

# Hokies Shake Loose, Pound Keydets, 37 to 7



Roscoe Coles (2) Fights for Portion of 111 Yards Rushing As VMI Tackler Hangs On, Bobby McQueen Prepares to Help

**By Bill Millsaps**  
 On Oct. 2, Virginia Tech suffered a confidence-shattering 27-15 loss to William and Mary in Blacksburg. "We walked around with long faces for two days," said Tech linebacker Rick Razzano, "and then we realized this was do-or-die week."

Yesterday at City Stadium, the Hokies did. They hung a 37-7 defeat on Virginia Military Institute before 21,000 spectators in the 28th Tobacco Festival football game. Tech, ahead by three points, began pulling away with a 65-yard, 15-play touchdown drive late in the third period, then the Hokies erased all suspense

when Greg Payne returned a punt 70 yards for a TD. That it made it 23-7 going into

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Va. Tech	3	7	13	14	37
VMI	0	0	7	0	7
VT — Heath, 11, run (Engle kick)					
VMI — Oddi, 2, run (Jones kick)					
VT — Adams, 1, run (Engle kick)					
VT — Payne, 70, punt return (kick failed)					
VT — Barnes, 46, run (Engle kick)					
VT — D. Scott, 37, run (Engle kick)					
A — 21,000.					

STATISTICS		Tech	VMI
First downs	.....	23	7
Rushes-yards	.....	77-372	44-84
Passing yards	.....	0	83
Return yards	.....	108	65
Passes	.....	0-0-0	5-17-0
Punts	.....	4-38	9-34
Fumbles-lost	.....	4-1	0-0
Penalties-yards	.....	5-42	5-55

Richmond Times-Dispatch, Sun., Oct. 10, 1976 G-9

## Chauncey Durden's Sportview

Cont. From First Sports Page

tiveness against William and Mary the Saturday before, must have been out to prove something against the Keydets. Sharpe wore a maroon sweater with "Head Coach" emblazoned on the front and the words, "I'm a Hokie and Proud of It" on the back of the sweater. Could that message have been for the small number of wavering alumni?

What's more, Sharpe ordered what Georgia Tech coach Pepper Rodgers calls "pure vanilla wishbone." The Hokies haven't attempted a pass yet against the Keydets. That's right, not one pass was thrown by Tech. Shades of Woody Hayes, who really is a pass-master when compared to Sharpe's no-pass game yesterday.

### The Running Hokies

SHARPE, OF COURSE, has never been much of a coach for passing. Few, if any, wishbone coaches throw the ball often. Two years ago, when Sharpe's first Tech team lost to VMI in the Tobacco Festival game, the Hokies attempted only two passes, completing one. And that same season, the Hokies did not attempt a single pass in a loss to South Carolina.

What the Hokies did against the Keydets yesterday was run and run and run. They ran a total of 77 times from scrimmage for a Tobacco Festival record of 372 yards, including touchdown runs of 46 yards by quarterback Mitchell Barnes and 37 yards by Dennis Scott, sophomore halfback backup for Roscoe Coles.

But the big Hokie breakthrough TD run was a 70-yard punt return by Greg Payne, who was filling in as punt returner for the injured Henry Bradley. Payne's brilliant run was reeled off in the third quarter when Tech was leading by only 17-7. A senior, Payne had returned punts for touchdowns in Tech's 1974 and '75 squad games, but yesterday marked the first time he's returned a punt this season. He returned four Keydet punts for a total of 108 yards.

Want to bet he doesn't handle punts against Virginia Saturday? And maybe some kickoffs as well?

### Why He Wears No. 2 Jersey

ROSCOE COLES DIDN'T score against the Keydets, but he was the game's leading ground gainer with 111 yards, and Tech's workhorse with 24 carries.

A press-box observer asked why Coles wore jersey No. 2, in-

stead of the double-figure number usually worn by running backs. As a freshman, Coles was given jersey No. 22. Later he requested No. 2 jersey from Tech's equipment manager. There was no jersey No. 2 at the time, but backs with Coles' talent get what jersey number they want. The equipment manager said he'd order a No. 2 jersey for Roscoe, but he wondered why Coles wanted the No. 2.

Thinking no doubt about some questioning recruiters, Coles said, "Because I'm too small (5-9, 168) and too slow."

All season, Sharpe and his assistants have been hoping and waiting for some Hokie to "break" a big one and open a touchdown flood-gate. That first long touchdown run was logically expected to come from Coles. But it came from Payne, and when he crossed the goal line Bruce Arians, graduate assistant coach who quarterbacked Tech's 1974 team, led the rush of the Tech squad to Payne.

There was just one thing wrong with that show of happiness—a 70-yard-touchdown-run. The charge of Arians and Hokie players was made on the playing field. Tech was penalized five yards — on the ensuing kickoff. That was the happiest penalty any team ever enjoyed.

### In Brief

SHARPE'S EXPLANATION of Tech's no-pass game: "I'm a wishbone man... our base offense is the triple option."

