It rained again on Hokie football Saturday, but unlike the past two weeks, the wet conditions affected both teams.

What many don’t realize is that Tech beat a very good William and Mary football team. The Indians may be as good as the teams Tech lost to the past two weeks and have a quarterback as good as Tech will face all year.

Tom Rozantz, who almost single-handedly ruined Tech’s hopes of being number one in the state last year, completed 11 of 26 passes for 184 yards. But it was four interceptions by a shored up Tech secondary that provided Tech with the win this year.

Gary Smith, returning for the first time this year after a shoulder injury in preseason, seemed to make all the difference in what has been a very porous pass defense. Though he had only one of the pass interceptions, he was in on many more crucial defensive plays.

Also making the big plays for the Hokies on defense were Dennis Windmuller, two interceptions in the endzone; Gene Bunn, an interception; Jerry Sheehan, 31 tackles, 19 of them solo, and a defensive line that kept the pressure on Rozantz all day.

It was a combination of a key defensive and offensive play that helped sew up victory for the Hokies. Trailing in the fourth quarter, W&M had the ball on the Tech four when a hurried Rozantz pass was intercepted by Windmuller in the endzone.

Two plays later, David Lamie became the game’s most valuable player with a 77-yard jaunt for a Tech touchdown. Instead of 10-7, it was 17-0, a 14-point turnaround.

Though Lamie was intercepted twice himself and fumbled once on the W&M 11-yard line, he had none of the bobbled snap trouble that plagued the offense last week.

The Indians also turned in a quality defensive performance, holding the Hokies on two goaline stands in the first half that allowed only a 23-yard field goal. W&M was also very stingy in giving up only inches for a Tech first down on the one foot line, and finally only inches for a TD on a Lamie quarterback sneak.

Those used to the generally conservative play calling of Jimmy Sharpe were probably surprised with the onside kick that led off the second half. As a matter of fact that’s one of the biggest reasons it worked.

The other big reason is the sudden eight-foot bounce the ball took over a W&M man’s head. Henry Bradley, Tech’s record holding high jumer of seven feet, leaped high in the air to grab the ball for Tech. The ensuing drive was stopped at the 11 by Lamie’s fumble, but left W&M in the poor field position that was typical of its day.

The play was a gamble against the explosive W&M offense. It could have given the Indians the ball at midfield, trailing by only three.

Last year William and Mary broke up Tech’s “Spirit of ’76" with a demoralizing win that spoiled a bid for number one in the state. Tech returned the favor Saturday in capturing its second straight Tobacco Bowl.

The University of Virginia and the University of Richmond, Tech’s next two opponents, are two teams Tech will have to use all their hulla effort to lose to. They should bring Tech’s record back up to .500, and only VMI with wins over W&M and UR stands in the way of the mythical state championship.