The Inches
And Decisions

Tech's Roscoe Cole Outruns Safety Wade Lynch (25) for Third-Quarter Touchdown

The Referee
By Bill Millsaps
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BLACKSBURG — Saturday's Virginia Tech-Southern Mississippi game was something of an illustration of how football is played by former basketballers. Dick Cole, Tech's head coach, had given his team the assignment of 'staging a total football,' and the Golden Eagles came away with a 0-32 loss. It's a bitter pill for Tech to swallow, but it's a pill that they have to swallow, and that they have to swallow if they want to win.

Collins — who was named by his coach the most valuable player in the game — was indeed in top form. His running was by far the most spectacular of the day, and he had a great deal of room to work with. The Eagles came up against aTech squad that was keen to the game, and the Golden Eagles came away with a 0-32 loss. It's a bitter pill for Tech to swallow, but it's a pill that they have to swallow, and that they have to swallow if they want to win.

Collins, however, decided to try for the first down, and his run was stopped by Tech's Tom Brannan and Chuck Cherry. Collins was stopped just a yard short of the goal line.

FOR THE PUBLIC record, football coaches are not in the habit of having easy answers, or of being about their usual afternoon's work before the game. But after the game, Tech's Tommy Shoffner was asked if he was pleased with his team's performance. "I think we played well," he said. "We scored two touchdowns and didn't get much of a chance to run the ball in the second half."

As Tech was running the ball, the Eagles had to work hard to keep up. The team's running backs were stopped at the line of scrimmage, and the Eagles were forced to pass the ball in an attempt to keep up.

The Golden Eagles had a tough time scoring, and their only touchdown came on a pass from Mike Mitchell to Brian Hunter, who caught the ball in the end zone. The Eagles had a chance to tie the game late in the fourth quarter, but a fumble by Mitchell ended their hopes.

For certain, the Eagles have some work to do if they wish to improve their record. They play against Ole Miss, which is one of the stronger teams in the Southern Miss conference. The Eagles will have their work cut out for them, but they are not without hope. The Eagles have shown that they can play tough football, and they have the talent to pull off a victory.

"Roscoe isn't going to take a back in practice until Tuesday," said Shoffner. "I'm not going to let him get beat until the Williams and Mary game."

You have no chance with this heavy key gun in your offense.