Tech JV's Beat WVU With Late Field Goal

By BILL CATE
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BLACKSBURG — The father of one of Virginia Tech's freshman football players—a smile spread widely across his face—was trying to catch his breath after running, at least half-speed, from Lane Stadium to the football dressing quarters.

“You know,” he gasped, “if the varsity had that kind of enthusiasm nobody around here could touch them.”

The man wasn't far from wrong. The Virginia Tech junior varsity defeated the West Virginia jayvees, 23-22, here Friday afternoon with a last-minute field goal by walk on Carlos Castilla. The performance, although marked by costly mistakes, was so enthusiastic you almost wished the jayvees could have had time to make the team plane to Morgantown where the Hokie varsity will play the West Virginia varsity Saturday.

The Tech jayvees had Friday what the Tech varsity has been missing. Although they have not practiced together, they played together. And they won.

There was no way Tech was supposed to win the game. The jayvee squad was badly battered after going against the varsity in a week of intensive practice. Not only that, the varsity had robbed Terry Don Phillips' jayvee squad of several of its most valuable performers. Injuries had sidelined several more. Add those facts to another one, the West Virginia jayvee team has been practicing together as a unit.

“We were lucky to beat them,” said freshman quarterback Eddie Joyce Jr., who engineered the fourth-quarter drive which propelled the Hokies to victory. “They've practiced together. All we have done is try to get the varsity ready.”

Joyce, undoubtedly, is the quarterback of the future at Tech. He had the poise of a veteran. He read the defenses well.

“He told us what he thought would work,” said Phillips. “It did.”

Although Joyce played well, much of the credit for the victory must go to Castilla, a junior kicking specialist from Bogota, Columbia, who played in his first football game. Castilla kicked three field goals, the last one with 32 seconds left.

The only thing Tech did not do adequately was punt protect for its punter. The Hokies had two blocked, one for a touchdown.

“We hadn't worked on our kicking game,” said Phillips. That was obvious.

Joyce and Mitchell Barnes divided the quarterback assignment, Barnes playing the first and third quarters, Joyce the second and fourth. Joyce, on this day, was the best. However, he would prefer to be playing on a different team, namely the Tech varsity.

“I'm just waiting for my chance,” he said. “I hope it will come soon. It isn't hurting me to play on the junior varsity because I'm getting playing time, but I think it'd rather be a third stringer on the varsity. You learn more up there—your learn the system and that's what I need to do.”

Joyce expects to be moved up soon.

“I'm not unhappy,” he said. “I know this is the place I can really be happy...as soon as I start playing for the varsity.”

Tech led most of the game, but fell behind 22-20 early in the fourth quarter.

The Hokies started their winning drive on the Mountaineers' 37. The key plays were runs by Joyce on the option play. He picked up 13 yards on the first run, five on the next, three on the next. When that was over, Tech had the ball on the WVU four, with fourth down and two, and Castilla kicked the winning field goal.

“When I came to Tech,” Castilla said, “I intended to play soccer. But football is the big sport here. I wanted to try it. You know, it's exciting. Now all I want to do is make the varsity.”

“I don't blame him,” said coach Phillips, “but I'm glad we had him today.”

West Virginia
Virginia Tech
Tech--Abberton 12 run with blocked punt (Abberton pass from Lewis)
Tech--FG Castilla 20
Tech--Harnan 6 pass from Lewis (Hollman pass from Lewis)
Tech--Scott 1 run (Castilla kick)
Tech--Scott 1 run (Castilla kick)
WVU--Douglas 9 run (pass failed)

Tech--FG Castilla 22