Tigers Dine On Gobblers

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—The running attack of the Tigers of Memphis State picked up 26 yards in their first two offensive plays against Virginia Tech. Add to this a string of pass completions through a sevelike secondary, fourth down touchdowns and the fact that MSU was forced to punt only twice and you have a quick summary of the Tigers’ latest bid for bowl recognition and Tech’s latest loss, 49-16.

Memphis State took the occasion to break in a new quarterback, Mike Robb, who scored the first touchdown early in the first quarter on a three-yard sneak, climaxing a long drive. Hal McGeorge, who was to have a great and busy night, kicked the extra point.

A Wayne Latimer 27-yard field goal when a Tech drive stalled as the quarter ended, kept the Gobblers alive.

On State’s next drive, Bobby Ward caught Robb’s pass in the end zone for six and McGeorge converted.

The Tigers were frustrated when a drive which began with an interception of an Eddie Joyce pass came up empty on the Tech four. A drive from that point, aided by a pass interference call on an attempted catch by Billy Hardee, ended with a three-yard touchdown run by J. B. Barber. Latimer’s kick brought the score as close as it would be all night, 14-10.

MSU’s next drive, with the tackle-breaking running of Clifton Taylor and Bill Darby seemed in trouble when Kent Henry stopped Darby for a loss on third down at the five. On the next play, Robb tossed again to Ward and again it worked. With 1:31 remaining and the conversion MSU had a healthy 21-10 lead, but that wasn’t all.

In what may have been the game’s point of no return, Robb flipped to halfback Darby who connected for a touchdown to Steve DeLong in the end zone 12 yards away, five seconds before the end of the first half.

In the fourth quarter, it was a series of Memphis touchdowns interrupted only by a three yard scoring run by Joyce and a missed extra point kick. The third period had been scoreless.

Taylor scored on a six-yard run before Tech’s final tally. Little-known reserves J. Verna and Middleton scored the final two touchdowns and McGeorge’s extra point kicks were flawless. MSU never called on him for a field goal attempt, since none were needed.

The Gobblers, still looking for a second win in their most abysmal season in recent years, take on winless Florida State at Lane Stadium Saturday.