Alabama Pounds Tech

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (UPI) — Awesome Alabama, bidding to become the number one team in the nation, rolled up the most yards offensively in NCAA history Saturday night as the Crimson Tide rolled over hapless Virginia Tech, 77-6.

Tech, obviously playing out of their league, drops to 1-7 on the season, while the Tide of Bear Bryant remains unbeaten after seven contests.

Alabama had 834 yards total offense, eclipsing the old record of 798 set back in 1969, and also broke another NCAA record by having 749 yards rushing, surpassing the old mark of 711 held by Oklahoma.

The Tide had over 30 first downs, while Charlie Coffey’s Gobblers had 296 yards total offense for the night, which tied Tennessee as having the most yards offensively against the Tide this year.

Alabama dressed 73 players and all saw action. The Tide led 70-6 after three quarters, as the Crimson wanted to outscore Ohio St., the number one team in the nation this past week.

Earlier in the day Ohio St. scored 60 in a shutout of Northwestern.

Phil Rogers performed well for Tech, and freshman Eddie Joyce started his first game for the hokies, which saw Alabama’s first and second teams for only one half and a part of the third quarter. Joyce was filling in for regular quarterback Rick Popp who is out for the season with a knee injury.

Alabama rolled up 358 yards on the ground and 40 through the air the first half to Tech’s 192 yards total offense, a good performance for the Gobblers.

The Crimson Tide, chasing No. 1 Ohio St. in the race for the national poll lead, scored first with 10:46 left in the first period when fullback Wilbur Jackson darted 51 yards for the score.

Bill Davis kicked the first of several extra points for a 7-0 lead.

With 5:50 to go, halfback Randy Billingsly scored from two yards out after Tech punted for a 14-0 lead.

Richard Todd replaced Gary Rutledge at quarterback with three minutes left in the first period and Todd ran the Tide effectively also.

It was 14-0 after the first quarter.

Back Ralph Stokes scored from seven yards out on a pitchout from Todd for a 21-0 lead. The lightning like Tide, had only just begun.

A blocked punt, a 39-yard TD pass to Ed Dyer made it 35-0 with 8:37 left in the first half.

Tech finally got on the scoreboard with 2:27 left when Jack Crews of VPI intercepted a Todd pass and returned it to his own 38. It was the first time the Tide had the ball that they didn’t score.

Rogers later ran from the Tech 49 to the Bama 25 as Alabama sent their first team defense back in the ball game.

Freshman quarterback Eddie Joyce hit Rogers at the Bama 7. On the next play, Rodgers found a big hole up the middle to score his first touchdown of the season, untouched. But despite a 35-6 score with 58 seconds left Alabama sophomore James Taylor raced 80 yards through a gaping hole to outrun defensive back Howard Keyes for the TD. It was 42-6 at the half.

The Crimson Tide rushed for 296 yards in the 28-point third quarter. George Culliver scored on an 87 yard run to make it 70-6 and the Tide was well on its way to establishing the two new NCAA records.