Win-hungry Tech scores first

BLACKSBURG, Va. (AP) — Sophomore placekicker Wayne Lattimer accounted for nine points, six coming on big second half field goals, to spark a victory-hungry Virginia Tech to a 27-15 triumph over intrastate rival Virginia here Saturday.

A crowd of 38,300, second largest in Virginia sports history, saw the Gobblers post their first win after six successive losses. Virginia dropped to 17-15 on a 52-yard Scott Gardner to Harrison Davis pass shortly before the quarter closed, but another Gardner pass to Davis in the end zone failed.

Then with 6:24 remaining in the game, Latimer booted a 19-yarder to stretch the Tech margin to 20-15, and the Gobblers went on to add a touchdown on reserve quarterback Eddie Joyce’s three-yard sweep with 1:06 left.

That final score came after flanker Mike Bennett had given Cavalier fans brief hope by returning a kickoff 64 yards to put Virginia in reach of a game-winning touchdown at the Tech 27 with six minutes remaining. But four plays later Virginia turned the ball over on a fumble, one of several costly mistakes made during the game.

Tech got its other touchdowns in the first half on an 80-yard pass play from tailback Phil Rogers to wide receiver Ricky Scales on the third play from scrimmage, and on a 13-yard second quarter run by Jim Barber.