver with five catches totalling 117 yards. But only two of the Tech aerials proved costly to the Indians - a 45-yarder from Popp to Scales that set up the Gobblers' first touchdown early in the third quarter and a 65-yard touchdown bomb from Rogers to Scales, on the first play of the fourth period.

The Rogers-to-Scales bomb brought Tech within seven points of the Tribe (24-17), but the Indians took the subsequent kickoff and drove 70 yards for a touchdown to put the game out of reach.

Those Real, Real Indians

AT GAME'S END, Root shot onto the field and got the game ball which he carried happily into the dressing-room where he said:

"We really stuck it to 'em. When we needed the big play on defense, we got it, and we stopped 'em on the big play on defense. There's been a lot of talk that last year (W&M 17, Tech 16) was a fluke, and we were determined to prove that saying it were wrong. Every player and coach on this team knows we're for real. I'm as happy over this as I was last year over our 17-16 win."

Nothing like those good winesaps for deliciousness. Tech coach Charlie Coffey recovered from shock to say:

"They won the game. The executed their offense better than we executed ours.

"I felt that our touchdown at the start of the second half (which made the score 14-10 favor W&M) was a momentum breaker, but it didn't stay that way. we'll stick with it, with some adjustments."

You can be sure Root will stick with his and Deery's offense, and hopefully with more stealing of apples.

Tech's J. B. Barber Finds Progress Halted by Indians After Six-Yard Advance

Staff Photo