Gamecocks Top  
Va. Tech, 27-24

BLACKSBURG, Va. (UPI) – South Carolina quarterback Jeff Grantz ran for two touchdowns and the Gamecocks’ defense picked off three Virginia Tech passes to down the winless Gobblers Saturday 27-24.

Grantz, a sophomore, dove for two one-yard touchdowns in the first half and completed 13 of 22 passes for 203 yards in the game as the Gamecocks rolled up 478 yards total offense.

But Virginia Tech, 0-5, stayed close on Ricky Popp’s passing. Popp completed 10 of 22 passes for 219 yards, four of them to Billy Hardee, who scored on an electrifying 74-yard pass on the game’s second play.

Popp was intercepted three times, however, by the alert Gamecock defense, stopping Virginia Tech drives.

South Carolina, 2-2, led 10-7 at the end of the first quarter on Grantz’ first one-yard plunge and a 42-yard field goal by Marino Marion.

After Tech’s Wayne Latimer booted a 35-yard field goal to tie the score, South Carolina’s Mike Ferrell scored on a 39-yard halfback pass option from Jay Lynn Hodgin.

Tech, which had 453 yards on offense, took the next kickoff and marched 71 yards on six plays, with Ricky Scales snaring a 36-yard touchdown toss to tie the score at 17-17.

Carolina then crunched 80 yards in 13 plays with Grantz sneaking over from the one on fourth down for a 24-17 halftime lead.

Marion booted a 36-yard field goal in the third quarter and Hardee responded with a 96-yard kickoff return for the game’s final score.

Tech failed to cross into Carolina territory in the fourth quarter, as Gary Mott intercepted Popp on the South Carolina 36 and Henry Lawns picked off another on his own 49.

South Carolina coach Paul Dietzel remained in a Columbia, S.C. hospital with diverticulitis, an inflammation of the intestine, the first time as a head coach that he missed a game. It was Dietzel’s first collegiate victory.