Arians Won't Try To Copy Strock As Gobblers' QB

Bruce Arians said he would like to get things straight right from the start.

"I'm no Don Strock," said the heir-apparent of the vacated quarterback position at Virginia Tech. "I like to run the ball as much as I like to throw it. Our offense will be a lot different this year—we'll be a lot more balanced between running and throwing. We have more weapons.

"But just don't compare me to Don Strock. I'm not going to try to copy him. My main objective is to lead the offense well enough so we can get a bowl bid—that's what it's all about." Arians has put in his time in the background—grooming himself for the time when he actually had a good shot at the No. 1 spot at Tech.

He was a redshirt during his sophomore year when Strock took the job from Bob Germain and enjoyed two seasons of sensational statistics—climbing a 3 a t season when he led the nation in passing and total offense.

Arians was the No. 2 man last year. "It wasn't really that bad because Don was so great," he explained.

"He'd make a great coach—he knows so much and can really teach you things. I know he improved me 100 per cent. The things I learned last fall should make me much better this next season."

Gobblers Can Run

Bruce said the two big things he learned from Strock are how to "kick off" the opposing linebackers and how to remain cool under pressure.

"Linebackers try to read your eyes," Bruce explained. "You have to learn to look over them without really seeming to care. Then you see your receivers but look the opposite way first. Then you come back with your pass."

One big reason Arians thinks the Gobblers will be able to run more this season is the existence of a better offensive line.

"I can't single out any one or two," he said. "They're all doing the job. They can really block for the run—maybe even better than they blocked for the pass last year."

Arians also thinks he has a great group of running backs. Everyone knows J. B. Barber has class. And Paul Adams started several games and made some big plays as a freshman.

But the one who might prove the most exciting player around is Phil Rogers, a 5-11, 180 freshman from Gate City. Rogers saw some duty last season returning kicks but this time around he'll be running and catching and, as Arians says, "dancing."

"Phil is something," Arians said. "The way he dances away from defensive players is fantastic. Give him the ball with a little bit of daylight and he's gone. I don't think anyone will be able to stop him one on one. He's the kind of player who puts a lot of people in a 3 on 3."