Tech Storms Past Halebass Florida State

By BILL CATE
Times Sports Writer

BLACKSBURG—Everybody knew that day.

In Tech defense. Up here in this agricultural nook of Southwest Virginia they think defense is what keeps the cows in.

Tech's defense has been so beleaguered this season it was ranked last (10th) on the list of the NCAA's major colleges. But Tech can't play defense, Florida State certainly has offense as some 25,000 frenzied fans witnessed here Saturday afternoon as Coffeey's Gobbler's, now 7-6, for the season, stopped winless Florida State (9-6) 35-13. Whether the Tech defense has improved is a matter of serious question. Even Coffeey can't provide that answer.

"We knew Florida State wasn't a 'ball-control team,'" said Coffeey. "We knew they were hungry. That has to give you some confidence. But it was another one that we've hit all season. We played better defensively than we've played. The reason? I don't know. We were getting used to running my defense in the first three periods was the best it has been all season. Cofield's defense, however, hit the ploy and defensive back John Bell came up with all three interceptions, one of them for a touchdown, another one on the FSU one only to be revived in the 11th by Bell with a one-yard plunge for a touch.

Tech's offense sputtered and staggered late in the game—mostly due to fumble to start the second quarter. Joyce threw two interceptions. The first one was in the back of the FSU defense. Nonetheless, Tech had 346 yards rushing, 355 on sophomore Phil Rogers' 20 trips and 21 carries by senior J. B. Barber for 123 yards.

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