Coffey ‘Enthusiastic’ Over Kentucky Tilt

By STAN SHALLET
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“I’m not ready to throw the towel in,” Virginia Tech Football Coach Charlie Coffee said this week despite his team’s opening day loss to William and Mary, 24-16.

“I’m enthusiastic about my team’s chances against Kentucky Saturday. I know we lost, but my players graded out very well on the films.

“We had 11 players on the offense unit grade ‘winners,’ and seven from the defense. This is the most we had on defense since I’ve been here.

“We had two major technical errors. We didn’t support the corners on defense and we misread William and Mary’s offense several times.

“William and Mary is a much better team than most people give them credit for. I still believe we have an improved team.”

While the coach didn’t go into it, Saturday’s game is a “must” contest for the Gobblers.

After helping the Wildcats open Commonwealth Stadium Virginia Tech travels to West Virginia and Southern Methodist. A victory is needed to generate momentum and convince the team it can win.

Coffey feels his defense has been unfairly criticized for yielding 31 points. “In the first half we made several errors, but came back in the second half and stopped them. We had them third-and-19 when we got called for a penalty. In the second half and stopped them. We had them third-and-19 when we got called for a penalty. In the second
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couch Fran Curci.

“We know that they’ve got
big players, two quarter-
backs and several potential
All-Southeastern Conference
choices.”

Russell Rice, Kentucky’s
sports publicity man, says
the team has talent but little
depth. “We’re really an
unknown factor. Coach
Curci has said little except
he hopes Kentucky can im-
prove on the 10th place in
the conference which is
where we are picked to
finish.

“We have sold 50,000
tickets for the game, and
we’re going to play in our
new stadium even though
it’s not quite ready.”

Kentucky finished its 1972
season with a 3-8 record,
defeating Villanova,
Mississippi State and Van-
derbilt.

The Wildcat freshmen lost
all three of their games.


Coffey added that for the
first time since he’s been at
Blacksburg, the team has a
balanced offense. “We ran
the ball well. We don’t have
to throw to move it.”

The Gobblers got through
their open virtually injury-
free. Defensive back Lynn
McCoy bruised his right foot
and joins Howard Keyes on
the doubtful list for Satur-
day.

Coffey is pleased with his
alternating quarterbacks.
“Both Bruce Arians Rick
Popp graded very well, and
we’re going to stay with the
same system of using them.
I think it worked fine.”

“Right now, our offensive
unit has confidence in both
players.”

Coffey said he knew very
little about Kentucky. The
Wildcats are going into their
opener under brand-new