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BLACKSBURG — Sometimes, good things come in small packages.

So, while Virginia Tech was wrapping up Texas A&M's 280-pound fullback George Woodard here Saturday afternoon, it was two smaller fellows who unraveled the Gobblers in their football season opener.

Led by swift halfback Curtis Dickey and smooth-operating quarterback David Walker, the seventh-ranked Aggies rolled to a 27-6 triumph over Tech before a disappointed crowd of 33,500 at Lane Stadium.

While Woodard was getting all the attention because of his girth and stellar performance against the Gobblers in a 19-0 triumph a year ago, Dickey and Walker provided the punch as A&M piled up 449 yards total offense. And the Aggies' defense, led by Phil Bennett's two fumble recoveries, stopped Tech without a touchdown.

"It was the same old thing," said Tech Coach Jimmy Sharpe. "If we eliminate a few mistakes, we're in the game. But I do believe that Mr. Woodard knows about Blacksburg, Va., now."

Tech trailed 14-6 at halftime due to a swarming defense that kept Woodard in harness and managed to control Dickey's after-burners outside. But after the Gobblers' offense managed just one first down in the second period, the third quarter spelled the end for the home team.

The Gobblers made the big third down play all afternoon, but their offense seemed to lose its drive once it reached A&M territory. Trailing by eight points, Tech quarterback David Lamie fumbled the ball away on the Aggies' 39 and Bennett recovered to end the Gobblers' first possession of the second half.

Then just seven plays later—after A&M's Tony Franklin had sailed a 51-yard field goal try to the left—Lamie lost another fumble on second and 10 at the Tech 22.

Franklin followed with a 33-yard three-pointer on Texas A&M's next possession, and the barefoot boomer raised the difference to 20-6 as he completed a 13-play drive with a 21-yard field goal as the clock ticked down to its final 13:35.

Dickey, gained 139 yards in 14 carries a week ago in the Aggies' opening win over Kansas, gained 141 in 17 trips. The 6-1, 202-pounder, ripped off an apparent 85-yard touchdown run in the first quarter. But his trip down the right sideline ended up as a 49-yarder as a clipping call halfway across the field erased the score.

Tech led then 3-0 on Paul Engle's 36-yard field goal. But after Dickey's long run, A&M kept the ball and used five more plays to take the lead for good. At first and goal from the Tech two-yard line, Walker faked to Woodard, who immediately attracted several tacklers. The Aggies' quarterback kept the ball, however, and walloped into the end zone with 2:38 left in the first half. Franklin's conversion kick was all the scoring A&M would need.

Walker, who was just 2-for-9 in the passing department in the A&M opener, hit 8-of-11 for 97 yards against Tech. Given excellent pass protection, seven of Walker's completions came in succession.

Meanwhile, running back Roscoe Coles turned in at has become expected of him—a 100-yard game.

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