Kentucky Trips
Tech by 31-26

By Ray Filegar
Times-Dispatch Sports Writer

LEXINGTON, Ky. — The Kentucky Wildcats, spotted a
17-0 lead in the first quarter, outlasted a Virginia Tech rally
in the second half at Commonwealth Stadium Saturday
afternoon and salvaged a 31-26 win over the Gobblers.

Tech, frustrated by a continuing case of fumbilitis,
which had contributed to a season-opening loss at the
hands of William and Mary a week earlier, made it easy for
the Wildcats at the outset, coughing up the football deep in
its own territory. Both times the Cats took advantage and
less than eight minutes into the game Kentucky was up, 14-0.

From there it was all uphill for the Gobblers and the fact
that they came as close to successfully making the climb as
they did certainly made an uncomfortable situation for new
Wildcat head coach Fran Cusci.

Ahead 31-6 at the half, the Cats had made a big impres-
sion on the first crowd (estimated at 48,000) ever to
witness a game in the University of Kentucky’s impressive
new Commonwealth Stadium. It was not, however, a lasting
impression.

The Gobblers, as ready for the second half as they weren’t
for the first, blanked the Wildcats for the remainder and pulled
within reach of a victory with 5:25 remaining when J.B.
Barber sliced off right tackle for a five-yard touchdown and
Wayne Latimer added the Pat that cut the difference to five
points. Unfortunately for Tech, its only remaining possession
of the game began and ended at

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Virginia Tech 0 6 6 14—26
Kentucky 17 14 0 0—31

Ken—Barga 6 pass from Lewis (Stele 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 (Latimer kick)
Tech—Barber 5 run (Latimer kick)
A—48,000

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Va. Tech Kentucky</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First downs</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rushes-yards</td>
<td>40-154</td>
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<tr>
<td>Passing yards</td>
<td>181</td>
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<tr>
<td>Return yards</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Penalties-yards</td>
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