Gobbler Running Back Has Potential To Set Records

BLACKSBURG (Special)—Phil Rogers so far hasn’t scored a touchdown, but he’s already Virginia Tech’s most exciting running back in at least a decade, and he’s a cinch to become the most productive sophomore runner in Gobbler history.

Having gained 430 yards in the Gobblers’ first four games, the Gate City youngster should very soon be assaulting Tech’s list of all-time productive runners.

At least in the last quarter century, only six Tech ball carriers have gained more than 700 yards in a single season: 940 by tb Terry Smoot, 1969; 839 by qb Bob Schweikert, 1963; 820 by tb Terry Smoot, 1968; 777 by fb Sonny Utz, 1964; 764 by tb Perry Tiberio, 1970; and 753 by tb Tommy Francisco, 1966.

Coach Charlie Coffey may no secret of his intentions getting the ball to Rogers. In fact, Rogers is Tech’s lead pass receiver. Last Saturday also was pressed into service a kickoff returner. And if Coffey didn’t feel compelled to allow him an occasional brief rest, probably would be called upon run back punts.