Maroon-White Game Shows Promising Talent

By Steve Barry

"This was the easy one, we won today" commented head coach Jimmy Sharpe after Saturday's annual Maroon-White Spring Football game, in which the Maroon team dominated the White throughout for a 38-10 win.

In contrast to last years muddy kickers duel, this year's game turned out to be an exciting, fast-paced, high-scoring affair and capped off what according to Sharpe was "the best spring practice we've had since I've been here."

Sharpe was extremely pleased with the new talent explaining that "we knew we had backs who could run and we wanted to turn them loose." Sharpe added that opposing teams will no longer be able to key in on Coles.

If speed is the name of the game, then it seems that the Hokies have plenty of it. Fans, expecting to see senior running back Coles burn the field, were surprised by sophomore Kenny Lewis, who led the footed foot of backs with twelve carries for 217 yards. His longest carry brought 87 and 70 yard runs for Maroon TD's.

Sophomore Mickey Rogers followed Lewis with 81 yds. on 12 carries, one of those a 43 yd. touchdown jaunt. Coles led the way for White with 105 yds. on 10 carries, including a 65 yd. TD run.

The game began with a bang, as rising junior quarterback David Lamie hit Coles on the first play with a 30 yd. pass, and Coles galloped down another 30 yd. pass, and Coles galloped down another 30 yds. before being brought down on the 9. The White team could not move in for the TD and sophomore Eric King stepped in to kick a field goal, making the score 3-0.

With about five minutes left in the first quarter White again threatened to score. On third and 10 Lamie again hit Coles for a 21 yd. play putting the ball on the Maroon 10 yd. line. On 3rd and 3 junior Dennis Scott moved the ball down to the two foot line. White decided to go for the touchdown but was turned back at the three inch line by the Maroon defense, led by senior linebacker Rick Razzano.

Junior Mike Zouzalik came in to lead the Maroon team in the second quarter. With the ball in White territory, Zouzalik handed off to Rogers who scammed 43 yds. for the games first touchdown. Paul Engle failed to make the extra point and Maroon led 6-3.

On Maroons next possession Zouzalik fired a sideline pass to Rogers resulting in a 58 yd. TD play. Engle again missed the extra point and the lead jumped to 12-6.

Ten seconds later, on the first play from scrimmage, White scored as Coles trotted off 65 yds. for the teams first and only touchdown.

With 4:33 remaining, Engle attempted for Maroon a 47 yd. field goal attempt. Although he had the distance, the ball went wide to the left. No matter though, as the Maroon team scored with one minute remaining when freshman quarterback Jeff Manry hit Dale Babione with a 30 yd. pass into the end zone scoring the team into the locker room with a 18-10 halftime lead.

Maroon came out strong and on the first play from scrimmage sophomore Don LaRue handed off to Lewis who flew down field 70 yds. for a touchdown increasing their lead to 25-10 over White.

White threatened again when Lamie hit sophomore Mickey Fitzgerald for 1st and 10 at the Maroon 12. Moving the ball only one yd., White decided to go on 4th and 9. Lamie faded back, rolled left, got in trouble and scrambled to the right only to throw the ball out of the end zone and giving it up to Maroon.

On second down Maroon ran the same play that it had scored on early in the third quarter and again Lewis broke open, this time for an 87 yd. run and another touchdown. Engles extra point attempt was good and Maroon led 32-10.

In the fourth quarter White had still failed to move the ball, but the fired-up Maroon squad wasn't finished yet.

With the ball on their own 13, Zouzalik gave the ball to Babione on an end around for a 21 yd. gain and a first down at the 44. Keeping the ball on the ground, Rogers took a handoff to crash through into White territory and a first down on the 43.

Zouzalik again gave the ball to Babione on the end around but this time he attempted to throw to tighten Dave Dolphin but overthrow. Zouzalik then attempted to throw to Babione and pass interference was called placing the ball on the 28.

On fourth down with the ball on the fifth yd. line Zouzalik hit Babione for the final score of the game.

Coach Sharpe was extremely pleased with the team's progress and the spring game. He was particularly pleased with the quarterback and the offensive squad in general. Sharpe said that the passing game will become a larger factor next fall. He explained the "offense is stronger depth-wise than the defense."

The kicking game is still in good shape with George Roberts who had 14 punts for a total of 636 yds. Roberts was punting for both teams.

The Hokies first game is at home September 17 against Texas A & M.