Tech’s Phil Rogers Looks for Yardage, But Can’t Find Much
Kentucky’s Frank LeMaster (42) Brought Gobbler Down

Kentucky Holds Off Virginia Tech 31-26

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In back in it, but just as quickly they were out of it again. Quarterback Lewis kept the ball for 62 yards while all the Hokies defense could get was a piece of his shirt. LeMaster’s kick made it 26-6.

Still, it wasn’t enough for the Wildcats. The next time they had the ball, they drove 77 yards for another touchdown. Lewis kept the ball for 36 yards to get the points. LeMaster’s kick provided the Wildcats last score and at half it was 31-6.

Although they didn’t know it at the time, the Hokies would have won the game had they not gotten something on the board early in the second half. And the chances were Born.

Tech had led in Kentucky territory three times and got nothing. First, field goal kicker Wayne Latimer missed from 44. Then Tech recovered a fumble on the Kentucky one and didn't score. Latimer finally missed again.

Then Tech got another fumble and Latimer missed again, this time from the 35 as the ball hit the crossbar.

Finally, near the end of the quarter, quarterback Ricky Hope hit tight end Kevin Smith for seven yards and a touchdown. The try for two failed and Tech was behind 31-20.

Early in the fourth period, Poppe went to the air. Tech ripped through 75 yards, the final 36 a Poppe pass to Billy Harden, for a touchdown. Latimer made it 31-26 and Tech suddenly had a chance.

The Tech defense turn’en ’da victims for a change, stopped Kentucky cold and the Hokies got the ball back. This time the march covered 80 yards. The big play was a 51-yard pass from Poppe to J.B. Barber which moved the ball to the Kentucky 10. Next, Barber set the career-touchdown record with a five-yard rump. Latimer’s kick was good and the Hokies had a 36-26 lead with 5:25 remaining, needing another touchdown to win.

Kentucky made a first down, then was forced to give it all up. Tech got the ball back with two minutes left.

With the ball on the Tech 26, Poppe tried a 20-yard field goal, but it was batted down. The Hokies ran out the clock.

"Come Monday," Cofield said, "if I’m around, some of these players won’t be. From now on, the approach to Tech football is going to be mean and nasty. I’ve been too easy, Monday we’re looking the practice gates and nobody is going to get in. We’re going to do some things I don’t want anyone to see. We’re going to find out if we have some football players.

Cofield told fans players, "If you don’t want to take what I’m going to give you, then quit. Quit right now. I’ll buy you an airplane ticket home. I don’t want you riding on the team plane.

"We’re in a fight for my coaching career," he continued. "If you can’t take to the new approach, then get off this team. I’ve never been a loser, but I’m a loser right now. If I find I can’t overcome it, then I’ll resign myself from this situation.

Cofield’s opponent, Kentucky’s Frank Curiel, was happier.

"I thought we’d blow them out at halftime," Curiel said. "I guess we relaxed too much in the second half. I hope that is the start of something for the whole state. We dedicated the game ball to the stadium and the people of Kentucky. (It was the first game played in the new stadium.)"