THE BIG FAKE—Virginia Tech's most elusive play of the day came when Paul Engle faked a field goal while ball holder Mitchell Barnes (left) kept the ball and tossed to fullback Paul Adams on a screen play that clicked on fourth down.

**Trick Play Helps Virginia Tech Hokies Win Over Southern Miss.**

By Bill Mason Sports Editor BLACKSBURG—A trick play and a second half that had just enough steam to put some points on the scoreboard came through for Virginia Tech, inconsistent but a winner over Southern Mississippi 16-7 in an une x c i t i n g home opener Saturday.

The fake kick play had been in the Hokie arsenal for two years but had never been used in a game. When Tech dusted it off before the Lane Stadium crowd of 35,000 it fired perfectly, blowing the impressive Golden Eagles out of their chance for an upset.

Tech held a narrow 10-7 lead at the start of the fourth quarter when Paul "Chile Bean" Engle was sent in apparently to attempt a 52-yard field goal in a fourth and four situation.

Instead, quarterback Mitchell Barnes tossed a screen pass to Paul Adams, good for a first down and the new lease on offensive life that paid off nine plays later in a Barnes touchdown that insured "W" number two for Tech.

The blue chip play was the highlight of another afternoon in which the Hokies offense failed to get completely in gear and Southern Miss, runners gave the defense a few bad moments.

Neither Barnes nor second quarterback Eddie Sneed could "put the pedal to the metal" for the offense in the first half and only a field goal in the first quarter kept Tech from a scoreless tie at halftime.

Tech's defense had its first test early. 17 Southern Mississippi stalled on its first series of downs and punted. Left endback Henry Bradley fumbled when he tried to receive the ball, slowed down by a brisk wind, Fowler recovered for the Eagles on the Tech 17.

The Hokie "D" was equal to the occasion, finally halting USM on a fourth and two on the nine as the crowd shouted its approval.

The going was slow for Tech on the ground, especially on the outside and a drive bogged down late in the quarter in Southern territory, after Barnes completed passes to Dolphin and Coles and fullback Paul Adams, halfback Chuck Nuttycombe and Coles picked up chunks of yardage.

Paul "Chile Bean" Engle booted a 42-yard field goal with 0:25 left in the quarter to put Tech on the scoreboard.

The Eagles started to move it just before halftime, helped by a 17-yard pass completion from Kenny Alderman of Radford to Ben Gary for a first down on the Tech 25.

USM tried a halfback pass play from Chuck Coles, who tossed a "wounded duck" to Bob Smith for an apparent touchdown which was negated by an ineligible receiver downfield. Tech held a 5-0 lead at halftime.

After some locker room decision-making at halftime the Hokies came back strong in the third quarter, scoring in only seven plays from scrimmage.

Coles gained 15 yards in three tries and George Heath rushed three times for 21 to set up a big play from the Eagle 37.

Coles got the call on fourth and one and behind some of the sharpest blocking exhibited all day, scampered for the touchdown through a maze of Eagles who were no match for his speed. Engle booted the PAT and Tech had a 104-0 advantage.

Southern Miss struck back a few minutes later as Alderman handed off to Gary who started out to his right, cut back to the left and outraced the entire Tech defense for a 48-yard touchdown gallop. A kick by McDonald added the point after and Tech's lead shrank to three where it stood 5-48 later at the end of the third quarter.

Only twelve seconds into the fourth quarter came the Hokies only razzle-dazzle of the afternoon, the fake kick play that netted the most important first down of the afternoon. Nine plays later, Barnes scored on a quarterback sneak. The PAT attempt missed, but it didn't matter that much.

Tech had wrapped up number two--not the best-looking game ever played, but one that went into the important "W" column as another step in the direction of high Hokie hopes for an outstanding season.

Virginia Tech has an open date Saturday and returns to action Oct. 2 with a home game against vastly improved William and Mary, winners over Virginia 14-0 Saturday at Charlottesville.

**Tech Baseball Team May Have New Infield.**

BLACKSBURG—Virginia Tech baseball coach Bob Humphreys, with a first baseman gone as an academic casualty and two other infielders uncertain, may have to build almost an entire new infield.

Dann Griel, hurt late last season, is back at second base but "hasn't tried to cut loose" since his shoulder injury that hampered him during the post-season NCAA playoff in Columbia, S. C. Humphreys said that Griel "will take it easy this fall."

Scott Atkins, who developed a back problem while working during the summer, is scheduled to have a back operation which will take him out of the fall practice season.

Third baseman Rick Wait, a senior, is back and is the only certain factor in the infield.

"I need to find pitchers to replace Orin Kiser and Tom Bailey. All others are back."

The six players signed are here: Harold Williams, Mike Preiser, Skip Deufflyyer, John Power, Dean Powell and Mike Rhodes.

Tech does not have a regular fall baseball season but has a number of practice games, the next one coming Sept. 25 at home against Lynchburg College.