BLACKSBURG — James Barber, Virginia Tech’s senior running back is busy writing records that he knows very likely will be rewritten before the ink of his marks are dry.

Barber, teaming with sophomore tailback Phil Rogers, gives Tech the best one-two punch it has had since Bob Schweickert combined with Sonny Utz (1962-64).

In their best season, 1963, Schweickert and Utz accounted for 75 per cent of the Gobblers’ running attack (1406 yards). Barber and Rogers so far this season have gained 1203 between them, accounting for 90 per cent of the total output.

"Aside from the maneuverability each has shown on any number of runs," Coach Charlie Coffey notes, "the really pleasing thing from a coach’s standpoint is the way they have blocked for each other."

And Barber accepts the philosophical concept that records are made to be broken — just as Mike Burnop (tight end, 1970-72) did.

In his sophomore year, Burnop referred to himself as a "glorified tackle," but in his junior year he became a consistent pass target. And his senior year he caught a record 46 aerials for the season and a career total of 90. "It’ll be nice to be in the record book for a year or two," he said, noting that then-sophomore Ricky Scales would promptly surpass everybody’s marks.

Likewise, Barber is fully aware that Rogers already has surpassed Barber’s sophomore statistics and appears destined to outstrip whatever totals Barber leaves for a target.