Heath’s Added Role Makes Tech Winner

Virginia Tech coach Jimmy Sharpe has been saying all along that the most consistent man in the Gobblers’ backfield this season has been unheralded George Heath.

The sophomore from Bristol, Tenn., spent the early part of the season in the limelight. Which is to say he was not running with the football, he was up ahead blocking.

In his first three games Heath netted 36 yards on 13 carries—and enough bruises to last a lifetime because of his blocking.

Against Houston five carries resulted in 22 yards yards and Sharpe, looking to get the Tech running game untracked, signaled increased opportunities for the 6-1, 195-pounder.

The result was eight carries against VMI the following week and 62 yards. Then came South Carolina, at Columbia, Saturday night. And Heath raised his single-game rushing mark for a career to 104 yards.

It came despite a pinched nerve in the shoulder which has been bothersome all season and yeoman work at blocking, as usual. The latter helped spring teammates Phil Rogers (120 yards) and Roscoe Coles (111) and a resulting 31-17 win, first of the season for the Hokies.

And Heath is this week’s Times-Dispatch offensive player.

Rogers and Coles were high on the list of nominees for player of the week honors, as were VMI’s Kim Glidewell (125 yards rushing, 122 in the second half against The Citadel) and Virginia’s Joe Sroba (125 yards on 29 carries). Srobaalmost captured the honor last week with 160 yards rushing against Georgia Tech.

But Heath, like Sharpe said, “was super super.”

“He’s really been too busy blocking for other people to get much notice,” said a Tech spokesman. “But he was certainly the most impressive over-all against South Carolina.”

The 442 yards Tech gained on the ground stands as testimony.

Hokies’ George Heath
His Game: ‘Super Super’