Phil Rogers Closes In On VPI Record

BLACKSBURG, Va. — Virginia Tech's sophomore running back Phil Rogers continues to close in on the Gobbler single-season rushing mark, formerly reserved for most established veterans.

If in the last three games he maintains his present pace (102.6 yards a game), he'll become the first Tech runner ever to reach 1,000 yards in a season. Presently he's at 718—seventh on Tech's all-time list.

Terry Smoot, tailback in the 1967-68-69 seasons, holds the Tech highs of 940 in a season and 2,116 career.

Rogers' running mate, senior fullback James Barber, has gone over the 600 mark for the second straight season and possibly could reach 2,000 for his career.

Rogers and James Barber are having an exceptionally productive season, and that simply couldn't be without a lot of offensive linemen doing a good job.

In a way, it figures because there's more shoulder-to-shoulder experience in the offensive line than anywhere else on the Gobbler squad.

Left tackle Bruce Lemmert, left guard Pete Horoszko and center Rod Sedwick are seniors who form the main stream of Tech's attack. At right guard sophomore Steve Philbrick has fit in exceptionally well. Right tackle has presented a few problems with senior Tom Reynolds splitting time with a pair of freshmen, Danny Patterson and Paul Lawrence.

Sophomore tight end Kevin Dick in the last few games has developed into a reasonably good blocker, and the entire unit not only has paved the way for Tech's runners but it also has provided better than average protection for the passing game.

Tech has averaged 356 yards total offense and almost 20 points a game.