Tech Whips Cavaliers
For First Win, 27-15

By Bill Mason
Sports Editor

BLACKSBURG—Virginia Tech finally won a football game, but lost a starting quarterback with the highly-ranked Crimson Tide of Alabama next on the schedule.

Tech's offense, improving for the past three games, outscored a strong but erratic Virginia Cavalier squad that found Tech defensive pressure too much in the late stages, resulting in poorly thrown passes, bad pitchouts and stuttering attack. And what Tech didn't do to U. Va., penalties did.

A happy head coach Charlie Coffey, looking ahead, said: "It's been a long time coming. I'd rather go down there with a win than without one. Coffey chuckled and added with a twinkle "Heck, we might just blow them off the field. We were loose against Houston and held them down for a half."

The Gobblers, still savoring a 27-15 win that raised their worst record in years up to 1-6, would later face the dilemma of replacing scrappy, fast-improving quarterback Rick Popp.

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WAITS FOR BARBER—Virginia Tech's all-time touchdown leader, James (J.B.) Barber cracks through the Virginia line as Cavalier defender Carl Barron waits to make the tackle. Barber ran the ball 21 times for 138 yards and one touchdown.

(NEWS MESSENGER Photos by Bill Hall)

ROGERS RAMBLES—Soph running back Phil Rogers of Gate City, the other half of Tech's powerful running attack, picked up 136 yards on 24 carries as Tech beat Virginia for its first win. Virginia's Eric Dahlgren (right) misses a tackle while linebacker Dick Ambrose (left) awaits his turn. Looking on in background is freshman quarterback Eddie Joyce (12).
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(Continued from Page 2) injured late in the game with what was thought to be torn cartilage in his left knee, almost certainly putting him out of the lineup for the final four games.

Popp had brought Tech back into the lead before being injured and freshman Eddie Joyce did a smooth, workmanlike job of running the show, scoring an insurance touchdown himself, and proving that Clockwork Orange is alive and ticking.

Coffey said the season has been a succession of injuries for Tech, and noted that quarterback Greg Mullinax (whose function has been that of carrying in the plays from the bench) will be activated and a quarterback (he named no names) would be moved up from the "B" squad. When asked if it might be Bruce Arians who was deadlocked with Popp for the starting spot when the season opened, he replied only "No."

Rusty Bailey, and Mitchell Barnes, who quarterbacked last year's Group AA runner-up team, Southampton, are the most logical candidates for moving up.

Coffey said of Joyce that he was pleased that a freshman quarterback could do that well, move the team errorlessly and score touchdown. As of now, with edge of his passing ability, Joyce is the likely starter against bowl-bound Alabama, which humbled previously-undefeated Tennessee in SEC action last Saturday.

Coffey said that he has been involved in the building of three college football teams, and all previous ones had come of age as winners in his third season. Concerning Tech, which didn't, he said "Maybe I expected too much."

The coach had praise for the defense, which came through to stop Virginia twice when they had to in the closing stages. He praised Roanoke's Doug Thacker, who has two recovered fumbles and made several key stops.

A smooth Tennessean,