Once-Beatens Collide at Ferrum

By RANDY KING
Times Sports Writer

As the college football season is coming to a fast conclusion, the area fan has not been treated to too many encounters which match two teams with winning records. But Saturday, in the season finale for both Ferrum and the Virginia Tech JV's, the area grid fan will get his big chance.

While most of the games around the state will pit one loser against another loser, the Panthers and the Goblets will be putting once-beaten records on the line. Ferrum is 8-1 while Tech is 4-1 going into the 1:30 kickoff at Adams Stadium in Rocky Mount.

The Panthers, who were hoping to get a post season bowl bid, won't have to worry about that possibility Saturday. The National Junior College Athletic Association released its bowl pairings Wednesday and the Panthers were not included. But all the news wasn't bad as the Panthers polled 61 points to finish eighth in final national rankings. Iowa Central of Fort Dodge, Iowa easily topped the final NJCAA poll.

The Goblets, whose only loss came at the hands of the North Carolina State freshmen, will be a tough assignment for the Panthers.

"Tech has one of the better junior varsity programs around," said Ferrum Coach Hank Norton. "They have lost only to State and that was 21-20 in Raleigh. They're doing a good job, they're winning and they have a lot of pride. They will be tough."

One of the big problems for the Panthers will be the Tech offensive scheme. The Goblets use the veer offense and that's been effective against the Panther defense this year.

Tech quarterback Mitchell Barnes and halfback Charlie Brown from Pulaski High will present most of the problems for the Ferrum defense.

Barnes, who led Southampton to the State 2-A finals against Radford last season, has had a fine season and has done a good job in directing the Tech veer.

Meanwhile Brown has had some big days also. He scored three touchdowns in a win over VMI while he scored two touchdowns and rushed for 128 yards in Tech's latest win, a 42-19 rout of Virginia.

The Goblets are in excellent health coming into the contest with no real key injuries. The Panthers are not as fortunate as five starters on offense are out for the season.

Norton figures to test the Tech defense with the strong running attack of his club. Don Testerman, who played for the Tech varsity before transferring to Ferrum this year, and halfback Mike Gregory are the strong points in a potent ground attack.

"Most teams have defended us for the running game," said Norton. "But we can throw the ball when we have to. We're not afraid to put the ball up. And our quarterback...

Bob Anderson does a good job of throwing too."

The Goblets will be out to avenge the 35-12 licking they absorbed from the Panthers last November in Roanoke. In that game Ferrum jumped out to a 35-0 lead before the Techmen could even score.