Kentucky ‘Lands’ On VPI, Sharpe Debut Spoiled 38-7

By CHARLES KARMOSKY
Daily Press Sports Editor
BLACKBURG — An aircraft traffic jam developed before noon of Virginia Tech’s 1974 football opener. Unfortunately, it involved only small aircraft, and the most important and biggest landed Friday.

The “big one that got away (or in)” was carrying as cargo the University of Kentucky squad, and it was very much here Saturday to ruin the debut of the Gobblers’ new coach, Jimmy Sharpe.

Pestered, stymied and all but frustrated by the tenacity of the Gobblers in the first half, the Wildcats got clicking and forced Tech mistakes in the third quarter to sock away a 38-7 triumph before a not-too-disappointed partisan crowd of 23,000.

Six plays into the third period, Steve Campassi capped a 39-yard scoring effort after Sonny Collins, “player of the year” for 1973 in the Southeastern Conference, had hauled the second-half kickoff 53 yards to Tech’s 30.

Kentucky’s fancy-stepping quarterback, Mike Fannuzi, tallied from nine yards out midway of the quarter, then went 10 yards for six more points and that put the visitor in front 31-7.

With reserves liberally

See Third, D-9, Cols. 1-3

Kentucky
Virginia Tech
Tech—Arians 3 run (Latimer kick)
Ken—Collins 2 run (Pierce kick)
Ken—FG Pierce 36
Ken—Campassi 10 run (Pierce kick)
Ken—Fannuzi 9 run (Pierce kick)
Ken—Fannuzi 10 run (Pierce kick)
Ken—Hite 3 run (Pierce kick)
A—22,000

First downs
Wildcats 22  Gobblers 18
Rushes-yards
77-441 55-168
15  155
Return yards
91  8
Punt
1-5  2-42
1-7  4-39
Fumbles-lost
6-3  6-4
Penalties-yards
7-83  6-4