Gamecocks Down Tech

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BLACKSBURG—It was an offensive display at Lane Stadium Saturday that saw Virginia Tech and South Carolina put 41 points on the scoreboard in the first half.

But when the fireworks subsided shortly after the second half started, the South Carolina defense settled down to preserve a 27-24 triumph over the Hokies. It was Tech's fifth straight loss.

The fireworks began on the second play from scrimmage when wide receiver Hardee hauled in a Rick Popp pass on his own 46 and then outlegged the South Carolina defenders the remaining 54 yards to give the Gobbler a 7-0 advantage.

The lead was short-lived though, as South Carolina marched 61 yards in eight plays, largely on the running of halfback Jay Lynn Hodglin and halfback Randy Spinks, to even the score.

When Tech quarterback Jeff Grantz plunged over from the one, Heath took the ensuing kickoff 70 yards, but three penalties prevented a Tech tally. The Gamecocks' response was a drive that ended in Bob Marino's fourth field goal of the year which capped the first quarter scoring with the Gamecocks leading 10-7.

The Gobbler utilized a 46-yard pass play from Popp to Ricky Scales in the second period to set up a Wayne Latimer field goal, tying the score at 10-10.

The Gamecocks regained the lead on a 39-yard halfback option pass from Hodglin to Mike Farrell, which slipped unnoticed behind the Tech pass defense to make it 17-10.

Tech rallied behind the gutsy running of Phil Rogers and Barber and a 15-yard reverse by Scales to even things up for the final time at 17-all. A 36-yard Popp to Scales pass accounted for the TD.

Grantz led the Gamecocks on a 89-yard drive and tallied from the one, closing the first-half scoring with South Carolina leading, 23-17.

The Hokies had amassed over 300 yards total offense in the half, but the Gamecocks had scored on four of six possessions with Sophomore Grantz leading the way with pin-point (6 for 6) passing.

When the second half opened, it appeared that the fans in Lane Stadium were in store for more of the same fire-works, as South Carolina took nine plays to set up Bob Morino's second field goal to make the score 27-17.

True to first-half form, sophomore speedster Hardee took the Gamecock kick-off at his own 44 and rushed up the field towards what appeared to be a solid wall of South Carolina tacklers around the Tech 40.

He broke through, and, aided by a block by Heath, outraced would-be tacklers the remaining 60 yards to the end zone, cutting USC's lead to 27-14.

After Hardee's breath-taking run, both teams settled down to do what neither had done during the first 34 minutes—playing defense.

Tech played steady, grudging defense through the remainder of the second half. The Hokie effort was led by Beasley and Dodson, each of whom were in 17 tackles, and senior safety Jerry Scharnus, who came up with 10 stops.

Also important to the Gobbler second-half stinginess was Tom Shirley. The junior linebacker out of Patrick Henry High School of Roanoke contributed. 20 saves to the effort.

The gamecocks relied on coffin-corner kicking by punter Bobby Reynolds on two occasions in the third quarter to keep the Hokies pinned in. Three interceptions of Popp passes halted Tech drives, once late in the quarter and twice in the final stanza.

GAMECOCKS DO TURKEY TROT — Virginia Tech's James Barber leads these South Carolina players in "Tech Turkey Trot" as he waltzes his way for first down. Following "the leader" are Jacyn Adamski, Dana Carpenter and Bill Creger.