Virginia Tech Trims Gamecocks 31-17

By CHUCK FRAINIE
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COLUMBIA, S.C. Virginia Tech discovered a weakness in the armor of South Carolina's line early in the third quarter Saturday night. With the help of two turnovers, the Hokies scored 17 unanswered points and took charge of the game.

The Gobbler's, who trailed 17-7 at intermission, spotted their hosts a 14-0 bulge before putting together anything like a valid march. Taking over on their 28 following South Carolina's second touchdown, the Gobblers began running away with short running plays by halfbacks George Heath and Phil Rogers. Finally, a keeper around left end by quarterback Bruce Arians, who was not supposed to play because of an injured right arm, ran for two touchdowns and Phil Rogers ran for two more. The score account for all of the Gobblers' scoring.

Quarterback Bruce Arians, who was not supposed to play because of an injured right arm, ran for two touchdowns -- and Phil Rogers ran for two more. The score account for all of the Gobblers' scoring.

Arians dived in for the touchdown on the next play. Earlier, the hosts had brought their 40,000 Homecoming followers to their feet early in the first quarter when they went on a series of wide-open offensive maneuvers. They moved 81 yards on an opening drive, which was delayed briefly when Virginia Tech's Tom Beasley recovered a fumble, to go ahead by seven points just seven minutes into the contest.

It seemed somehow fitting that a senior backfield Jay Linn Hodgins who had borne the bulk of the ball-carrying, should dive in from the one. Thus, away in the second quarter, the Gobblers' Bruce McDaniel punished from his own end zone to give South Carolina the ball on Tech's 30. It took just seven plays, including halfback Hodgins' 29-yard pass to receiver Chastain to put the Gamecocks into the end zone. Maybe the biggest difference in the first 30 minutes was in the punting game, which consistently gave Tech good field position while keeping Tech bottled in its own territory. Hodgins outpunted Clinton Mansfield by eight yards, but it was more a matter of where Virginia Tech's kicks originated and where South Carolina took over.

The Gobblers took over twice inside its 15 while the Gamecocks seemed always to get the ball beyond the 20, usually nearer the 40. Hodgins' two halfback passes, both of which netted yardage when it looked like the Gobblers were going to hold, also did tremendous damage. The speedy halfback ran 5-6-8 in the throwing department.

Virginia Tech 31-17 South Carolina

First downs Rushing yards Passing yards Total yards Fumbles Penalties-yards VIPI SC 13 87 5 7-20 1 1 5 3-30 TCHS 5 8 77 1 6-32 1 1 5 3-40

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