Tech Backs Chip Away At Records

BLACKSBURG — Virginia Tech certainly hasn’t "put it all together" this season, but the Gobblers have produced two fine running backs and the kind of running game hoped for.

Sophomore tailback Phil Rogers is a virtual cinch to become the most productive running back in Tech history, and senior fullback James Barber with a super game in the season finals could become the second most productive.

Rogers has gained 938 yards, just two short of the 940 recorded by Terry Smoot as a senior in 1969. More pointedly Rogers is averaging 104.2 a game and needs just 62 this Saturday against VMI to become the first Tech back in history to gain 1,000 yards in a season.

Barber, who already has had his best season, an even 800 yards, is just 75 yards short of 2,000 for his career. He would need 192 to surpass Smoot’s career mark of 2,116.

"Each man has complemented the other very well all season," Coach Charlie Coffey notes. "It has given us the balance we wanted in our running attack and at the same time opened up our passing game.

"We’ll let the chips fall where they might in our final game."