Mustangs Mash Hokies

Cont. From First Sports Page

well in the third quarter in his first appearance of the season. But on a nine-yard run to the SMU 18, he suffered a fractured collarbone. The Hokies may have also lost staring linebacker Jack Crews (severe ankle injury) and a starting tight end Chuck Perdue (knee injury).

SMU, however, looked to be in excellent health, especially in the offensive backfield. For this game, Mustangs' coach Dave Smith moved Brian Duncan from halfback to fullback, and the 195-pounder responded with 144 yards on 14 carries. Reserve fullbacks David Bostick and Gus Lamkin had 73 and 22 yards, respectively.

The Mustangs elected to pound away inside with the fullbacks because Tech's defenses were outside-oriented to prevent big gainers from speedsters Alvin Maxson and Wayne Morris. Maxson got loose only once, but it was enough to take the Hokies completely out of it. His 53-yard touchdown sprint near the end of the third period enabled the Mustangs to take a 23-3 lead.

Tech blew two very good scoring chances in the first half. Behind by 10-0, the Hokies moved from their 29 to the SMU 31 in five plays. But Phil Rogers, Tech's leading ground gainer with 140 yards, fumbled at the end of a 10-yard run to the SMU 21.

Down by 17-3 late in the second period, Tech used Rogers' 47-yard sprint to make a first down at the SMU 20. On the next play, quarterback Bruce Arians fumbled for the second time (he also had one on Tech's first offensive series).

Given the fact that SMU was a superior team, those were the kind of chances Tech absolutely could not afford to lose. "We had a lot of opportunities to put points on the board when our defense was still playing good," said Coffey. "But when you keep missing them, it gets harder and harder to play defense. A good football team like SMU gets better and better if you give them reason to, and we did."

Mathieson started the second half and hit two of three passes, including a 31-yarder that carried to the SMU 33. Two plays later, he went down and out. Although Tech capped the drive with Wayne Latimer's second field goal, the Hokies never again had an offensive punch. They made only four first downs in the last 20 minutes.

About the only bright spot for Coffey was the punting of Bruce McDaniel, who averaged 45.1 yards for seven kicks. "His kicking has been the only thing we've had consistently good for four games," said the Tech coach.

"We seem to be giving up the big play all the time," said Tech senior linebacker Kent Henry. The 208-pounder was then asked the question on the lips of all Tech boosters these days: What's wrong with the team? "If we knew what was wrong," said Henry, "we wouldn't be 0 and 4."