Tide Said ‘Unbelievable’
After Flogging Hokies, 77-6

“They are the finest offensive team I’ve ever seen,” said Virginia Tech coach Charlie Coffey yesterday of the Alabama squad that walloped his Hokies, 77-6, at Tuscaloosa Saturday night.

Coffey’s rating of the latest in a long line of Bear Bryant-coached teams included, “depth, personnel, speed and execution.”

“We are not a very good defensive team,” added Coffey. “Everyone knows that. But we’re not as bad as they made us look.”

And the Crimson Tide made the Gobblers look bad.

In the process of handing Tech its worst-ever defeat, Alabama set a total offense record of 828 yards (eclipsing the NCAA mark of 798 set by Vanderbilt against Davidson in 1969) and the rushing bettered the rushing mark of 711 by Oklahoma against Kansas State two years ago. The Tide gained an almost unreal total of 743 yards against Tech.

In the process four backs gained a 100 yards or better and 11 players shared in the scoring.

“I’m proud of the team for winning,” Bryant said, “but I’m really embarrassed over the score. I didn’t want any score like that.”

“You suffer those things,” responded Coffey. “It’s part of the game.

“With the people they’ve got, I don’t know if they could keep the score down if they wanted to.”

Tech safety Jerry Scharnus said of the Tide: “As a team, they’re unbelievable.”

Alabama was so superior that they were forced to punt only once in the game (the Tide scored 10 of the first 13 times it had the ball) and that one play turned into a first down when a bad snap sent sophomore Richard Todd scrambling with the ball.

Tech could take some comfort in the fact that the No. 2 ranked Tide is averaging 45.9 per game.

“And they are averaging 40 points a game against a lot better teams than we are,” added Coffey.

When it was over, all 68 players 'Bama dressed for the game had seen action. That it didn’t matter much who was playing or sitting may have been reflected best in the fact that freshman quarterback Jack O’Rear, playing much of the third and all of the last quarter, directed three TD drives and scored twice himself.

“Virginia Tech had the best offensive plan for us I’ve ever seen,” said Bryant. “Coach Coffey could take ours and do a better job with them than I did.”

Coach Coffey would undoubtedly like to try.