South Carolina Defense Makes Gobblers 0-5

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BLACKSBURG — It was an interesting and impressive show of football offense most of the afternoon.

Ironically, defense, particularly as played by South Carolina's Gamecocks, made the big difference Saturday when 35,800 fans at Virginia Tech's homecoming game went away disappointed, 27-24.

The victory evened the Gamecocks' season slate at 2-2 and handed the Gobbler their fifth defeat in as many outings despite a sensational Seyard kickoff return by their Billy Hardee. Interceptions late in the third quarter and in the fourth proved decisive as Virginia Tech struggled to erase the final three-point deficit with which it began the last period.

In the first case, with just over a minute left in the third period, Tech had moved from its four to the 21 when C.A. Wilson picked off Rick Popp's aerial to senior James Barber at the Gobbler 42. Two series later, Gary Motl did the thievery with Tech moving well at South Carolina's 45.

Then, with six minutes left, see Interceptions, D-4 1-2 PM

Interceptions

- Tech-Harding 7d post from Popp
- SC-first down from Popp (Dampier)
- SC-second down from Popp (Marcellous)
- SC-third down from Popp (Marcellous)
- Tech-Scales down from Popp
- Tech-scales down from Popp
- SC-first down from Popp (Dampier)
- Tech-only first down from Popp (Dampier)

Interceptions Ruin Gobbler

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left, it was hard-hitting Henry Law who stopped a pass to flanker Ricky Scales at VPY's 36.

From there on, Coach Charlie Coffey's host team showed little in the way of defense.

Until the Gamecock secondary went into thievery for a living, the capacity crowd had enjoyed watching the ball move up and down Lane Stadium's turf.

How fast it moved is illustrated in first-half statistics which indicated how much more active the two attacking units were than their brethren on defense.

Between the two clubs, they covered 379 yards with the hosts rolling up an even 209...179 by air and 121 overland. The two foes, meeting for the 12th time since 1965, accumulated 35 first downs.

South Carolina put points on the board of the 4 of the 6 times they had the ball in the first 30 minutes and led, 24-17, at the half.

However, Virginia Tech took a 46-yard field goal from Virginia Tech's Paul Ritter after Popp connected with wide receiver Hardee at the 46 and collected everybody into the end zone.

South Carolina took almost an eternity to return, even moving on eight plays before quarterback Jeff Grantz carried on a 10-yard sneak.

The Gamecocks went ahead late in the opening period on Bobby Marino's 5-yard field goal, which was matched a few minutes later by Wayne Lattimer's 4-yarder for Tech to make it 10-10.

Mike Jarrett's field goal from 27 yards late in the half pass gave South Carolina a 20-10 lead but Popp passed for a touchdown of his own after Tech had mounted 24 of the 29 points with Grantz in the game for the second straight time.

Granta went in from the 3 on the very next play to give Tech a 27-20 lead, the lead for good, Marino's field goal from 36 yards later put it out of Tech's reach, despite Hardee's 9-yard kick-off return which wound up the scoring.

Acting Gamecock Coach Pride Rattiere called the Gobbler's long passes and the end-around play run by Scale's two most effective parts of Tech's offense.

"They caught us napping twice with that end around," he said. "Their long passes were also something we hadn't expected. They played a great football game."

"We've been in this situation before," he continued, referring to the absence of Tech Coach Paul Ritter during his 10th head coaching victory.

"This time all I did was stand on the sideline and做梦. The players did a good job, although I'm sure our defensive coaches won't be too happy with our play."

"Our offense was more consistent than in our previous games," commented Tech Coach Charlie Coffey. "Although our pass defense broke down several times, particularly at the end." Coffey had inserted freshman quarterback Eddie Wilson late in the fourth quarter for what he had called a "special play." The freshman was sacked three times on plays.

I thought our defense was very aggressive and has been and is encouraging."

Tech defense held, the Gamecocks on three plays, one foot out before Grantz ran for his second touchdown.

South Carolina Loses, 27-24