First Victory Builds
Gobblers’ Confidence

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One football victory does not a season make, any more than one robin makes a Summer.

Still, Virginia Tech’s football hierarchy continues to relish the Gobblers’ 31-17 triumph over hapless, but still potent, South Carolina while making preparations for Saturday’s battle with Virginia’s Cavaliers in Charlotte.

Meanwhile, the Cavaliers, though not as discouraged as one might think, were licking their wounds after losing 22-21 to Atlantic Coast Conference co-favorite North Carolina State.

If there was one factor which stood out in Saturday’s contests, it was the difference between the games. Tech, down 17-7 at intermission, exploded impressively in the second half. Virginia, on the other hand, saw a 21-0 lead dissolve after the break in Raleigh. The results left both schools with 1-4 slates.

“For the second week in a row, our club played the best it knew how,” said a disappointed Virginia Coach Sonny Randle. “We had our chance to get our lead back late in the fourth quarter, but we had to give the ball up after driving to the 41. One more field goal would have put us into field goal range.

“Our kids deserve a lot more than they’ve been getting,” Randle continued. “Hopefully, we’re about ready to put it all together.”

Randle, who flew down to Columbia, S.C., to personally scout the Gobblers Saturday night, feels his team will need an outstanding performance on defense to win Saturday.

“Tech, at least the Tech I saw beat South Carolina, is not a 1-4 football team,” he says. “They played well all night, particularly in the second half. We’ll need almost-perfect execution on defense to stop that Wishbone.”

The Gobblers’ statistics for the second 30 minutes were enough to startle any upcoming opponent.

Tech piled up 19 first downs on 309 rushing yards on 55 plays from scrimmage in the second half when the Gobblers overcame a 17-7 deficit by scoring the first three times they got the ball.

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