Why Did Virginia Tech Wait So Long To Throw The Ball?

In any tie game, there are numerous cases of what might have been.

For Virginia and Virginia Tech, there were an extraordinary number of plays which eventually led to a surprising 14-14 tie.

Let’s look at the game from both standpoints.

Tech, favored by 20 points in what clearly was an overall, had to be happy with the way it played in the final 16 minutes. With their backs to the wall, outplayed by the underdog Cavaliers, the Hokies rallied in the clutch and managed to knock the ball away into a 56-yard field goal by Paul Engle and a one-yard scoring play by Roscoe Colies.

The game that sent the UVAs supporters reeling for their bottles in agony. Quarterback Dav- id Lamie passed to Kenny Lewis, releasing out of the backfield, behind UVAs Drew Schuetz. Those two points forced the deadlock.

Lamie, who scrambled well trying to pass in the opening half, threw brilliantly on the final drive. One mistake and Tech would have been upset. Lamies best pass was a 17-yarder he drilled to Ellis Savage at the seven on fourth down and five.

The Virginia pass defense has been suspect all year, so why did Tech wait until the last possible mo-

The Hokie wishbone shot Roscoe Colies free a couple of times, once for 28 yards. The 91 yards that the Tech senior gained elevated him past O. J. Simp-

Coles has gained 2,111 yards in his career, and next week he will surpass such luminaries as Ubbie Mat-

Nevertheless, Colies otherwise was contained by Virginia, as everybody has done since Roscoe netted 117 yards against Texas A&M in the opener.

Other teams are keying on Colies, and Tech seems helpless to come up with another weapon. Represen-

The Hokies have done a workmanlike job, but he simply doesn’t have the size or strength of Paul Adams, last year’s regular.

In fact, when Tech sticks strictly to the wish-

Now, not that Tech could not score touchdowns against A&M, two against Memphis State, two against W&M and the late one against UVa

In fact, as has been its habit thus far in this 1-3-1 campa-

Tech had trouble scoring when it had golden opportunities. The Hokies could have blown this game away early.

After UVAs Mickey Spayd fell inside his own two with the opening kickoff, Tech got good field posi-

On the next possession, Tech drove to the UVa 11 only to lose the ball on a fumble. Then the Hokies in-

Intercepted near midfield but couldn’t move. After all, Tech’s biggest play was the Virginia Tech fumble that had allowed 157 points in five previous losses.

Where Tech has been unable to move the ball consistently is in the middle. Fullback Dickie Holl-

Way has done a workmanlike job, but he simply doesn’t have the size or strength of Paul Adams, last year’s regular.

Although Tech Coach Jimmy Sharpe said Sunday on his TV show that the final drive could be the mak-

They simply don’t score enough points.

One UVa assistant coach said Tech was “three touchdowns weaker” than the first five teams the Cavaliers have played.

Despite the disheartening tie when victory seemed so certain, Virginia may have solved one ma-

Jim Chip Mark gave the Cavaliers the first semblance of an offense.

Mark can’t run and he can’t throw deep. But he handled the team well, didn’t make any mistakes, and threw short passes effectively. Even though Mark has rusted away on the bench for three years, he has more experience and football knowledge that freshman Bryan Shumock.

The Cavaliers cut down on the mistakes that have been killing them, committing just two turn-

over. Mark passed one time after fumbling a center snap and Gene Dunn made a diving interception. The only UVa fumble was an accident, when a George Roberts punt bounced sideways and hit Schuetz, with Tech recovering. But the UVAs running backs never fumbled at all, something they have been doing. Billy Harris and Skip Brown did their best running of the year.

Unless the Cavaliers can upset either Wake For-

This year, there was no real offense, with the 246 yards again recording the lowest in UVAs history.

Still, this was a game that Virginia had won.

There were so many key plays in the fourth quarter, all of which Tech made.

So while what happened Saturday was certainly exciting, it wasn’t necessarily first class football.

These weren’t the “two worst teams in college football,” as one UVa fan stated, but there was no indication that Tech can develop into the “great team” Sharpe keeps forecasting.