Houston Buries Virginia Tech

Cont. From First Sports Page

Tech reflects that Houston did have some enthusiasm for the Hokies. Maybe not enough for Yeoman, who spent a lot of his sideline time shaking his head negatively, but certainly enough to add to an obvious advantage in physical superiority over the Hokies.

Housman was one example. Although he did not enter the game until the second period, and Houston had already grabbed a 14-0 lead thanks largely to Tech’s “terrible kicking game,” the young man from Killeen, Tex., was all but impossible to contain.

When he scored Houston’s fourth TD, with 7:13 remaining in the half, he ran 18 yards over several would-be Tech defenders. He repeated that type of scoring run in the fourth period, going 11 yards for a TD that pushed the margin to 42-6.

“He’s just a littleitty bitty kid right now,” said Yeoman. “He’ll get bigger and stronger.”

At 6-3, 205, Housman seemed to be plenty big enough as it was. He averaged 7.8 yards per carry and the longest run was 17, so he didn’t have any big plays to help boost his total.

Impressive as he was, Housman wasn’t the only thing Houston had going. Junior fullback Don McGraw rushed for 78 yards (13 carries), including a 21-yarder that opened the scoring with 7:05 remaining in the first period. In fact, McGraw carried all three of the plays it took Houston to cover the 38 yards that remained after Bob Giblin had returned a Gobbler punt 34 yards and well into Tech territory.

That was one example of the kicking game. And, although Tech’s Bruce McDaniel averaged 37.8 yards per kick (11 times), he had some bad moments. His first, for instance, traveled only 28 yards. Then, there were a couple of bad snaps from center.

The first one cost Tech six points, Roger Mayes blocking a McDaniel attempt just outside his end zone and Houston’s Mark Mohr recovering it in the end zone. Soph Lennard Coplin then kicked the second of his 7-for-7 day of placements and, as it turned out, Houston had all the points it needed.

By the time Tech got on the scoreboard — George Heath scored from three yards out with 9:59 left in the game after Houston fumbled and defensive end Ken Lambert recovered for Tech — it was too late.

The only penetration of the Houston defense Tech made (without benefit of a punt) came under the three minute mark when the Hokies covered 77 yards in 11 plays, capped by a three-yard TD run by Phil Rogers.

The longest scoring play of the day came when Houston used a halfback pass (Marshall Johnson to split end Frank Scalice) for a 64-yard TD midway through the third quarter. It was left to junior quarterback Chuck Fairbanks to close the scoring, with less than two minutes remaining, with a 69-yard serial to freshman tight end Don Bass.

And to illustrate how bad things were for Tech at that point, Bass wasn’t listed on the Houston roster.

Tech had no such surprises. The Gobblers’ lack of offense — 237 total yards with Greg Toal the top ground gainer at 33 yards — was engineered by familiar names.

The bigger and quicker Houston defensemen, whatever their enthusiasm, had no trouble stopping any of the Hokies, even QB Bruce Arias, who needed 90 air yards to go over 100 in total offense for the game.
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