VPI Shades Cavaliers By 27-15

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BLACKSBURG—Virginia Tech's football team broke a six-game losing streak that had lasted since the opening of the 1973 campaign Saturday, topping intra-state rival Virginia, 27-15 before a packed house of 38,000 in Lane Stadium.

The Gobblers earned the win by a strong defensive effort that made the big play-hard running by senior tailback James Barber engineered the go-ahead touchdown late in the first half. He came back to carry the mail in the drive for the "insurance" score that put the game away.

Along the way, Virginia Tech lost its No. 1 quarterback, Ricky Popp, possibly for the season. Early in the fourth quarter, Popp was tackled and injured his knee. He was taken from the game, and an early diagnosis was torn ligaments. If that holds true, freshman Eddie Joyce will have to run the team for the next four games.

By no means were the Cavaliers outclassed. Virginia gained 367 yards. The seven fumbles, four recovered by the Gobblers, made the difference.

Virginia also lost one touchdown when Bethel grad Harrison Davis appeared to have caught Scott Gardner's pass in the end zone, then dropped the ball. One official signaled touchdown, but the decision was reversed when the ball slithered to the ground. Davis later missed a pass when he was wide open. Still, Davis caught eight passes for 118 yards and a touchdown.

Virginia Tech got on the board early. On their third play from scrimmage, the Gobblers turned on a little "hipper-dipper" with halfback Phil Rogers pitching a strike to flanker Ricky Scales. Scales caught the ball at midfield and went the distance.

The Cavaliers came right back with a 35-yard delayed pass to Albert Cotton, but had to settle for a field goal by Nick Lattimer.

Virginia 9 0 6-15
Virginia 0 0 8 15

Tech—Scales 80 pass from Rogers (Lattimer kick) 8-10 10
Va—FG Jenkins 48 10-14 10
Va—Collier 43 pass from Gardner (kick failed) 0-0 0-0 0
Tech—Barber 12 run (Lattimer kick) 0-0 0-0 0
Tech—FG Lattimer 55 0-55 0-55 0
Va—Davis 32 pass from Gardner (kick failed) 0-0 0-0 0
Tech—FG Lattimer 19 0-19 0-19 0
Tech—Joyce 3 run (Lattimer kick) 0-0 0-0 0
A—38,000