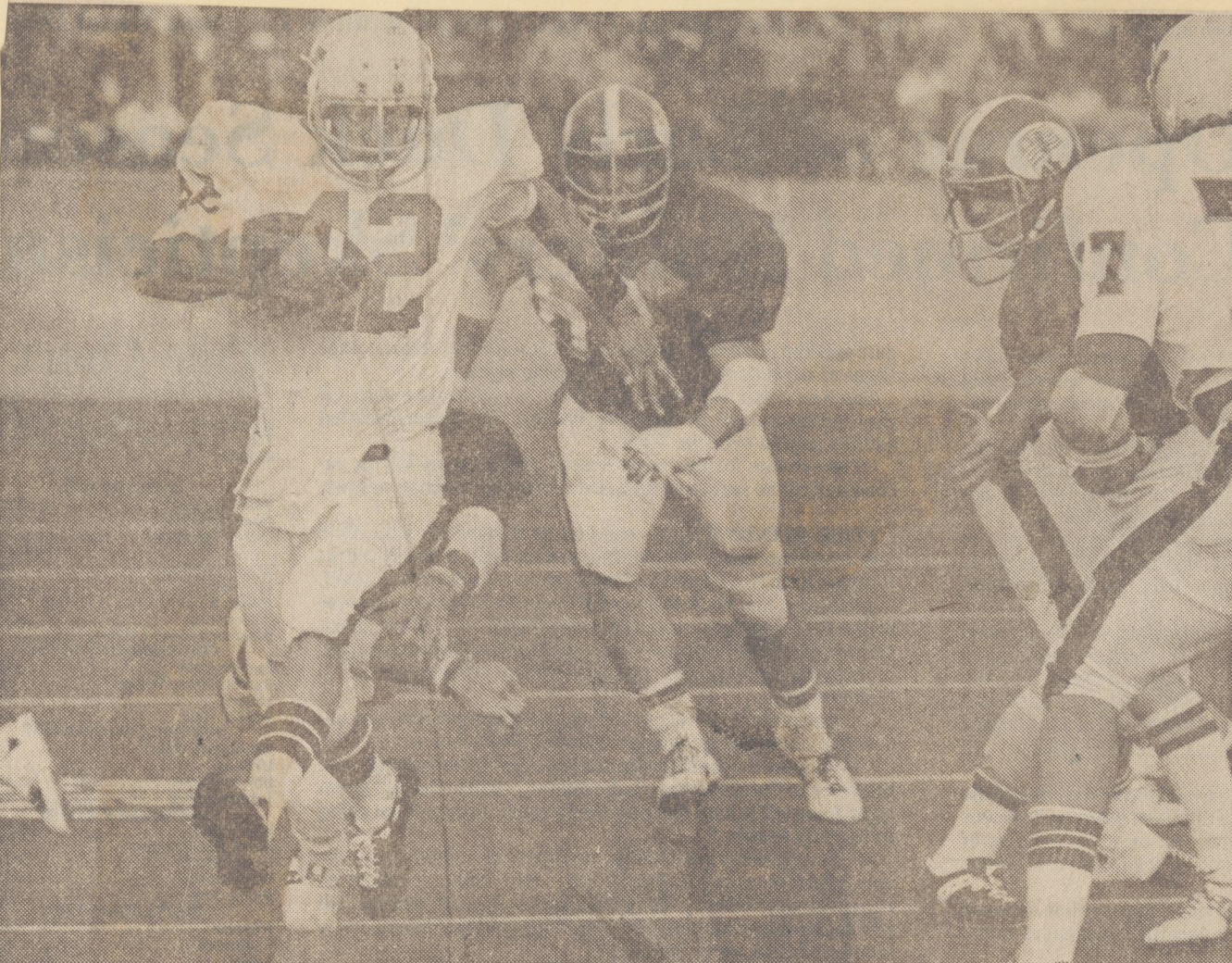
— Paul Engle's 47-yard field goal, the game's first score, was a record for a Tobacco Festival game.

— On his 11-yard TD run, which gave Tech a 10-0 lead, George Heath ran like a Bashan bull, bowling over two-three Keydets and carrying as many more with him the last five or six yards. Only fellow in the stadium who might have stopped the big Hokie back short of the goal line was former Dallas Cowboy back Walt Garrison who was/is a rodeo bull-dogger.

