“PHANTOM PHIL” ROGERS, Virginia Tech’s sophomore ace from Gate City, made an outstanding debut for the Gobblers in a losing cause Saturday against William & Mary.

Rogers returned four kickoffs 75 yards for an 18.8 average, connected on a 65-yard touchdown pass to Ricky Scales, carried the ball 18 times for 88 yards (4.9) with a long-gainer of 17 yards and caught a couple of passes.

“We had some flashes of talent from the guys we’ve been talking about like Rogers, Scales, Tom Shirley, James Barber and Ricky Popp,” said a dejected head coach Charlie Coffey, “and I think they will grade out well in the films”. But there wasn’t much else impressive about the Gobblers.

You can bet practice, which had been the toughest in many moons in preparation for the opener, didn’t lighten up much at Blacksburg today. Tech’s four first half fumbles and costly penalties in the second half proved fatal and it was the William & Mary veer that did the most humming.