Mustangs Round Up Hokies

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wore on because SMU made it harder.”

The Hokies appeared strong defensively—believe it or not—on some occasions. But as soon as Tech would stop SMU for a couple of plays a Mustang back, usually fullback Brian Duncan (who had 144 yards on 14 carries), would run up the middle for 15 or 20 yards for a key first down. On one series, when SMU scored its second touchdown, the Mustangs had five consecutive runs which went for 10 or more yards.

Tech’s defense was set to stop Alvin Maxson and Wayne Morris, the running duo who has been running through everybody. But when Tech stopped them, Duncan got the call and he was rarely contested until he reached the deep secondary.

The loss leaves Tech with an 0-4 record and a great chance of going into the sellout with Virginia—a game which incidentally will not be for state supremacy—with an 0-6 mark.

Tech played like a snakebit team, one which was waiting for something bad to happen. It did, and fast.

While the Hokie defense played reasonably well early, the offense fumbled away three first-half opportunities.

Tech had excellent field position on the opening series. The Hokies, quickly moving the ball to midfield, lost a possible scoring opportunity when Bruce Arians, the starting quarterback, fumbled and SMU recovered.

Duncan, the SMU fullback, said he had such a great day because “Virginia Tech was keying on Maxson and Morris. It was really easy because Mike Smith (the Mustang center) was doing such a great job blocking their noseguard. He didn’t even see me go by.”

“Tech hit real hard, but nobody seemed to know what we were doing except No. 34 (Dennis Dodson). He used his hands well, but we finally wore him out.”

SMU Coach Dave Smith said Tech was very “outside conscious which allowed us to run up the middle.”

It was a costly game for Tech. Mathieson will miss the season. Running back Alex Hill suffered a severe ankle sprain and will be out several games. Tight end Chuck Perdue hurt his knee. Linebacker Jack Crews, who played well at times, hurt his ankle. And Popp got hurt again.

“When things start going wrong,” said Coffey, “it comes in bunches.

“It was just another nightmare.”