By PETE GRAVES
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BLACKSBURG — Virginia unleashed a magnificent running attack here Saturday to overcome an inconsistent University of Virginia offense and whip the Cavaliers, 27-12, for its first win of the season.

The Gobblers spotted the Cavaliers a 5-7 first quarter lead, before untracking James Barber and Phil Rogers.

Barber, a senior, slashed through UVA's defense for 23 yards on 21 carries and Rogers, a sophomore, added 186 yards on 24 tries for the run-conscious Cavaliers offense, delighting most of the 38,000 fans.

Tech, 1-6, drew first blood with 1:24 gone in the game when Rogers connected with flanker Ricky Scales on an option pass for an 80 yard touchdown. UVA defensive back Steve Sroka missed intercepting the ball at the UVA 45 and Scales made the reception in full stride.

UVA, 2-5, came right back with a 48 yard field goal by freshman Joe Jenkins (a UVA record) with 9:15 left in the quarter and a 63 yard touchdown bomb from Scott Gardner to tight end Jim Colleman with 6:45 left. The Colleman reception gave Virginia its first and only lead of the afternoon, 9-7.

The tide turned against the Cavaliers in the second quarter when they missed a golden opportunity to score. Aided by three Gardner completions of 13, 8 and 7 yards to split end Harrison Davis and runs of eight and 18 yards by Mike Latimer, Virginia moved 71 yards in 11 plays to the Tech eight.

On second and six from the eight, Gardner threw a pass to Davis in the end zone, which two officials signaled touchdown. However, following a discussion by the refs, the pass was called incomplete. Davis later said he felt he had possession of the ball.

When Gardner's next pass attempt fell incomplete, Billy Maxwell attempted a 25-yard field goal which was wide to the left.

Barber followed good blocking by Tech's line in the next series to gain 15 yards in four runs, the last, a 13 yard sweep to the left side for a touchdown. Barber faked out Sroka on the play and went untouched to pay dirt, giving Tech a 14-9 lead with Wayne Davis for 181 yards. However, the Atlantic Coast Conference total offense leader rushed several pitches during the contest. Tech recovered two fumbles via Gardner-Merritt misses and another when Davis lost the pigskin deep in Tech territory. Tech linebacker Dennis Dodson recovered and Tech, ahead 20-3 with 5:20 left in the game, began its final scoring march.

Billy Hargrove's 25 yard punt return had set up Latimer's 19 yard field goal, his ninth of the year, with 5:24 left in the game. Following the field goal, Bennett had given the Cavaliers excellent field position on the Tech 27 with a 64 yard kick-off return.

The Cavaliers had been held scoreless for the first 12 minutes of the game on 12 possessions, two of which were punts by Gardner.

But the Gobblers went 96 yards in 12 plays, 38 yards on the ground via Scales, a nine yard hook-up with Scales and a 37 yard field goal by Jenkins to tie the score with 9:15 left in the quarter.

The Gobblers took over from their 45 and moved 53 yards in 10 plays to the UVA 20. A Gardner pass to Davis was incomplete, but Gardner followed with a 20 yard pass to Scales for the touchdown.

A pass was incomplete from Sroka to Scales, but Barber took over from the UVA 45 and ran 13 yards to the 32. A penalty moved the ball to the UVA 18, but Barber ran 12 yards for the touchdown with 3:50 left in the half.

Tech recovered the ensuing on-side kick. On second and 10 from the Tech 47, Gardner threw a pass to Davis in the end zone which was incomplete, but Gardner followed with a four yard completion to Davis...

The Cavaliers lost the game 27-12 as Tech scored on two penalty-stricken plays in the third quarter for a 37-9 lead.