Tech defensive coach out

By MARSHALL JOHNSON

It was a long football season for Virginia Tech's Charlie Coffey and Virginia's Don Lawrence, but there are no complaints from Richmond's Frank Jones, Virginia Union's Willard Bailey, Virginia Military's Bob Thalman or Hampden-Sydney's Stokely Fulton.

Thalman made Coffey's season seem even longer Saturday when his Keydets shocked the Gobblers 22-21 for their third victory, the first time VMI has won three games since a 6-4 record in 1967.

With Barty Smith doing everything but carry the water bucket, Richmond's Spiders closed out an 8-2 season—their best since a 6-1 mark in 1943—by drubbing William and Mary's Indians 31-0.

Bailey's Panthers, who last week won their first CIAA championship in 50 years, kept their bowl hopes alive by upping their record to 9-1 with a 35-0 romp over Hampton Institute's Pirates.

And Hampden-Sydney closed out a 7-3 campaign by winning the Mason-Dixon Conference title with a 21-0 victory over Randolph-Macon's Yellow Jackets in a game that also counted in the Virginia College Athletic Association race.

Lawrence was left in a somewhat shaky position as Virginia's coach after the Cavaliers took a 42-17 drubbing at West Virginia, a team which already had been handed a 38-17 whipping by Richmond.

Madison's Dukes trounced Gallaudet 40-12 and Norfolk State's Spartans ran over St. Paul's Tigers 48-8, but Washington and Lee's Generals were beaten 21-8 at Washington U. of St. Louis and Virginia State's Trojans dropped a 39-8 decision at Morgan State.

There was one immediate casualty.

George McKinney, Tech's defensive coordinator, announced Sunday he has resigned and likely will be out of football "at least for the time being." In its 2-9 season, Tech gave up 390 points.

"I'm disappointed that I wasn't able to accomplish what I wanted to. In three years I didn't get the job done, so I believe it's best for me and the program at Virginia Tech that I leave," he said.

Coffey had admitted after Saturday's defeat "there'll be some changes made," but he hadn't said what. He said McKinney's leaving was "particularly painful" because of a long friendship.

Of the loss, Coffey said "this game is one of emotion, preparation and taking advantage of your opponent's mistakes."

That's what VMI did when Jay Newcomer recovered a fumble caused by Gene Williams at the Keydets' five in the final minute when Tech was threatening to pull out a victory.

"Some people thought we shouldn't, even couldn't, play with them," said Thalman. But he added that since a 34-0 defeat two years ago, "I have looked forward to being back on the field against them."

Ronnie Norman, injured in VMI's opening game, made his first fulltime appearance since then and ran for the winning touchdown with 9:21 left as he got 153 yards on 15 carries.

Tom Schultze hit on 14 of 18 passes for 207 yards and one touchdown.

Tech sophomore Phil Rogers gained 98 yards, pushing his season's total to 1,037. Freshman Eddie Joyce completed 12 of 20 passes for 216 yards and two Tech touchdowns.