Lawrence: Tech Deserved To Win The State Rivalry

By BOB CRAIG
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BLACKSBURG—When UVa coach Don Lawrence is asked about specific plays in a ball game, he usually replies, “I can’t answer that. I’m on the sidelines. I’ve got the worst seat in the house.”

There weren’t any good seats in Lane Stadium for Cavalier fans Saturday as the Wahoos lost to Virginia Tech 27-12.

And for Lawrence, the position he found himself in after the game wasn’t very happy either. “We’re over here,” Lawrence said, “and we’re terribly disappointed.”

“Tech is over there,” the head coach continued, pointing toward the VPI lockerroom, “and they’re on top of the world.”

“We put the ball on the ground too many times,” Lawrence explained, referring to seven Cavalier fumbles. “The effort was there, but we couldn’t come up with the win. Tech deserved to win.”

Lawrence said it would take a thorough study of the films before he could pick out all of UVa’s mistakes, but he noted instead of one turning point in the game, there may have been three.

“We’re down there three times,” he explained, “and we miss a field goal, we fumble and we don’t cash in after a big kickoff return. It’s evident that our own mistakes hurt us, but if you’re going to be a winner you have to overcome them.”

The Cavaliers made just too many to overcome.

One play that obviously puzzled Lawrence was a pass to Harrison Davis into the endzone late in the second period. UVa was ahead 9-7 at the time and the pass from the eight-yard line looked complete as Davis crossed the goalline.

Two officials signaled for a touchdown, but when Davis dropped the ball two strides beyond the goal, a third official, standing behind Davis, declared the pass incomplete and negated the score.

“All I know is that the official raised his hands for the touchdown,” Lawrence said. “And then they took the score away. Davis told me he thought he had possession.”

The call proved costly as the Cavaliers came away with nothing when Billy Maxwell later missed a field goal.

As for the players, they

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