Virginia Tech Struggles To Win; VMI Falls

Gobblers Triumph 16-7

By Bob Moskowitz
Daily Press, Sports Writer

Blacksburg—A punter who de-
cided four years ago "I didn't want to play football anymore", and a pass the
coaches didn't want to throw provided Virginia Tech's major steps to victory Saturday afternoon.

Struggling from the outset, the Gob-
blers hung on for a 16-7 conquest over
Southern Mississippi, which was any-
thing but the putsy battered 48-0 by
East Carolina a week ago.

Tech (2-1) never trailed but when the
Golden Eagles' Ben Garry exploded
48 yards for the invaders' first touch-
down in their two games this year, the
Gobblers quickly resorted to trickery.

After Garry, who gained 16 yards in
10 carries, fumbled and Tech's game-
long standout lineman Steve Canning
recovered, the Gobblers launched a 50-
yard, 15-play drive that provided the
clinch and final points.

The march, launched late in the
third quarter, splattered on the first
play of the fourth period, Tech had fourth and four on the Southern 34.

That seemed to set up a field goal
try by Paul Fugle, who had given the
Gobblers a 1-0 first-quarter lead on a 42-
yard connection. Instead, holder Mitch
Barrow, Tech's quarterback, threw a
screen pass to fullback Paul "Clang"
Adams for a six-yard gain.

From there the Gobblers kept
churning away until Barnes kept for
one yard and the touchdown with 12:06
to play.

The fake field goal was the "first
"time we've used the play", admitted
Coach Jimmy Sharpe, "but we practice
it every day. The big discussion on the
sidelines was that the coaches (later he
said it was his assistants) didn't want
to throw the pass to Adams. That
nickname ("Clang") is for his hands
when he catches the ball."

Adams hung on, however, and so did
Tech. One major reason the Gobblers
extended their home winning streak
through six outings was the somewhat
amazing punting of redshirt junior
George Roberts.

A product of Johnny Palmeiro at
E.C. Glass in Lynchburg, Roberts had
averaged 34.9 yards in 12 punts during
Tech's first two games, which were his
first two in college, although he is
academically a senior.

Saturday, he responded with a
scaletilling 45.5 average in six tries, the
first two of which hurtled 58 and 52
yards.

Conceding that graduation of Bruce
McDaniel (last year's punter) had
"something to do with it, but wasn't the
major factor, Roberts says he re-

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Virginia Tech (2-1)

Virginia Tech

16

Southern Mississippi

7

Field goal by Paul Fugle 21 yards, with 10:45 remaining in first period.

Tech's Chip Keatley (25) Carries Foe Ben Garry For Loss