Tech coach: victory was long time coming

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Contrary to what a lot of people believed before the state college football season began, the Virginia-Virginia Tech scrap before a capacity crowd did not settle the Big Five championship.

What Tech's 27-15 victory Saturday accomplished was knock out the Gobblers' six-game losing streak, deliver a knockout blow to the Cavaliers' Big Five title hopes and set up the Nov. 17 Richmond-William and Mary scrap as the championship encounter.

"When you've been where we've been, it's the greatest thing you can experience," said Tech Coach Charlie Coffey. "Conference, no. 1.

"I'm not sure we needed a win and they won't get it. They're celebrating and we aren't."!

Meanwhile Richmond's unbeaten Spiders upheld their two-year winning streak to 10, tying Houston for the longest major college string, with a 24-14 romp over West Virginia—only their second in 17 meetings and their first over the Mountaineers since 1981.

William and Mary's Indians, down at one time by 27-13, scored 17 points in a 21-minute span in the third quarter and finally were down Davidson 31-19, despite David Harper's Southern Conference record 37 pass completions for the losing Wildcats.

"You can bet we are going to work on stopping the mistakes in execution," said Virginia Military Coach Bob Thalman after his Keydets lost three fumbles and had three pass interceptions—two in the last 2 minutes—in a 19-13 Southern Conference loss at Furman.

Richmond was left as the state's only unbeaten team when Maryville handed Bridgewater's Eagles a 7-0 defeat, their first after five victories, by holding Chris Sizemore under 100 yards for the first time. Sizemore finished with 57 yards on 24 carries.

Greg Harvey ran for three touchdowns and passed for two more as Emory and Henry's Wasps, taking advantage of five fumbles and four interceptions, subdued Randolph-Macon's Yellow Jackets 33-21 in a Virginia College Athletic Association game.

Virginia State's Trojans whipped Hampton Institute's Pirates 16-0 in a VCAA and CIAA scrap. Virginia Union's leading Panthers got two 65-yard scoring runs from Larry Roberts and a 101-yard interception runback by James Porter in beating Norfolk State's Spartans 26-0.

In other games against out-of-state foes, Madison's Dukes whipped the Shepherd Jayvees 66-10, but Washington and Lee's Generals bowed to Western Maryland 35-17 and St. Paul's Tigers remained winless in a 26-0 defeat by Frockburg State.

"It was a long time coming," said Coffey of the Virginia Tech triumph. "We have been under pressure, worn out physically and mentally, but we haven't stopped until the last whistle."

James Barbee ran for 159 yards and one touchdown on 21 carries, Phil Rogers had 130 yards on 24 carries and Ricky Scales on an 80-yard bomb and freshman quarterback Eddie Joyce directed a 68-yard drive late in the game after starting quarterback Rick Culp was benched for two series.

The Cavaliers' Scott Gardner passed for 244 yards and two scores and ran for 53 yards, but Virginia lost four fumbles and was penalized eight times for 107 yards.

"We had many opportunities to win but just didn't take advantage of them," said Lawrence. "We just couldn't catch. The effort was there, but we beat ourselves."

Richmond Coach Frank Jones said "it was a great win for us. It wasn't a fluke, we beat them pretty good."

The Spiders intercepted six passes and turned three into a 21-3 halftime lead. Linebacker Pat Kelly had two interceptions, knocked down four passes and was in on 23 tackles. Fullback Barty Smith ran for 80 yards and two scores and caught four passes for 56 yards.

William and Mary overcame Harper's passing with 419 rushing yards as Bill Deery got 138, Frankie Proehle 86 and Mark Mollica 75. Deery ran for two touchdowns and passed for a third.

"We could have died, but we didn't. Of course, they could have, too but they hung in there," said Indian Coach Jim Boll.

"It was one heck of a game for an impartial spectaor."

Furman freshman Larry Robinson ran 287 yards, including a 71-yard scoring scamper, against VMI. And the Keydets couldn't stop their mistakes with the two final interceptions proving fatal.

Harvey ran for 37 yards and hit eight of 17 passes for 206 more and John Bartee carried 17 times for 63 yards and scored twice in Emory's surprising romp. Randolph-Macon's Tim Brepkowski had 124 yards on 22 carries.

A 48-yard pass from Russell Seaton to Walter Dunn and a 38-yard field goal by James Dugger won for Virginia State, which stopped Hampton with 79 yards in total offense.

Roberts accumulated 226 yards on 17 carries for Virginia Union with both his long scoring runs coming on inside reverses. The Panthers ran up 402 yards on the ground.

Two scoring passes by Leslie Branch and a 142-yard rushing night by Bernard Slayton were the keys to Madison's triumph, but...