Cougars Devour Gobblers
With Big 2nd Half, 54-27

HOUSTON, Tex. (Special to Daily Press) — The undefeated, nationally-ranked Houston Cougars exploded at the start of the second half Friday night to down Virginia Tech, 54-27, in the Astrodome.

Trailing, 17-14, at halftime, the Cougars got the lift they needed on the second-half kickoff as 9.3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First downs</th>
<th>VPI</th>
<th>Houston</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rushes-yards</td>
<td>42-56</td>
<td>55-364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passing yards</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Return yards</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passes</td>
<td>16-33-5</td>
<td>6-13-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fumbles-lost</td>
<td>2-1</td>
<td>8-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penalties-yards</td>
<td>0-0</td>
<td>4-40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

sprinter Larry Jefferson returned it 95 yards, second longest in UH history, to put the Cougars ahead for keeps.

Tech, grumbling, threw two quick interceptions and Houston converted each into scores. One was on a five-yard run by quarterback D.C. Nobles, the other on a two-yard run by junior running back Reggie Oberry.

Wayne Latimer gave Tech three more points with a 32-yard field goal before Houston rang the bell again on a 45-yard TD aerial from Nobles to sophomore split end.

The Fighting Gobblers retaliated again with Beales getting his third TD of the night on a 16-yard reverse.

The Cougars led, 40-27, at the end of the period, and it stayed that way for almost seven minutes. Finally a 46-yard run by Nobles put the hosts deep in Tech territory again, and Parker bulled his way eight yards for a score.

The win marked the first time in history the Cougars have won their first five games, and it also gives them a nine-game winning streak going back to the last four contests of the 1972 season.

The loss was Tech's sixth straight, but it was the Gobblers' most impressive showing of the season as the Techmen, just as they did here two years ago, threw a scare into the highly-regarded Cougars and their coach, Bill Yoeman, generally acknowledge king of the veer.

The Cougars ripped at time, but the Tech defense on many occasions stopped them cold. Houston, however, got enough big plays to break it open.

Nobles, a quick-footed option man reeled off an even 100 yards in 15 carries, and Parker, 5-10, 215 power runner shipped in 119 in 19 tries.

As a passer, Nobles wasn't as effective. He hit only five of 12 for 94 yards and one touchdown, Tech

See VPI Page 18, Col. 6

VPI Coach Says Better Things Due

Continued from Page 15

sophomore Ricky Popp, rapidly improving in the last two games, completed 14 of 27 for 221 yards and two touchdowns, both to Beales.

However, the Cougar defense slammed the door on Tech's running game limiting it to 88 yards.

Yoeman said "the most pleasing thing about the win was the way our youngsters came back after a poor first half. The frame of mind just wasn't right. Tech has a good nucleus of young players. The two outside receivers have fine speed and their quarterback is a good scrambler."

VPI Coach Charlie Coffey raved of Houston: "They're a helluva football team. As always, we find some good things for us, but that's the story of our life. If there is such a thing, I am more encouraged after this game than after our first five losses.

"We are going to play like we can one of these days and someone had better watch out."

Tech stunned Houston midway in the first quarter when defensive back John Bell intercepted a pass by Nobles and on the ensuing play quarterback Popp lofted a 29-yard pass to wide receiver Seales for the score. Latimer converted and Tech led 7-0 with 7:11 remaining in the period.