Alabama Scouts Say Tech Record Too Dangerous

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One of the worst things that we have going for us this week is Virginia Tech's record. They haven't won but one game this year, but they are a whole lot better football team than they

And they are such a young team: I think they'll have about 33 sophomores and freshmen on their 22-man roster. That means that they are getting better faster than an older team, improving a great deal with each week's experience.

Virginia Tech's strong suit is its offense, but the defense has gotten better each week and we're sure that they will have some defensive surprises for us. We're somewhat handicapped in that they haven't played a triple option team, like we are, and so we don't know what they'll do against us defensively. However, I know that Coach Charlie Coffey is a very defensive coach and if we keep something cooked up.

You can look for their defensive scheme to revolve around two very fine line backers, Tommy Shirley and Kent Henry, both of whom started last year. And in the secondary they have an outstanding safetyman in Jerry Schnarr.

Defensively, they have the kind of team that can keep the ball for long periods of time. They have two of the finest running backs that you'll ever see on one team — probably the best set of backs we'll face this year. They are Phil Rogers and James Barber. Both are averaging about 100 yards per game rushing.

They'll mostly keep it on the ground, but they mix in passes very well. They lost their quarterback, Rick Popp, in last week's victory over Virginia and they'll be coming with Eddie Joyce, a freshman who was highly sought after. This presents another problem for us in that we're not sure what to expect from Joyce. He's got good size at 6'4 and 214 and they are expecting great things from him.

Whatever they do offensively they will do behind a real fine line, a veteran line that includes only one man who wasn't a starter all year. They are a very strong unit with good pass protection.

When they do go to the air they have some fine receivers to throw the ball to. Ricky scales was a starter at flanker last year and a fine one for their All-American quarterback Don Strayer's great spread offense. They have Billy Hardee, a sophomore who can fly, who runs good routes and who will block downfield. He's the team's leading receiver.

Hardee also returns kickoff and he's part of an overall good kicking game. Wayne Latimer, who handles kickoff and placekicking duties, has hit on eight of 11 field goals this year, including one of about 55 yards. He kicks off into the end zone almost every time.

Coach Bryant has said often that a team that isn't supposed to lose does so every week. They say that we're not supposed to lose this game, but we win on the field, not on past performance. Virginia Tech isn't coming down here to lose so we had best be prepared for a football game.

Tech's Scales
Chaser Dale

BLACKSBURG – Ricky Scales, Virginia Tech's junior wide receiver, looks like he's coating even when he is in overdrive.

Last Saturday he entered the Tech record book in two more spots, but it went virtually unnoticed because his achievements are like his running gait—he appears to glide. In the first quarter against Virginia he kicked in an 80-yard TD pass from tailback Phil Rogers. That surpassed the school mark of 78 yards from quar-

terback to wide receiver Jimmy Choin against Ohio University in 1971.

Although only midway in his career, Scales also moved past all-time Tech career reception yardage (1,282). Scales already has 1,289.

And he's beginning to approach another Tech mark—Carroll Dale's 15 career TD catches. Scales at the moment has tallied 12 on pass receptions (plus one as a return). The junior continues to climb his climb up the ladder of Tech's all-time record for TD catches. Dale holds the record of 13.

The process he's stepping on the back of senior James Barber—a player who is about to enter the 600-yard club for the second time. At the moment, Barber is second in Tech's career yardage total of 1,886.