Future Rosy For Gobblers

BY FRED JETER

One splendid Saturday after-
noon of football can never com-
pletely make up for a season-
long failure. But it can help.

And when it’s impressive
young players like Phil "The
Turtle" Rogers and Eddie
Joyce you’re dealing with, it
can help a lot!

The 1972 Gobblers have
been anything but vintage for
the Virginia Tech football squad.

But when good wine, the Gobblers
promise to become better with age.

Rogers and Joyce, a pair of
most promising freshmen, say the
fireplugs, should see that.

"Feel good...for a change,"
said Rogers yesterday follow-
ing Tech's impressive 36-
13 victory over visiting Florida
State at Lane Stadium. "I feel
like celebrating."

"TO GET BETTER"

"I think maybe we’ve seen
the worst. From now on things
ought to get better...a lot bet-
ner," the 18-year-old
sophomore added.

The "worst" Rogers spoke of
were the seven losses (more by
lopsided scores) that the Hokies
had suffered prior to Saturday. FSU
was their sec-
ond victory.

"We may be 2-7, but I don’t
look at it that way," remak-
ed Joyce, the Gobblers’ freshman
quarterback from Andrew
Lewis High of Roanoke.

"The way I see it, we’ve won
two of our last four and we’re
going to win three of our last
five. And that’s not all so bad," he
explained.

The Gobblers could very well
end the season with three vic-
tories in their last five games.

Saturday they’ll be a big
disappointment for Virginia
Military in Roanoke.

"Nobody can tell me that we
don’t have a lot of talent on
this team," stated the 18-year-old
Joyce, who directed a near-
flawless Tech offense against
the Seminoles on a sata of total

clear, but better cold afternoon.

"We definitely have the
most talent of that group in the first
feel like we saw flashes of that.
Guys like Phil (Rogers)
ought to find something else in the
future."

Rogers, a 180-pounder from
Gonzaga High School, could in-
deed be a big key to Tech’s suc-
cess the next couple years.
Saturday he gained 139 yards
rushing on 37 carries.

SHORT RECORD

"He now has 383 yards in nine
leagues, just two yards short of
the all-time single-season Tech
rushing record of 491 yards by
Terry Smoot. The quick-
stepping Rogers has averaged
5.0 yards per run.

"Beating them today will get
our confidence up," Rogers
said from the Tech locker
room, not just for this year,
but for next season, too."

The Gobblers gained 430
yards against the Seminoles.

Note: The 36-13 victory
took three quarters when the first
strings were in the game.
The most spectacular 42 yards
of that total came on a single
run by 6-foot-4 Joyce.

The twisting, spinning effort
that included at least a half
dozzen broken tackles, had the
crowd of 25,000 buzzing and

talking about things to come
from the rookie signal caller.

But Rogers and Joyce are
just two of the many freshmen
and sophomores that dot the
Gobblers’ starting offensive
and defensive units.

Freshmen defensive linemen
Tom Beasley and Billy
Houseright were outstanding
against FSU, as were starting
offensive linemen Paul
Lawrence and Danby
Patterson, also first-year men.
They could be names to watch
in the future.

"Our day will come," Rogers
stated with a look of confidence.

"People just gotta learn to take
the bitter with the sweet."