Kentucky Rips Tech by 38-7

By Ray Filegar
Times-Dispatch Sports Writer

BLACKSBURG — Coach Jimmy Sharpe called it a stepping stone. The final score indicated how slippery the footing was as Sharpe stepped out to make his debut as a head coach.

Kentucky, 38; Virginia Tech, 7. And when it was over, it was hard to believe the Gobblers were very much in the game (10-7) at the half.

"I told the players we had 'em right where we wanted them," said Sharpe of his halftime conversation. "All we had to do was go out, get after them, and not make any mistakes."

That wasn't the way it went.

Sonny Collins and Mike Fanuzzi, Kentucky's one-two punch in the backfield, sparked the Wildcats to a 21-point third period that put the season opener — for either team — out of reach. The Tech defense could do little to stem the tide, not that they didn't try.

In fact, Sharpe, former Alabama aide and seldom — if ever — victim of such a lopsided score, said flatly that because the Gobblers were trying at the end, there was hope.

"I gotta be proud of 'em," he said. "They hung in there and battled. As long as there is effort, and I think there was, there is hope. They don't have anything to be ashamed of and I told 'em that after the game."

The decisiveness of the score, thanks mainly to running back Collins (112 yards and a touchdown on 20 carries) and quarterback Fanuzzi (181 yards, two TDs), tended to overshadow Sharpe's expression of confidence.

The Gobblers' defense allowed 441 yards rushing, spread almost evenly over the two halves. The second thirty minutes of play, however, were extremely productive as to score.

And if Sharpe was pleased that the Gobblers were still in the game at intermission, he would have been ecstatic had Tech been ahead. 21-10, which they should have been.

Quarterback Bruce Arians, on third-and-goal from the three, opened the scoring

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Phil Rogers Goes Over Line, Fell Just Short of Goal, But Gobblers Didn't Score

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<th>Kentucky</th>
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<td>Va. Tech</td>
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<td>VT-Arians 4 run (Lambert kick)</td>
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<td>Ky-Collins 2 run (Pierce kick)</td>
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<td>Ky--FG Pierce 36</td>
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<td>Ky--Campbell 10 run (Pierce kick)</td>
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Wildcats Gobblers

First downs 32 21

Rushes-yards 54-231 55-159

Passing yards 115 199

Return yards 91

Passes 10 10

Punts 4 4

Fumbles-lost 3 4

Penalties-yards 73 64

Staff Photo by Bill Lane
Kentucky Rips Tech by 38-7

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midway through the first period and Wayne Latimer added the PAT that gave Tech a 7-0 lead. The Wildcats came right behind Collins and in seven plays, Collins scoring from the two and John-Pierce adding the extra point, tied the score.

Tech followed with a 67-yard-pass-on-the-first-play-from-scrammage-following-the-kickoff. An excellent fake by Arians and a deep sideline pattern by wide receiver Ricky Scales put the ball on the Kentucky two and a partisanship gathering that numbered 23,000 savored what was Tech’s finest moment of the day.

What followed was disaster. The Gobblers used four running plays to attempt penetration of the Wildcats’ goal line and failed. When running back Phil Rogers dived into the line for the third time — Arians tried a sneak to begin with — the official placed the ball with its nose right at the goal line.

Tech’s second misfortune

Arabs May Get U.S. Fighters

ABU DHABI (AP) — The newspaper Alwathba said Saturday the United States has agreed to supply Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates with “huge numbers of sophisticated fighters,” knowing that many, if not all, of the planes, will go to Egypt.

No numbers were given.

The report, by the Cairo correspondent of the paper, quoted informed sources as saying the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia agreed earlier with Egypt to deliver all or part of the consignments to Egypt, and that the United States knew of this arrangement beforehand.

came early in the second period when — aided by two personal foul penalties — the Gobblers marched from their 37 to the Kentucky six. There, Arians tried a sneak and appeared to be headed for or near the goal line when the ball popped from his hand and Kentucky’s Terry Haynes came up with the ball.

Kentucky drove out of Tech territory in a five-minute series that eventually bogged down on the Tech 18 and Pierce put the Wildcats ahead to stay with a 36-yard field goal.

“We had our opportunities,” admitted Sharpe. “We just didn’t cash in.”

Running back Steve Campassi ended Kentucky’s first possession of the second half with a 10-yard TD run (Collins having returned the kickoff 53 yards to help set up the score) and Kentucky had begun a quarter of almost total domination, Tech ended up fumbling twice in the period and the Hokies managed to run only six plays in the first 11 minutes.

Arians wound up as the best offensive threat Tech could muster totaling 223 yards (155 passing). Rogers was held to 59 yards.

“They’re game plan was to make our quarterback get whatever offense we could and it worked,” said Sharpe. Tech had no such luck with Fanuzzi, who ran nine and 10 yards for touchdowns.

INDIVIDUAL RUSHING

Kentucky — Collins, 21 carries, 112 yards, 1 TD; Campassi, 22, 1 TD; Fanuzzi, 10-111, 2 TDs; Marais, 5-23; Dipire, 12-73; McGrath, 5-16, 2-11; Lewis, 2-33; Calvino, 6-10, 2 TD; Virginia Tech — Rogers, 5-106, 1 TD; Fanuzzi, 5-11; Arians, 17-68, 1 TD; Haynes, 4-13; Heath, 7-11; Adams, 6-20 total. 1-2

INDIVIDUAL PASSING

Kentucky — Collins, 53-1 completion, 3 attempts, 0 interceptions, 15 yards; McGrath, 6-9-11; Virginia Tech — Arians, 1-115.

INDIVIDUAL PASS RECEIVING

Kentucky — Stephens, 1 catch, 15 yards; Virginia Tech — Scales, 7-155.