Gamecocks Hand
Tech Another Loss

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kickoff back to close the count to 27-23.

The remainder of the second half, although neither defense would have scared a football team, offensive mistakes kept the end zones uninhabited.

South Carolina fumbled once inside the Tech three and threw incomplete on fourth down from the three another time.

Popp gave up three interceptions the second half to destroy any prayer of scoring.

Grantz, who played with a totally unfamiliar backfield behind him (stars Ross Jackson and Jim Collins quit the team this week) said, "It took Tech quite a while to diagnose our option, but the second half they were playing it pretty well so we went to the pass and it was going so we stayed with it."

Although only a sophomore, Grantz ran the veer like a professional. "I ran it all through high school," he said, "so I'm pretty familiar with it."

Shirley explained away the fifth straight defensive breakdown as youth, "it's just a different thing every week. We have a lot of young players and it takes them longer to adjust to a new offense or new angle, whereas last year we had an older team and didn't take as long to adjust."

"A game like today really drains it out of you. It's hard to keep coming back when you've lost five in a row. I say you've got to forget those losses, but you can't."

The Gobblers had an opportunity to win it at the end, getting possession with 4:13 left. VPI coach Charlie Coffey inserted Salem freshman quarterback Eddie Joyce, Jr. into the lineup. J. B. Barber ripped off 38 yards on the first play from scrimmage and Phil Rogers added three more to near midfield.

Coffey pulled Joyce then and put Popp back at the controls. Popp was immediately intercepted.

With Joyce at quarterback again with 38 seconds left, Tech couldn't move the football.

The Gobblers face Houston in the Astrodome next week.