Virginia Tech Defeat Shakes Up Coffey

By BILL CAT
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LEXINGTON, Ky.—Charlie Coffey emerged from the Virginia Tech dressing room with the look of a ghost. His face was pale. His lower lip was clenched tight between his teeth.

He had just finished 45 minutes of screaming. His beaten football team had heard the worst dressing down of their lives, maybe one of the most caustic in the history of the sport.

An hour earlier, Kentucky had walked out of new Commonwealth Stadium with a 31-26 victory over Tech, the Hokies' second loss in two games.

"I may not be coaching football Monday," Coffey said. "I'm going to take a long look at myself, my staff and my team over the weekend. I'm at the crossroads, and I don't mean at the end of the season. I mean now."

Tech, behind 31-6 at the half, made a gallant comeback but it goes in the books as just another loss. Truthfully, Tech may have become a football team in the second half. But Coffey expressed no satisfaction.

"There's nothing to be happy about when you get your (censored) beat," said Coffey. "The Hokie defense, a push-over in the first half, played super football in the final two periods while allowing Kentucky only three first downs, "In practice, you make a mistake on defense, then you do it over and over again until you get it right," Coffey said. "That's what we did today. We made mistakes the first half, then did it right the second half. We didn't make any changes. We just started playing after it was too late. You can't win that way."

Tech's defense continued to stand around, the Wildcats moved almost the length of the field, finally settling for a 20-yard field goal to go up by 17 at the end of the quarter.

The Hokies recovered a Kentucky fumble early in the second period and drove 56 yards for their first touchdown. Quarterback Bruce Arians took it in on a keeper from the three. The try for two points failed.

Tech, for a moment, seemed

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Virginia Tech 0 6 6 14-21
Kentucky 17 14 0 10-31

Ken—Orsa 6 pass from Lewis (Steele kick)
Ken—Collins 7 run (Steele kick)
Ken—FG Steele 30
Tech—Arians 1 run (run failed)
Ken—Lewis 63 run (Steele kick)
Ken—Lewis 1 run (Steele kick)
Tech—Dick 9 pass from Popp (pass failed)
Tech—Hardee 30 pass from Popp (Lattimer kick)
A—48,000

Va. Tech Kentucky
First downs 20 15
Rushes-yards 40-154 48-229
Passing yards 181 125
Return Yards 47 53
Passes 17-48-0 8-14-0
Punts 4-4 6-9
Fumbles-lost 4-2 3-3
Penalties-yards 2-10 4-10

RUSHING
Kentucky: Collins 11-60, Lewis 20-63, Arians 2-17-0, Tech—Rogers 16-107, 16-107, Barber 16-41

PASSING
Kentucky: Lewis 6-9-0. Tech: Popp 9-20, Arians 8-17-0

RECEIVING
Kentucky: Barga 3-44; Tech: Hardee 3-61, Galloway 2-32.