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Dallas, Tex. — Ever try to push a loaded freight car up an icy hill?

It wasn’t exactly that, just almost, Saturday afternoon when Virginia Tech came back twice from oblivion before taking a 28-25 defeat at the hands of a mammoth Southern Methodist football team on the Cotton Bowl’s slippery, soggy carpet.

The loss was the second in two tries for the Gobblers who are trying to pick up their first win of the Coach Jimmy Sharpe era. They host Houston at Blacksburg next Saturday. Southern Methodist is 2-0 — by a total of four points.

Trailing 21-7 after SMU scored four and a half minutes into the third quarter, the Gobblers took over at SMU’s 47, after a Mustang punt. Bruce Arians hit Ricky Scales for 17 yards, then alternated his running game among Phil Rogers, Morris Blueford and himself to get into the end zone and make it 21-14 with two minutes left in the third quarter.

Tech then got the ball back on SMU’s 10 when Jerry Inge, a junior wide receiver from Virginia Beach, recovered a fumble. Tech settled for a field goal by Wayne Latimer to move to within four points.

However, Mustang quarterback Ricky Wesson broke away for 77 yards early in the fourth quarter to put UPI back into the hole 27-17.

The Gobblers took over again, this time on a touchdown, with three minutes left and Arians, who plodded — his gait is hard to call “run” — for 50 of Tech’s yards, alternated passes to Rogers and split end scales and his own running to score with 1:51 to play.

The ensuing kickoff, was an onsides kick, which both teams fought for until it went out of bounds as

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