Tech's 'Drought' Ends; Spiders' Start Spoiled

By The Associated Press

"The drought is over."

That was coach Jimmy Sharpe's first reaction Saturday night as Virginia Tech's Gobblers won a season-opening football game for the first time since 1967 with a 23-6 victory over Wake Forest.

Richmond's first start as an independent in 40 years was spoiled, however, as the Spiders dropped a 22-7 decision at Tulsa after leading the winners 7-5 at the half.

In a state College Division clash, Hampden-Sydney's Tigers got two short scoring runs from quarterback Bill Newell for a 14-0 victory over Liberty Baptist's Flames.

Ron Stith, Bernard Slayton and Shane Hast collaborated for 261 yards rushing and four touchdowns as Madison's Dukes ran their two-year winning streak to 10 with a 30-14 romp over Glvenville State, which battled them to a 0-0 tie in last year's opener.

But two of the state's CIAA teams were beaten in their openers. Virginia Union's Panthers fell to North Carolina A&T, 26-20, and St. Paul's Tigers were drubbed by Knoxville College 24-0.

The ONLY THING Sharpe was unhappy about was that the Gobblers lost a shutout on Bob Hely's two-yard, fourth-down pass to Al Zyskowski in the final period after a 46-yard run by James McDougald.

"We were tickled to death with the defense. We wanted a shutout real bad, but Zyskowski just made a super catch," said Sharpe.

The Gobblers were sluggish on offense in the first half, settling for a pair of field goals by Paul Engle.

But Mitchell Barnes directed Tech 67 yards in 17 plays following the second half kickoff, Roscoe Coles scoring from the six.

Then Eddie Snell took over and moved the Gobblers into position for Engle's third field goal. Coles finished with 68 yards on 14 carries and Snell, Barnes' backup, ran eight times for 56 yards. Wake Forest was limited to 95 yards rushing and 101 passing.

AFTER GIVING UP a safety, Richmond took a 7-2 lead over Tulsa on Buster Jackson's 45-yard run two plays after Mike Copley blocked a Tulsa punt.

But Ron Hickerson got Tulsa's offense moving in the second half and scored the clinching touchdown on a six-yard run in the last period after a 54-yard interception return by R. V. Jackson.

Spider coach Jim Tait had said Richmond could win by avoiding mistakes and taking advantage of Tulsa's. But the Spiders lost three fumbles and had three passes picked off, while Tulsa had seven turnovers — two interceptions and five lost fumbles.

Quarterback Ellsworth Turner passed for one touchdown and ran for another in North Carolina A&T's triumph over Virginia Union. The Panthers' Rufin Joyner hit five of 10 passes for 126 yards and two touchdowns.

LARRY MCMILLIAN ran for two touchdowns and Earl Jackson passed for one for Knox College against St. Paul's. The Tigers' Sam Cosby hit 14 of 25 passes for 123 yards, James Woodson catching six for 82.

In the Southern Conference, Furman coach Art Baker said the 17-12 upset over N. C. State that stumped the Paladins a definite threat for the championship was "the biggest win I have ever been involved in."

The Paladins, who had led most of the way, had to come from behind with an 80-yard march sparked by tailback Harry King, who finished with 159 yards on 16 carries. King scored the decisive touchdown from six yards out.

While Furman was winning, Appalachian State's Mountaineers — picked to battle East Carolina's Pirates for the title — got off to a losing start in a 21-10 defeat at South Carolina, a team they upended a year ago, 39-34.