Gobblers Rally To Tie UVA 14-14

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Virginia Tech marched 70 yards in a little over three minutes at the game's end for a touchdown and the expected two-point conversion to salvage a 14-14 tie with wireless University of Virginia Saturday afternoon.

The Cavaliers, who had scored only one touchdown in their first five games, trailed at the end of the first quarter 3-0 and then, behind surprise starting quarterback Chip Mark, they scored touchdowns in the middle quarters to lead 14-3.

See Sportscope on page D-2 for further comment on the intra-State football scrap.

Even after Paul Engle's 55-yard field goal midway in the final period it appeared Virginia's seven-game losing streak (over two seasons) would finally come to an end. But then we suddenly didn't think things we had been doing so well for three and a half quarters, said UVA Coach Dick Bestwick in muted tones outside the tomblike dressing room.

Virginia Tech junior quarterback David Lamie began the game-tying march from his 30 with 4:13 remaining. A third-down 12-yard gain by rescue Coles, a 17-yard pass reception by wide receiver Ellis Savage on fourth-and-four and Coles' third-down yard plunge for the TD set the stage for the climactic two-pointer.

"We knew they would attack the end," said Bestwick on the after-touchdown play, "and there should have been two men out there in the corner." Instead, running back Kenny Lewis slipped off to the right and zone corner to pass in Lamie's roll-out pass for the game-tying points.

"This was better than getting beat, but it certainly was more frustrating than any of our other defeats," added Bestwick.

Lamie and Company, held fairly much in check for three quarters, had a total offense of 344 yards after 156 in the first half. Lamie, only for 6 passing, was 8 of 11 in the second half.

Coles, although held to under 100 yards rushing (he picked up 91), surpassed O.J. Simpson's career mark by seven yards at 3,131 for 49th place in the all-time NCAA list. He has six games remaining for the Gobblers, who stand 1-3-1 on the season, and could possibly climb into the top 10 by th year's end.

Before Saturday's game, Virginia's passers had gained only 198 yards in five defeats. Mark, playing his first collegiate varsity game (other than serving as a holder for placekicks), connected on 10 of 18 tries for 119 yards.

"I didn't tell anyone, not even my coaches, that I had decided to start Chip," said Bestwick. "I didn't want to be talked out of it, to be perfectly frank, because Chip apparently is a much better game player than a practice player."

The Cavaliers didn't get on the scoreboard until there was 6:59 showing on the clock before the intermission. It all began when Mickey Spady, a freshman who played at Warwick High School last year, signalled for a fair catch.

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