Tech Drops 5th, 27-24

Cont. From First Sports Page

Grantz who scored two touchdowns rushing and passed for more than 200 yards. The Grantz-led attack stung the Tech defense for 478 yards total offense and, as it turned out, that was barely enough to send the GoBblers down to their fifth loss of the season.

Virginia Tech, which thrilled a Homecoming crowd of 38,000 by scoring in the opening minute on a 74-yard pass from Rick Popp to wide receiver Billy Hardee, managed a very respectable 453 yards total offense in the game which was eventually decided by Bobby Marino's 36-yard field goal early in the third period.

"Our defense was more consistent, but everytime we'd get a spark...something would happen said Tech coach Charlie Coffey. "That's the way it's been all season."

Tech's also year-long problem of being unable to add just defensively in the first half was evident against the Gamecocks (2-2). South Carolina rolled up 279 yards before intermission, scoring 10 points in the opening period and 14 in the second. The GoBblers, with an even 300 yards offense (179 in their) also scored (17), but not enough.

Grantz needed only a few minutes to get South Carolina on the scoreboard after Hardee got behind the Gamecocks' secondary and sailed untouched. Daydrill for Tech with only 150 gone. The 'Bel Air, Md., native capped a 62-yard scoring drive for Carolina with a one-yard plunge after momentarily bobbling the ball. Marino kicked the PAT that offset Wayne Latimer's conversion following Hardee's score for Tech.

With each team having scored on its initial possession, the stage was set for what was entirely an offensive showing before halftime. In fact, of the 10 possessions in the first 30 minutes, seven were turned into scores.

Mariono's 42-yard field goal at 3:46 of the first and a 35-yard three-pointer by Latimer early in the second quarter left the teams tied until a halfback pass from Jay Hodgins to split and Mike Ferrell at 9:29 of the second put South Carolina ahead. The GoBblers pulled even again, less than two minutes later when Popp, who passed for 219 yards during the day, found Ricky Seales with a 36-yard aerial.

Grantz put S.C. ahead to stay before the half ended with another one-yard run, this time capping an 80-yard drive, and Marinaro's final conversion made it 24-17.

The Gamecocks, operating without head coach Paul Dietzel who remained hospitalized in South Carolina with a abdominal inflammation, got what proved to be the winning points on their first possession of the second half. But after Marino booted his 36-yard field goal, the Hokies seemed more than ever to be in the contest.

Hardee, recovering a fumble by freshman George Heath, returned the ensuing kickoff 86 yards for his second TD of the afternoon and, after the PAT by Latimer, few would have guessed that the day's scoring had ended. But it had.

For the remainder, the day belonged to the respective defensive units, with Tech's advances twice stalled by pass interceptions and South Carolina blanked by a ten-adjusted Hokie defense.

Coach Pride Ratterree, subbing for Dietzel, observed later, "I know our defensive

INDIVIDUAL RUSHING
South Carolina — Hodgins, 23 carries, 98 yards, Grantz, 22-51, 2 touchdowns; Spinks, 17-76, Carrer, 2-minuses 1; Lehpoe, 4-12; Virginia Tech — Rogers, 10-48, Barber, 18-161; Popp, 3-minuses 14; Scales, 2-28; Joyce, 2-minuses 12.

INDIVIDUAL PASSING
South Carolina — Grantz, 13 completions 22 attempts, 0 interceptions, 200 yards, Hodgins, 1-2-0-39, 1 touchdown; Virginia Tech — Popp, 10-25-319, 2 touchdowns.

INDIVIDUAL PASS RECEIVING
South Carolina — Farrel, 6-128, 1 touchdown; Muldrow, 4-47; Woolbright, 3-37; Thomas, 1-10; Virginia Tech — Hardee, 4-151, 1 touchdown; Scales, 4-44, 1 touchdown; Barber, 2-10.

coaches will be disappointed in our play, but our defense had the clutch; when we had to have it."

And so it did.

The GoBblers' big day included the following:
Running back Jim Barber ripped off 164 yards, including 38 on one romp, on only 18 carries. And 86 more from Phil Rogers on 10 plays.
Plus 149 return yards by Heath on five returns.
Plus 115 yards receiving by Hardee and 94 more from Scales.
And still it was not enough, simply because the Gamecocks, who battered the Tech line for 236 rushing yards including 98 by Hodgins, were not to be denied. Which their 27 first downs, and the score, attested to.