Each week, The Times-Dispatch honors state college football players for offensive and defensive performances of the previous weekend. This week's winners are Virginia Tech linebacker Rick Razzano for the defense and Madison running back Ronnie Stith for the offense.

Rick Razzano
Keys Hokie Defense

Razzano: Up To Expectation

A couple of years ago, the opposition needed but to have the football to amass indelicate amounts of yardage against Virginia Tech.

The Hokie defenders were about as bad as there was to be found in the contiguous United States. As has been said, No more!

Saturday night, while breaking an opening-game string of embarrassments that dated to 1967, the Hokie defenders allowed Wake Forest just 95 yards rushing and almost half that (46 yards) came against the Tech reserve defenders. That was after linebacker Rick Razzano and Co. had taken to the sideline with a 23-0 advantage.

While on duty, Razzano, who just might be the heart of the Hokie defense, "Played just the way we expect him to play," said Tech coach Jimmy Sharpe. "And that's pretty darn good."

Razzano, a 5-11, 225-pound junior from New Castle, Pa., participated in nine tackles, including four BIG plays. Among those was the recovery of a fumble at the Deacon 19 that set up Tech's second field goal.

FOR HIS PERFORMANCE, the Hokie coaching staff awarded the 20-year-old a grade of 81 percent. The Times-Dispatch awards him the distinction of being the first Defensive Player of the Week for 1976.

Also considered for the award were Razzano's teammates Tom Beasly, Keith McCarter and Curt Lowery and Richmond middle guard Dickie Childress also received a grade of 81 percent and Lowery got high marks as the replacement for injured Bill Houseright at middle guard. Childress, making his first start at middle guard after gaining All-SC as defensive tackle in 1975, participated in 20 tackles in UR's 22-7 loss to Tulsa.