David Lamie Claims Role Of Leader For Speedier VPI Game

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BLACKSBURG — There may be some skepticism in the minds of people on the appraisal and worth of Virginia Tech's quarterbacks on the 1977 squad, but you can't prove that by junior David Lamie of Bristol, Tenn.

Although Lamie's White team lost to the Maroons 38-10 in the Gobblers' Spring practice finale Saturday, the Tennessean did not appear disturbed by the final score nor did he express any apprehension over where he stands in the ranking of the squad's quarterbacks.

"I've had a good Spring. All during the practices I have been listed with the No. 1 backfield, and as far as I'm concerned that's my position. Today (Saturday's outcome) doesn't change a thing."

Lamie also was delighted about how everyone played in the Spring workout, including his chief rival, Don LaRue of Galax. As Lamie viewed the overall workouts:

"All the important work was done early in the Spring, so in this game we just went out there to have fun. Yes, I think we've accomplished a lot."

Lamie and Roscoe Coles, the returning swifty from Virginia Beach, both agreed that the offense was "way ahead" of the defense and the drills proved valuable mostly because the runners, receivers and quarterbacks were given a lot of time to familiarize themselves with each other's style of play.

Coles is particularly delighted that more passing losses in Tech's attack. Saturday he gained 185 yards on 10 carries and caught two passes for 81 more.

However, the Lamie-Coles backfield, which also included Dennis Scott and fullback Dick Holway, was truly upstaged by the Maroons directed by LaRue (mainly) with Kenny Lewis and Mickey Rogers in the halfback roles and Glen Comer sharing fullback duties with Steve Scott.

Lewis proved most outstanding. Not only did the Danville native score a brace of touchdowns, but he amassed 217 yards in 12 tries, threw the key block on the first of two TDs by Rogers and was a threat whenever he was in there.

Yards rushing also showed Rogers with 70 in 12 carries, Steve Scott 41 in 11 and Comer 30 for 10.

When Coach Jimmy Sharpe was asked if Coles and D. Scott were the 1-2 men in the backfield, the Gobblers' boss said:

"I don't know about that. After what we saw today, you might have to do the ranking by 1-2-3-4."

Queried further as to whether he would substitute freely and often in the backfield, Sharpe replied, "Maybe. Maybe not. A lot depends on how things work out, but I do know that so many fine runners will take pressure off Coles."

Sharpe didn't offer many accolades on defense, although tackle Doug McDougald, 260-pounder from Fayeteville, N.C., got some mention, and left-cornerbacks Gary Smith of the Maroons and Tony DeHart showed impressively at times.