BLACKSBURG—Virginia Tech would do well this week to turn over a new leaf rather than turning over the football.

Despite a 32-0 score at Kentucky, the Hokie defense has played well enough to have won a majority of games, but the Gobblers have had 12 turnovers, plus inadequate kicking game operations, in the last two contests.

Rick Razzano, senior linebacker who on an average day is as tough an operator as Tech ever has had, and probably the most super game of his career against Kentucky - 20 hits and 10 assists, and he was just one of 10 Hokie defenders who graded well enough to have won.

Repeatedly this season one of Coach Jimmy Sharpe’s most telling post-game comments has been, “The defense had to stay on the field too long,” and that applied again Saturday.

Razzano, senior noseguard Bill Housewright and sophomore tackle Danny Hill, each of whom graded well over 100 in the Tech system, were each in the contest for 74 plays, and sophomore tackle Doug McDougald, who overcame an injury early in the game for one of his best performances (96), was in for 69 snaps.

Offensively, turnovers don’t tell the whole story. For instance, Tech has lost 17 fumbles so far, but perhaps just as important have been the number of times the Gobblers have stopped themselves with fumbles that weren’t lost. The Hokie bobble department reads 17 of 38.

Tech can ill afford such gratitudes Saturday against Florida State, a marauding outfit that has become increasingly proficient at capitalizing on opponent’s errors as they did in downing Auburn two weeks ago, the same day Tech went down before a Richmond team whose generosity consisted of throwing one harmless interception--deep in Tech territory on the last play of the third quarter.

FSU, 6-1, and Tech, 1-5-1, are on opposite ends of the major independents totem pole, and the Hokies can ill afford to provide any free niches to the opportunistic Seminoles this Saturday.