Tobacco Bowl Preview

RICHMOND—The Virginia Tech Hokies—their backs very much to the wall after dropping their first three football games—have a score to settle with the William and Mary Indians, who defeated them at Lane Stadium last year.

Tech took a 31-13 thumping at the hands of explosive Clemson last Saturday while the Indians were impressive in a 28-8 win over Villanova.

Saturday afternoon at ancient City Stadium, where the winning floods from the previous night's Tobacco Festival parade await their presentation to the crowd at halftime. Bands play and crowds cheer. Tech and the Indians will battle it out in the Tobacco Bowl game.

Most obviously at stake is one leg toward the state championship of Virginia and the bowl game itself. Not all that obvious but still very much at stake is the success of the Hokies 1977 football season and the chance at a winning season.

If the Hokies get the job done, much of the credit likely will go to number one ground gainer, senior running back Roscoe Coles. While he was held to only 36 yards rushing in 14 carries against Clemson, Coles still broke the 3,000-yard plateau in career rushing.

Coles Threatens

Coles also threatens the career touchdown record held by former fullback and current football administrative assistant J. B. Barber. The career TD record of 30, the record for most touchdowns rushing, 29, and most points scored, 189, all are held by Barber, who was known as 'Jungle' in his playing days.

Coles' TD run of three yards against Clemson brought his total to 26 touchdowns and 158 career points. All of Roscoe's touchdowns have been by rushing.

Tech also will need another outstanding performance from record-setting punter George Roberts who had a 45.5 average last Saturday and some offensive fireworks from its quarterback corps.

The stock of no. 2 and no. 3 in that department both went up a notch against Clemson. Don LaRue engineered some offense for slow-starting Tech when David Lambie didn't get things rolling, although LaRue's promising second half drive ended in an interception.

Mike Zouzalik, third string quarterback, came on strong with a convincing touchdown drive and looked good rushing and passing.

Scouting Report

William and Mary's football team surprised just about everyone last season in registering a 7-4 record—the best at the College in 25 years.

This season the Indians have lost that element of 'surprise'. With 40 lettermen—including 19 starters—few opponents are taking the Tribe lightly.

Regardless, William and Mary has managed a 3-2 record, and featured a potent offensive attack that has averaged nearly 360 yards a game.

Honorable mention

All-American Tom Rozantz and Jim Kruis lead a host (10) of returning offensive starters. Rozantz, the Indians' junior quarterback, directs the squad's veer-option offense with skill. Through the first five games, the 6-2, 190-pounder has had a hand in seven touchdowns (three passing and four rushing), connecting on 41 of 93 passes for 605 yards and running for an additional 114 yards.

Meanwhile, tailback Kruis (5-10, 185, Sr) joins with fullback Keith Fimian (6-1, 225, Sr) to give the Indians a solid backfield tandem. Kruis, who gained 1,164 yards last season, leads William & Mary in rushing with 375 yards in 89 carries. Fimian (a thorn in Tech's side last season with three touchdowns in W&M's 27-15 win) has carried 73 times for 246 yards.

The receiving chores—like the backfield duties—are also handled by veterans, Senior Gray Oliver (6-2, 200) returns at slotback, with juniors Joe Manderfield (5-11, 185) and Ken Cloud (6-3, 230) back at split and tight ends, respectively. All three are two-year lettermen.

Oliver leads the Tribe in receptions with 11 for 154 yards and a touchdown, but Manderfield has accounted for the most yardage with 174 yards on 10 catches.

Experience extends to the front line where four two-year lettermen returned, led by center Hank Zimmerman (6-3, 240, Sr). Seniors Allan Goode (6-4, 245) and Steve Kuhn (6-2, 230) hold down the guard spots, while junior Dudley Johnson (6-2, 265) teams with newcomer Bill Scott (6-3, 235 So) at tackle.

On defense, the Indians feature nine players who saw starting assignments in '76, including defensive ends Rolfe Garawin (6-3, 225, Sr) and Melvin Martin (6-1, 210, Jr).

The interior line is rounded out by junior tackles Keith Griffin (6-4, 240) and Mike Wagner (6-3, 245), and junior noseguard Keith Baklarz (6-3, 210), with two-year lettermen Jim Ryan (6-1, 210, Jr) and Ed Amos (6-2, 205, Sr) providing support from the linebacking positions. Senior Dave O'Neil (6-1, 215), a starter last year at tackle, is also available after being sidelined by an injury.

The secondary, ranked fifth in the nation against the pass last season, returned intact, but has to recoup from early season injuries to safeties Joe Agee and Scott Hays. Juniors David Walton (6-0, 200, Sr) and Mark Mullady (6-0, 175, FS) presently hold the starting spots, joining cornerbacks Keith Potts (6-1, 190, Sr) and Terry Havelka (6-0, 180, Jr).

Overall, William & Mary's major strengths are its experience along with its offensive backs and receivers. Lack of depth along the offensive line and at defensive tackle combines with the absence of overall speed as the Indians weaknesses.