Remember W&L's 60-0 drubbing?

Hokies saddled with worst loss

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TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — How worried was Alabama about Virginia Tech?
Perhaps a sign hanging in view of the stands expressed it best. Said the sign: "Stamp out cancer and Auburn in your lifetime." Nothing about Tech.
The Crimson Tide did very little about cancer and Auburn here last Saturday night. But Bear Bryant's team, fighting for the top spot in the nation, most assuredly did something about Tech. In fact it might have stamped out any hopes for immediate improvement of the Gobblers' program.
When the counting was over, Bryant was in his dressing room profusely apologizing for a lopsided score which showed the Crimson Tide winning 77-6. It was the worst defeat in Tech's football history, which goes back to 1892.
In the other dressing room there was little remorse. Most Tech players were encouraged that the game had ended without loss of life. The defense really didn't believe it.
So awesome was Alabama's offense that it rolled to 743 yards rushing and 828 yards total offense — both new NCAA records. In addition, Alabama had four runners gain more than 100 yards, which tied another NCAA mark.
Every NCAA offensive record, save one, was within reach of the Tide. Georgia Tech's 222 points scored against Cumberland College was asking too much. But the Tide did show that three figures were possible with 56 points in the middle two quarters.
What saved Tech's defense from giving up 100 points was that Bryant chose to run dives into the line much of the second half. Passing was limited to just seven attempts. But if the Tide runners had continued to run outside, where Tech defenders were absent most of the night, the score would have been fantastic instead of just amazing.
"To be truthful," said Tech defensive end Doug Thacker, "it was embarrassing. I didn't expect more than 40 points (before the game)." He did a quick recount when it was 42-6 at half.
Tom Shirley, the Gobblers' linebacker, was asked if it was a long night. "Good gosh, yes," he replied. "It seemed like a year.

"I never dreamed anything like this could happen. Embarrassment is a good word for it. That's a real good word."
Shirley didn't feel the Gobblers, who were down 70-6 after three quarters, gave up.
"No one consciously gives up," Shirley insisted. "In the third quarter (when Alabama got 26 points) it was so amazing at what happened. I tried not to shut down.
"I couldn't believe it was a NCAA record," he finally added.
Virginia Tech Coach Charlie Coffey didn't seem that surprised or shocked. "We went into the game with an unsatisfactory defense," he admitted. "You don't expect to create one just because you play Alabama."
While Alabama set some records, Tech did the same. The 77 points were the most ever given up by a Gobbler team and the margin of defeat was also the biggest.
It is not questionable that Washington and Lee's 60-0 win over Tech in 1951, the previous record for biggest difference, was more embarrassing. The Generals, even in that year when they were a major college power, were no Alabama.
For the most points, Tech's 1950 team gave up 63 to Maryland. But the Hokies also got seven.
Bryant sheepishly said polite things like, "They've (Tech) got nothing to be ashamed of and I hope people realize that. Coach Coffey and his staff had the best offensive plan for us I've ever seen. I didn't want the score to be like that. They just got tired and we played over 70 people who were rested. There's not that much difference in our teams."
But no one answered the burning question. Here is Virginia Tech, in its third year under Coffey who promised a program like Alabama's. And what happens? A lot of NCAA records and humiliation that was absent before Coffey took the job.

THIS 'N THAT: The rumors have it that Alabama, which can choose its bowl game, will go to the Sugar Bowl. Likely foe? Notre Dame and it could be a battle for No. 1 spot.
Another story has Mississippi's Johnny Vaught stepping down as coach after the season and Tulane's Bennie Ellender high on the list as a possible replacement.

Alabama's Wilbur Jackson races past helpless Tech defender Stuart Patterson

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