After Saturday's Loss, This Week's Critical

It is safe to say that Virginia Tech's game at Kentucky was a critical, close one. The Hokies had a rare opportunity to prove themselves critical. If the Hokies can't spark the UK coaching debut at Fran Cucci, they may well be looking at an 0-4 defeat at the hands of William and Mary.

When you want to be No. 1 in the hearts of the football fans, you can't afford to go around losing to No. 3 in the Southern Conference.

It is true that W&M has an experienced, well-coached team, it is also true that the Indians have not had a winning team since 1967. It is also a fact that Tech gave almost as many scholarships this year as W&M has in its entire program.

What must have hurt the Tech pride most of all was that there was nothing flaky, nothing fancy in the way the Indians won. W&M simply took the ball and runned it down Tech's throat.

The Hokies didn't expect any fancy from W&M. And they didn't get it. What William and Mary did better was fundamental— things like blocking and tackling. In fact, Tech gave W&M a line blow the Tech defense back all day, especially on key third down plays.

Did Tech miss Don Strick? You betcha! your favorite deep pass pattern they did. Ricky Scales caught five passes for 127 yards, but it was Strick who had been throwing. Tech lost money after that.

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The Hokies moved the ball well, gaining 431 yards. But none of the figures were misleading. Tech turned the ball over 19 times, one of which was to the Tech 23 which led to an Indian TD.

Tech's defense was a real disappointment.

The other 17 completions were the only 106 yards. Most of them were caught by the line and on quick flicks to the sidelines.

Scales is Tech's deep threat. He is in a genuine holding super-star. Unless the Hokies can find somebody that can throw deep, his talents will be severely used. Neither Pepper or Bruce Arrington appear to be a future answer to0s a passer.

Obviously, freshman quarterback Eddie Joyce Jr. can throw that kind of pass. But Joyce does not appear to be a likely candidate if Tech sticks with the

Just Two Runners Were Used

Offensively, however, Tech has lots of poten- tial. Only J. B. Barber and Rogers were used Saturday, but there reportedly are lots of running backs in Coffey's stable.

The defense, though, is another matter. Wil- liam and Mary is not running more than a good Southern Conference defense.

Not only does Tech play a defense that in Stagg's days would have been considered easyreading, the Hokies have already shown they can beat Tech by only 12 points.

Tech must have its defense woken up in a hurry. Although it is easy to movethis ball, it is very hard to have a ball that isn't thrown on time. What Tech needed against W&M could never have been played against the explosive teams like West Virginia, Penn State, Alabama and Houston. All are on the road.

One game does not a season make, but it is de- sirable to learn the defensive disappointment.

I used to give $25 a year up here said one man standing outside the Tech locker room. I used to give $25 a year up here said one man standing outside the Tech locker room. "Now 'Im giving $20. I had more fun when we was 19. I don't think I'm getting my money's worth."