Bowl Hopes Live For Tech Despite Loss

By Bill Mason
Sports Editor

BLACKSBURG—Virginia Tech's football team, neither down nor out after their loss to potential national power Texas A & M, still has hopes of winning its way to a post-season bowl game.

Right tackle Mike Faulkner, one of two Tech defensive players honored Monday by the Blacksburg Sports Club put it this way: "I've noticed that you're giving us better support. I'm sure that in the next ten games we'll try to be worthy of it." (Tech has 10 more games on its regular-season schedule.)

Faulkner had an outstanding game and was graded 63 percent by the coaches.

Tech's other Player of the Week, also on defense, was cornerback Gene Bunn of Virginia Beach. Bunn, who grades 90 percent, caused two fumbles, recovered one and had an interception. He commented: "We played a real good game and everybody is sticking together. We hope we can win one for you Saturday."

Head football coach Jimmy Sharpe said that linebacker Rick Razzano, tackle Tom Beasley and defensive end Keith McCarter "all played fantastically."

Sharpe said Tech was unable to run the ball well against A & M and said of the passing game, "We called 16 passes and the quarterback was sacked ten times."

The coach added that some polls of the top teams in the nation are done by polls of coaches and some others by polls of sportswriters and added, "There are 62 guys and ten coaches I know who would vote for Texas A & M as number one."

"Their big fullback, Woodard, is the finest back I have ever seen."

Looking ahead he said, "We have a long, long road ahead of us. I was shocked by East Carolina's big win over Southern Mississippi. Southern has a real capable football team, but I'm not worried about them, I'm only worried about us."

Sharpe said that sophomore kick returner Ellis Savage, who had some ribs broken in the Aggies game, is definitely out for the next game and running back Roscoe Coles "has a slight shoulder separation" but Coles is expected to play.

The Sports Club's first Pick the Winner football contest of the season resulted in a three way tie at 65 between Don Kelsey, Frank Shirk and Stuart Cassell. Kelsey won on the tiebreaker score.

Upsets plagued the club predictors and the average score was 50.

The meeting was held at Squires Student Center and next Monday's meeting will be back at the regular location, Donaldson Brown CEC.

BUNN IS WINNER—Gene Bunn, a sophomore defensive back from Virginia Beach, had a productive day on defense against Texas A&M last Saturday. Bunn and defensive tackle Mike Faulkner were honored as Tech's Defensive Players of the Week by the Blacksburg Sports Club.