Keydets Stun VPI By 22-21

By STAN SHALETT
Daily Press Sports Writer
BLACKSBURG—"This is the greatest victory in
my career as head coach at Virginia Military
Institute," Bob Thalman exclaimed in the bedlam of
his team's locker-room, just seconds after the
Keydets had upset Virginia Tech, 22-21, Saturday
afternoon.
The visitors had snatched victory from the hungry
Gobbler in the final seconds of the game. De-
sensive halfback Dan
Newcomer recovered a loose
ball, knocked free from
freshman quarterback Ed-
die Joyce on the Keydet 5
with 23 seconds to play.
Joyce was hit hard with
Gene Williams jarring the
ball loose. The elusive pig-
skin fell behind the quarter-
back and Newcomer covered it.
Joyce was running to put
the ball in field goal position
in the center of the field for
a last-second attempt at the
winning points.
Less than a minute
earlier, the Gobbler's place
kicker, Wayne Latimer, had
missed a 37-yard attempt
from the left hash mark.
VMI was offside on the
play, giving the Gobbler a
new life with a first down on
the Keydet 15.
On the first play,
sophomore Phil Rogers slan-
dered 11 yards to the 4.
On second-and-goal, Joyce was
told to set up the field goal.
The Keydet triumph, their
first over the Techmen since
1967, and their 23rd in the
60 renewals of this rivalry, was
an uphill struggle.
Coach Charlie Coffey's
team led by 21-10 with 2:01
gone in the second half. It
had taken the second-half
clock and driven 74 yards
in five plays. Senior James
Barber carried the ball four
times for 61 yards and scored
from the 9.
For the game, Barber ran
23 times for 127 yards and
the touchdown. Phil Rogers,
Barber's running mate had
98 yards in 17 carries.
However, the big "gun" in
the rushing department was
VMI's Ron Norman. The

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Continued From D-1
5-foot-8 and 165 pounder
from Norfolk carried the
ball 27 times for 153 yards.
He wasn't even listed in the
program or the press box
depth charts and had played
in only two previous games
this season.
The Keydets scored the
first time they had the ball,
moving 50 yards with the
opening kickoff to the Gob-
bler 28 where Mike Cole
kicked a 45-yard field goal.
An interception, the first
of three, stopped a second
Keydet drive, but Virginia
Tech was unable to generate
any offense in the first
period.
After a short punt early in
the second period, the Gob-
blers drove from their 46 to
the six where Rogers fum-
bled and VMI's John
Willison recovered.
The Keydets drove 94
yards to score, taking 13
plays. Quarterback Tom
Schultze pitched a 34-yard
strike to tight end Allen
Morgan for the six-pointer.
Schultze was able to pass
with great success in the
absence of a pass rush and
finished the day with a fan-
tastic 14 completions in 18
attempts for 207 yards and
one touchdown.
Thus with 6:16 left in the
half, the Keydets led 10-0,
and the Gobbler fans in the
crowd of 23,000 started to
squirm.
In the next few minutes,
thing got better for the
home team. Four plays
moved the ball from the
Gobbler 8 to the 32. Joyce
faked the line on second
down and a yard and then
threw a strike to Ricky
Scales who was flying down
the sideline. Scales breezed
to a 68-yard touchdown.
Two minutes later, Joyce
tossed a 33-yard scoring
pass to Billie Hardee and
with 1:28 left in the half, the
Gobbler were on top, 14-10.
Virginia Tech moved with
the second-half kickoff to
lead, 21-10. At this point the
game turned around. A Gob-
bler drive fizzled and the
Keydets took the ball on the
ensuing punt. They drove 77
yards to a touchdown, mixing the running of Nor-
man and Schultze's passes.
Keith Barfield scored from four and it was 21-16 with
3:33 left in the third period.
The Gobbler missed a 60-
yard field goal, recovered a
Keydet fumble and missed a
34-yard field goal.
There was plenty of time
and the Keydets used it,
driving 80-yards in 12 plays.
Eight were runs, and
Schultze completed four
passes including a third-
down effort with seven to go
from the 20. Newport
Newsian Ron Moore caught
three of these right at the
sideline.
Norman scored from the 6
with a little over nine
minutes left so Thalman
elected to go for two points.
The conversion try failed.
The Gobbler finished the
disasterous season with a
2-9 record, their worst since
1951. VMI is 3-8, its best
since 1967.