Memphis State Trips Virginia Tech

By MIKE KEECH
Daily Press Sports Writer
MEMPHIS — Leo Cage scored from a yard out, then Rusty Bennett kicked the all-important extra point Saturday night as Memphis State came from behind to defeat Virginia Tech 21-20.

Virginia Tech unleashed a relentless ground attack for a surprising 13-0 halftime advantage highlighted by an 80-yard, 18-play touchdown march that consumed over seven minutes of the second quarter.

Sophomore quarterback Don LaRue, who split playing time with starter David Lamie throughout the first 30 minutes, directed the impressive scoring drive repeatedly freezing the Memphis State defense with excellent fakery in the Wishbone. The Gobblers rolled 129 yards rushing in the half.

Junior kicking specialist Paul Engle also contributed mightily to the halftime bulge with field goals of 48 and 46 yards on the Techmen's first two possessions. The diminutive West Virginian also attempted a 53-yarder that fell short with 12:04 left in the initial half.

Virginia Tech's touchdown march came with a lineup of reserves with the major exception of stellar halfback Roscoe Coles.

LaRue was responsible for the key play in that advance, a four-yard burst on a fourth down-and-one situation at the Tiger 37. Coles ripped for 16 yards up the middle on the ensuing play for a first down at the 17.

Junior halfback Dennis Scott bucked over from a yard out seven plays later on another fourth down play and Engle converted for the 13-0 lead.