For Virginia Tech

Kentucky Is Crucial

By JERRY RATCLIFFE
Times Sports Editor
BLACKSBURG—Virginia Tech Coach Charlie Coffey expressed confidence by making a minimal personnel adjustment for Saturday’s game at Kentucky.

“We had 13 players on offense, seven on defense, plus our two kickers who made winning grades last Saturday,” Coffey noted. “That doesn’t happen often when you lose.” Experience takes time, so, except for the interior offensive line, the Gobblers remain basically young. In fact, half of the first two units this week are sophomores or freshmen.

Saturday’s game at Kentucky is crucial for Tech, which lost to William & Mary in an upset last week. Kentucky is opening up Commonwealth Stadium, a brand new arena that seats 58,000 fans. Kentucky, though picked low in pre-season SEC polls, is tough. If Tech loses against the Wildcats, they could very well go 0-4 the first four contests. Next week they travel to SMU, picked to finish second behind Texas in the SWC. Then its on to West Virginia, no slouch. Kentucky has offensive strength in Ernie Lewis who is slightly ahead of Mike Fanuzzi at Quarterback. Last year’s returning rusher, Sonny Collins is back, and Doug Kotar returning to the backfield. Steve Campassi and freshman Greg Woods add depth.

Jack Alvarez, the number two receiver in the SEC last year and Ray Barga, Kentucky’s second leading receiver last year are both proven performers with all-star capabilities. The offensive line has a fair amount of experience.