Tech's Offensive Line
Open Holes For Good Backs

BLACKSBURG—Lost in the plight of Virginia Tech's embattled football forces has been a consistently sturdy job done by Tech's offensive trenchmen.

The Gobblers' fine running backs, Phil 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. That should be good enough for a record better than 1-7.

"The biggest breakdowns by the offensive line so far have been a td punt return by Houston and a blocked punt td by Houston," Coach Charlie Coffey points out. "Those two instances I can write off as big plays by two of the strongest teams in the country.

"Otherwise, we really can't fault the offensive line. In fact, they deserve a great deal of credit for the positive accomplishments we have had."