Indians Do It Again to Tech, 31-24

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BLACKSBURG—The boasts and claims of Virginia Tech tum-
bled to the turf like a punctured dirigible Saturday afternoon in
the wreckage of a 31-24 William and Mary victory, the second
straight season the Indians have turned back the Gobblers in a
bit of intrastate carnage.

"That'll never happen again," Tech quarterback Bruce Arians
had stated two weeks prior to the duplicate bout of lightning.

"Hot damn," William and
Mary coach Jim Root whispered in a joyful embrace with athletic
director Ben Carnevale.

"Sneak a peak," Root added.

"What a way to start the season," to beat the turkey, and on a dry
field at that," Root said.

Root was referring to the victory a season ago, 17-16, on the
spongy sod of Richmond's City

Stadium in the Tobacco Bowl.

William and Mary weren't ex-
pected to win that one either
against the Gobblers, who have
won four straight games all season long.

But in the latest adventure, billed again as a regional mis-
match, it was the Indians who
coasted Tech back into the midst of the middle class.

"I was ticked to death with my
defense," said Root.

Indeed. The Indians' defense forced three turnovers and
generously accepted a punt return for a fourth
in this season column and gener-
ally kept the talents of Tech un-
der control.

Offensively, William and Mary
conceded a simply dreadful ex-
perience for the 18,800 Tech parti-
isans with an unusual demonstra-
tion of power.

"That's what we've been prac-
ticing," Root said, "I thought we
could move on them like that.

From almost the very begin-
ning, after the Indians were
stalled twice without a first
down, the forecast became omi-
tous for the Gobblers. On Tech's
first series, sophomore quarter-
back Ricky Popp fumbled on the
William and Mary two after di-
recting a drive of 36 yards.

The punt presented the Indians
with the momentum they never
relinquished. Two series later, quarterback Bill Deery pushed
William and Mary to the Tech
three, giving the ball to John
Gerdeman for the score, capping
a 35-yard drive with 1:44 to play
in the first quarter.

Another 56-yard drive by Tech
at the outset of the second quar-
ter was nullified by a fumble
again by Popp. And again, mo-
mentum on his side, Deery
scored three series later, a four-
yard dash around his left end,
putting William and Mary in
command, 14-0.

A two-minute drill, a successful
weapon for Tech, produced a
field goal from 32 yards by
Wayne Latimer with 13 seconds
to go in the half. And as if the
first half was a mistake—which
four fumbles suggests that it was
—Tech opened the second with
J.B. Barber's one-yard plunge
into the end zone with 10:33 to go
in the third quarter.

But Maryland scored from the
16 for William and Mary with
7:14 left and Steve Dalton added
a 35-yard field goal, giving the
Indians a 24-10 lead with a quarter
to play.

Resorting to tricks, Popp
punched back to sophomore run-
ning back Philip Rogers who un-
limbered his elbow with a 65-yard
strike to Richy Snell, returning
Tech to within threatening range,
20-17.

But aside from the regularity of
the two-minute offense at the end, a 56-yard pass from Ariana
Taggart, Barber, William and Mary
wasn't about to lessen its grip on
this opportunity.

"The only thing we can't stand," said Indian publicist
Barry Franklin at the half, "is to get embarrassed by Tech.

Never fear. Doug Gerhartz as-
tered.

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