WOULD YOU BELIEVE V.P.I. 10-1?
COLLEGE STATION, TEX. — Co-Captain Rick Razzano was not happy. Neither was he downcast after Virginia Tech lost to highly-touted Texas A&M by 19-0. “This game isn’t the end for us,” said the linebacker from New Castle, Pa., and without batting an eye he added, “from here we go 10-and-1.”

The Aggies, rated No. 14 in the Associated Press preseason poll, are stumping for their own linebacker Roy Jackson as a top All-America candidate, but Saturday afternoon Razzano was the more heroic figure. Defense statistics showed he was tops with 14 tackles and six assists.

Actually, Razzano seemed to be more in evidence than indicated by the statistics. He broke up at least one pass, was around the football constantly, and perhaps he more than anyone else was responsible for the Aggies taking more to the air than usual.

OFFENSE SHORT ON CONSISTENCY

While not declaring himself in so many words, Razzano was disappointed that the Gobblers could not move the ball offensively any better than they did. Coach Jimmy Sharpe agreed, saying, “our defensive people were on the field too long, especially the first half.”

Sharpe gave credit to the Aggies, though.

“They put too much pressure on our passer (quarterback Mitch Barnes); their defensive ends (Tank Marshall, Eugene Sanders) played like All-Americans. They just never let us work the pass into our offensive scheme.”

“Early on,” Sharpe added, “we tried to first establish our fullbacks. We hoped they’d tighten up, the middle and open it up for us for passing or running wide, but we couldn’t get it going. Every time it looked like we might, we’d have a bad play or a penalty.”

‘SCREEN PASS’ KILLED GOBBERS

Sharpe couldn’t say enough in praise of his defense. In addition to Razzano, the Gobblers got sterling performances from end Keith McCarter, tackle Mike Faulkner, corner Gene Bunn, tackle Tom Beasley (though still hampered by injury), linebacker Steve Cannon, and strong safetyman Chip Keatley.

However, Tech’s mentor couldn’t avoid pointing out that “most of the time we acted like we never saw a screen pass.” That was the Aggies’ most effective, game-breaking pass play, though Adg...