VMI Provides Final Insult To Gobblers’ Season Woes

By BILL BASKERVILL
BLACKSBURG, Va. (AP) — Tailback Ronnie Norman, out most of the season with an injury, scored with 9:21 remaining and Virginia Military's Keydets blunted a last-minute drive by Virginia Tech and upset the Gobblers 22-21 Saturday afternoon in the season's football finale for both teams.

It appeared the Gobbler would pull the game out in the final seconds but quarterback Eddie Joyce, who had pitched two touchdown passes earlier, fumbled on a rollout on the three yard line and the ball was recovered by VMI's Don Newcomer.

Norman, a junior from Norfolk, Va., who was injured in the first game of the season and had carried the football only 15 times, rushed for 153 yards on 27 carries Saturday, as the Keydets finished the season with a 3-8 mark.

The favored Gobblers wound up the year at 2-9.

It appeared Virginia Tech would pull the game out in the final seconds after Wayne Latimer missed a 37-yard field goal. But VMI was offsides and Tech was given new life with a first down on the 15.

Phil Rogers, who went over the 1,000-yard rushing mark for the season, ran 12 yards to the three on the next play but Joyce then fumbled as he was hit by a bevy of VMI players.

VMI's winning touchdown came on a 12-play, 80-yard drive, highlighted by the running of Norman and the passing of Tom Schultze to Ronnie Moore.

In VMI's decisive drive Schultze completed four out of four passes for 49 yards and Norman rushed for 24 more.

VMI opened up a 10-0 lead at intermission on Joyce's 68-yard bomb to Ricky Scales and 33-yard scoring toss to Billy Hardee.

The Gobblers took the second half kickoff and drove 74 yards in five plays with James Barber scoring on a nine-yard run.

The tenacious Keydets narrowed the margin to 21-16 with 3:33 remaining in the period when Keith Barefield bolted over the four, capping a 77-yard drive.

After Tech had the ball for two more possessions and Latimer's 34-yard field goal attempt sailed to the left VMI began its winning drive.

Schultze completed 14 of 18 passes for 207 yards and one touchdown.

Joyce connected on 12 of 20 passes for 216 yards and a pair of touchdowns. Barber rushed for 127 yards and Rogers had 98 to give him 1,037 for the season.

STATISTICS

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>VMi</th>
<th>VPI</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First downs</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rushes-yards</td>
<td>53-153</td>
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<tr>
<td>Passing yards</td>
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<td>Penalties-yards</td>
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<td>2-10</td>
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Va. Military: 3 7 3 6-22
Va. Tech: 9 9-12 7 10-11

VMI—FG Cole 45
VMI—Morgan 34 pass from Schultze (Cole kick)
VPI—Schultze 45 pass from Joyce (Latimer kick)
VPI—Hardee 33 pass from Joyce (Latimer kick)
VPI—Barber 9 run (Latimer kick)
VMI—Barefield 4 run (pass failed)
VMI—Norman 6 run (pass failed)