Razzano Was A&M Match

Texas A&M picked up 23 first downs, rushed for 331 yards and added 97 yards through the air in downing Virginia Tech, 28-6. It could have been a lot worse if linebacker Rick Razzano had not put a fire under the Hokies’ defense at certain points in the game.

Razzano wound up with 17 tackles and assisted on five other occasions. He chipped in with a fumble recovery and added a pass interception.

“He played a super ball game,” commented Buddy Bennett, who serves as a defensive aide under coach Jimmy Sharpe.

There were several occasions the Hokies halted the Aggies either to force a field goal situation — A&M making two — or turn the visitors to Blacksburg back without any points.

One of the times the Aggies were halted pointless was keyed by Razzano, who stopped 6-0, 280-pound fullback George Woodard short of the goal on a third-down situation. On fourth down he gave full support to Danny Hill, credited with the initial hit, to make another stop shy of the end zone.

“He’s played that way since he was a freshman,” continued Bennett of Razzano, a 5-11, 225-pound senior from New Castle, Pa. “I think he’s an All-American on anybody’s football team.”

For his performance against the seventh-ranked Aggies, Razzano was selected The Times-Dispatch’s Defensive Player of the Week.

Two other players receiving mention were backs Craig Harrington of William and Mary and Linwood Hardy of Virginia State.

Harrington recovered two fumbles and intercepted a pass in W&M’s 28-6 loss to the University of Pittsburgh, while Hardy helped Virginia State turn back Elizabeth City, 31-12, with a pair of interceptions and a fumble recovery.