Dodson Shines Through VPI’s Plight

BLACKSBURG, Va. — Courage is the name of the game, and Virginia Tech has none more courageous than senior linebacker Dennis Dodson.

Tech’s defensive plight in part has been due to injuries, but Dodson repeatedly has given super effort despite injury. His latest — 12 tackles, 11 assists — against Memphis State.

“He really has what it takes,” Coach Charlie Coffey declares. “We can put him at any of our three linebacker positions at anytime. He not only doesn’t make mistakes, but he never gives up pursuing the football.”

At 6-0, 212, “Doughboy” certainly isn’t the most physically endowed of Tech’s personnel, “but there’s not a player, ounce for ounce, who gives us more.”

“It’s not unusual to see Dodson limp off the field during the course of the game, but it’s even more unusual if he’s not back in the fray within a few minutes.”

Before the Gobblers lineup for this Saturday’s kickoff against Florida State here in Lane Stadium, Dodson will have both knees heavily wrapped, both thumbs well taped and he’ll be wearing an oversized “hotdog” collar to help protect against a neck injury that has recurred many times during the last three seasons. All that doesn’t allow him time to worry about the painful calcite deposits in his upper arms.

“I wish I were really healthy, but most of all it sure would be nice to win two more games,” the former James Monroe (Fredericksburg) star notes.

If a football game can be won by the courage of one man, Virginia Tech will have a chance Saturday.