Ferrum ‘Short’ Circuits Hokie JV

By TONY STAMUS
Sports Writer

FERRUM — Virginia Tech’s Jayvees knew only one thing before their Friday afternoon football game with Ferrum—that being their opponent.

You might say Ferrum gave the Gobblets “short” notice as to its quarterback situation. The Panthers’ signal-caller, usually dependable Al Norman, was instead Terry Short, a freshman from Wilmington, Del.

In his first game, he established himself as Hank Norton’s first-string quarterback with a good performance running the wishbone offense and led the Panthers to an easy 19-0 victory over the Tech JVs.

His stats showed nine completions in 18 attempts for 122 yards and a 10-yard touchdown run for a Ferrum team that had trouble generating offense in its first three games.

“Short, for a first game, did a superb job,” praised Norton. “He ran the offense well, he handed off beautifully. He threw two interceptions which were mistakes, but freshmen do that.

“I decided at the end of the week to go with him because he looked good in practice.”

There was no doubt from the start as to which team would dominate. Virginia Tech ran the wishbone, also, but ineffectively since the Jayvees had practiced William and Mary’s offense against the Tech varsity defense this week.

“We had to stay a half an hour after practice each day just to practice our own offense,” said Tech Coach Mike Yeager, a graduate assistant. “We had been running the I all week and then we found out that Ferrum would be playing a 4-4 defense so we had to change.”

After a Gobbler punt, Ferrum started its third possession on its 42 and scored eight plays later with the help of two key pass plays and a 15-yard penalty on the Hokies.

An eight-yard Mike Cusumano reception put the Panthers into Tech territory for the first time and later a 22-yard pass to Mike Peterson carried the Panthers to a first-and-goal at the Tech eight following a pass interference infraction on Tech.

Ray Johnson, the Panthers’ leading ground gainer with 124 yards, went in from seven yards out two plays later.

“Johnson ran well,” Norton said, “but we stopped ourselves a couple of times. We still made far too many mistakes. The difference between today and other times was that the defense wasn’t on the field all day. We moved the ball.”

In the second quarter, Ferrum’s offense continued to show life, but it was speedy Al Latimer’s 81-yard punt return that gave the Panthers a 13-0 lead at halftime. Latimer picked up a poor Johnny Wilson punt on the bounce and ran un molested down the left sideline.

“He runs a 9.8 in the 100 and was the Region 10 sprint champ last year,” Norton recalled. “If he picks one up, they’d better be around him somewhere or he’s gone. They better not have to chase him.”

Ferrum’s defense completely throttled the Jayvees in the second half and Tech quarterback Allen Brown was sacked five times for big losses.

But it was the freshman Short’s excellent play that brought Ferrum out of the doldrums. And it was the Panthers’ overall improved look that pleased Norton more than anything else.

“I saw signs of finally putting things together,” he said. “We didn’t overpower them, but we moved the ball. I tell you one thing, it beats losing. I can’t stand to lose. It ruins my whole weekend.”

Virginia Tech JVs: 
Ferrum

Ferrum scoring: Touchdowns—Johnson (7 run), Latimer (81 punt return), Short (10 run), PAT—Hayden (kick).

THE STATISTICS

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<tr>
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<th>VPI</th>
<th>Ferrum</th>
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<tr>
<td>First Downs</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>68</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yards Rushing</td>
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<td>Passes—A-C</td>
<td>14-3-1</td>
<td>19-10/2</td>
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<td>Yards Passing</td>
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<td>Punt Returns</td>
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INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING—Tech, Rogers 6-60, Comer 3-53, Brown 15-110, Mullowey 4-17, Ferrum, Johnson 20-124, Short 11-13, Bailey 6-29.

PASSING—Tech, Brown 2-14-1, 54 yards; Ferrum, Short 2-13-2, 112 yards; McPherson 11-16, 63 yards.


Staff Photo by Wayne Deel

Ferrum’s Duncan Williams Runs Into Trouble in Tech Trio

Feeling To Make the Stop Are Steve Halverson (No. 68) and Tom Boody (14) of VPI