SMU Runs Down Tech 37-6

BY BILL CATE
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DALLAS—Virginia Tech football coach Charlie Coffey says on numerous occasions that his squad has the potential to be a good football team.

It was very obvious, however, on this hot, humid Saturday in Texas Stadium that Southern Methodist University, the Mustangs that not only has the potential, but a team which is fast reaching it.

It was another one of those days where Tech made mistakes after mistake and the opponent took advantage of them. On this day, the advantage was 37-6 and it belonged to SMU.

There was no question what SMU, now 3-0 in a fast league, was going to do. The game plan was to run the football right down Tech's throat. That plan was implemented to perfection. The Mustangs had 60 yards rushing with nine backs running the football. Four of them had over 50 yards.

The Mustangs' first score was a 23-yard field goal by Clint Hackney after a 74-yard, seven-play drive. But Tech had demonstrated the capacity to move the ball and there was every reason to believe it would.

In the meantime, however, SMU scored again on an 82-yard, eight-play drive which culminated when quarterback Keith Bobo ran it in from the six-yard line. Behind, 10-0, Tech moved quickly into SMU territory, only to lose it on the Mustang 22 when Phil Rogers fumbled after a 10-yard gain.

The Hokies got three early in the second period on Wayne Latimer's 26-yarder. But Tech had the ball on SMU's 11 and couldn't connect on a couple of passes.

SMU made it 17-3 on the next series by running right up the Tech middle. It took only nine plays to go 66 yards. Bobo got the last 10.

The Hokies had another good chance late in the half when Rogers, who rushed for 140 yards, ran 47 to the SMU 20. Arians fumbled there.

Tech finished the half with Ricky Popp, who wasn't supposed to play, at quarterback and opened the second half with sophomore SteveMathieson, a dead ringer for departed Don Strock.

Quickly, Mathieson moved the Hokies through the air to the Mustang 18 where he was nailed on a late hit and suffered a broken collar bone. He'll be out for the rest of the season. Popp returned and hit Rogers for 11 yards and Tech was on the seven. Three plays later Latimer kicked a field goal from the 22.

It appeared Tech was going to make another of those last-half rallies, but those thoughts were soon erased when Mason ran 53 yards for a touchdown. The rest of the day was just an exercise in futility for the Hokies. They couldn't stop the SMU runners and they couldn't generate any offense.

"Given the opportunity, a good football team gets better and better," said a visibly disappointed Coffey. "And that's what happened today. We had some opportunities early, while our defense was playing well, but we didn't take advantage of them. Everything got harder for us as the game went on."

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SMU's Wayne Morris Takes to the Air for Yardage in Second Quarter Against Tech