Gobblers Stalled

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Sports Writer

RICHMOND — The City Stadium scoreboard clock stopped on Virginia Tech and Richmond again here Saturday.

Then, the Gobblers' offense stopped. Richmond, displaying the type of defense that limited six of its seven opponents to one touchdown a year ago but was non-existent this fall, stopped Tech 17-14 to make the Spiders' homecoming a success.

The Gobblers owned a 14-10 halftime lead and had rolled up 204 yards total offense to 151 for the home team. But in the final 30 minutes, Richmond didn't allow Tech out of its own territory.

The first quarter might have been one of the longest ever played in the history of collegiate football as the antiquated City Stadium clock lived up to its past reputation. Like the two teams, the clock's hands took turns running. First the minute hand stopped, while the second hand worked to perfection. Then, the second hand rested and the minute hand moved.

And Tech Coach Jimmy Sharpe talked about the length of the afternoon, although his post-game comments weren't directed at the inability of the clock to perform under game conditions.

"It was another long Saturday afternoon of ending up on the short end of the stick," said Sharpe. "I thought at halftime we made adjustments with which we could come out and get something going, but those costly turnovers and mistakes did us in again."

Tech had six possessions in the second half as the Spiders controlled the ball before assuming command in the game. The Gobblers' deepest penetration was to their own 46, that on a last-ditch drive in the final minutes which was thwarted by two quarterback sacks from UR defensive end Ray Chase.

"In the second half, the defense stayed on the field," said Sharpe. "We couldn't make the big play. Everything we did was wrong, and everything they did was right."

While Tech capitalized on a pair of big plays for its two first-half touchdowns, the Spiders used the same formula in the final 15 minutes of their second win in seven starts.

After UR ran 27 third-quarter plays to the Gobblers' 16, the Spiders started their winning drive from the Tech 44 after George Roberts' 37-yard punt. Three plays into the drive, Richmond looked like it might have to punt as quarterback Dave Taylor rolled right to pass on third-and-five at the Tech 39.

Virginia Tech

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<th>First Downs</th>
<th>Rushing Yards</th>
<th>Passing Yards</th>
<th>Return Yards</th>
<th>Points</th>
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Individual Statistics


Tech lost two fumbles and Lamie was intercepted three times. The Gobblers' quarterback went to the air 22 times—the season high for the offense—but completed only seven. One of those completions was a 68-yarder to Ellis Savage in the first quarter that set up Tech's first touchdown.

That play—on which Savage got behind three Richmond defenders—moved the Gobblers to the UR seven. Lamie rolled right for the touchdown on the next play as 6:44 was the time showing on the clock.

When UR tied the score 12 plays later, the clock showed 6:10 remaining. The game officials ended up with red faces over the slow ticker, as apparently no one was keeping time on the field and they had to guess how much time remained in the first quarter.

After UR took a 10-7 lead on Adams' first collegiate field goal—an 18-yarder midway through the second period—Tech moved back in front.

Banning back Rowse Cooke ripped off a 51-yard scamper—his longest gain of the year—to move Tech to the Richmond eight. Lamie rolled right again for the remainder of that real estate to put the Gobblers in front with just over four minutes to play in the half.