Tech Still Winless

Cont. From First Sports Page

back Steve Fuller. “Throwing the ball was terrible, but their defensive backs couldn’t cover anybody anyway. With the weather as bad as it was in the second half, it was impossible for them to come back.”

Tech was placed on the road back at the outset by Willie Jordan, a quarterback-turned-defensive back and impromptu punt return specialist. Originally converted to flanker for this his junior season, Jordan was pressed into the secondary and under punts as a result of injuries to teammates.

After little playing time and limited success in Clemson’s first three games, Jordan found his legs against the Hokies. He returned Tech’s first two punts 22 and 54 yards to put his team in business 39 and 22 yards from the goal line.

“I’ve been looking for a day like this all season,” said Jordan, who ran the same route down the right sideline both times. “I give all the credit to the guys who were in front of me blocking.”

Fuller dived into the end zone from the one for the first score and flanker Rick Weddington made a diving catch in the end zone of a nine-yard Fuller pass for the second TD. Back-up tailback Warren Ratchford carried a pitch 68 yards for Clemson’s third score and a 21-0 lead with 11:51 left in the second quarter.

The Hokies, under the direction of back-up quarterback Don LaRue, recorded their initial first down shortly thereafter, but that drive was stalled in Clemson territory by the first of three interceptions thrown by Virginia Tech quarterbacks.

The Hokies drove 45 yards in seven plays — greatly aided by an offside and a personal foul charged against the Tigers — for a touchdown on their next possession. Halfback Dennis Scott did the honors from the one-yard line 4:33 before intermission.

Clemson closed first-half scoring with a 42-yard thrust inside the minute mark. Fuller lugged the ball 13 yards, then passed the last 29 to flanker Dwight Clark all alone in the end zone.

The elements took over in the third quarter, during which Tech mustered but 11 yards of total offense. Obed Ariri’s 36-yard field goal gave Clemson a 31-7 lead with 5:24 to play, then Tech moved 68 yards on its last possession with halfback Roscoe Coles scoring from the three with :46 showing.

Coles netted only 36 yards on 14 carries, but crashed the 3,000-yard barrier for his career, needing 18 to reach that figure entering the game.

“We thought their offense would be a lot better than it was,” said Stuckey. “Our main concern was containing Coles and I thought we did that pretty well.”

The Hokies, who wound up with 199 yards of total offense, had their progress slowed by seven fumbles, none of which were lost. Starter David Lamie and LaRue continued to share the quarterback duties as Tech struggles to find a field general.

“I thought we blocked them all day and they weren’t that good on defense,” contended Virginia Tech guard Leonard Walker. “It’s more of a thing that we have got to get together as a team. Individuals cannot do the job. Mistakes kill you and it’s hard to get rolling.’’

INDIVIDUAL RUSHING
Clemson — Fuller, 9 carries, 35 yards; 1. Brown, 15-74; Ratchford, 10-97; Perry, 8-18; Butler, 1-10; Goggins, 5-17; Weddington, 2-15; Lett, 4-12; M. Sims, 1-1; Collcutt, 1-minus 1. Virginia Tech — Coles, 14-36; Holway, 2-18; D. Scott, 8-12; Lamie, 8-1; LaRue, 9-20; Lewis, 3-22; Zouzafik, 2-4.

INDIVIDUAL PASS RECEIVING
Clemson — Butler, 4 catches, 49 yards; Weddington, 2-18, 1 TD; King, 1-0; Clark, 1-20, 1 TD. Virginia Tech — Zollicoffer, 2-28; Savage, 3-41; Holway, 1-19.