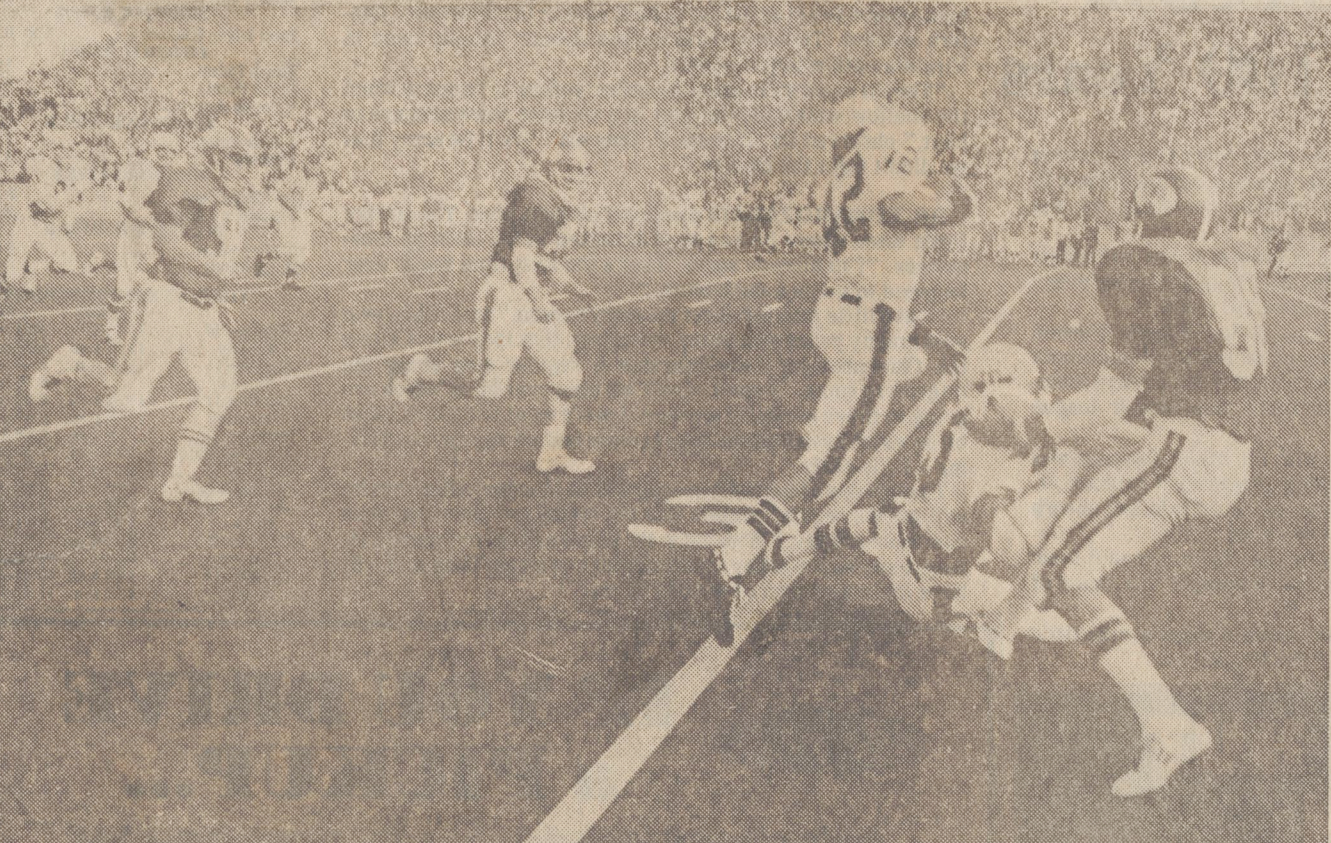
— The weatherman finally relented, and the game was played in sunshine on the AstroTurf field.

— There was no parade of floats bearing princesses around the stadium oval. The Ferko band, the Festival's old faithful, did make a round of the oval an hour before game's start.

— The adjoining counties of Louisa and Hanover scored one-two in the judging for Queen of Tobaccoland. Diann Gordon of Louisa County was crowned the Queen and Kathleen Stevens of Hanover County was first runnerup. And was Kathleen's daddy, Ed Stevens, former Vanderbilt end and now master of Rocketts Mill Farm, ever proud of Rockett Mill's prettiest filly.



Scissors Past Diving VMI Tackler at Keydets' 45-Yard Line....



Cuts Back Behind Final Block on VMI's Jeff Reynolds at the 30....

## Hokies 'Rush' to 37-7 Win

Cont. From First Sports Page

the fourth quarter, and from there on it was a breeze to the finish that upped Tech's record to 3-2 and lowered VMI's to 1-4.

Tech, headed for another old rivalry battle with Virginia Saturday in Charlottesville, amassed 372 yards in total offense, all on the ground. The Hokies did not throw one pass during the sunny, windy afternoon, and in fact only once did quarterback Mitchell Barnes call a pass play. He was sacked for an eight-yard loss.

The way the Hokies were running against the Keydets' stacked defenses, passes, while tactically advisable, were not strategically necessary. Roscoe Coles ran 24 times for a net of 111 yards, while fullback Paul Adams collected 86 yards and running back George Heath 67.

Barnes, no speed merchant, also did some damage afoot. The 6-0, 190-pound senior broke free on a 46-yard jaunt to produce Tech's next-to-last touchdown. The final six-pointer was provided by Dennis Scott, a 9.5 sprinter who turned the corner on a 37-yard burst to the end zone.

"The Wishbone is a running offense," said Tech coach Jimmy Sharpe, "and we're a running football team. As long as we win, I don't care if we pass or run."

The Keydets didn't do very much of either when it was still a contest. They had only 177 yards of offense, 120 coming in the final eight minutes.

Their most exciting play of the day was a second-quarter, 59-yard touchdown pass (Robbie Clark to Andre Gibson) that was nullified by an illegal procedure penalty. Six Keydets were on the line of scrimmage for that play, instead of the required seven.

The Keydets, down by 10-0 at halftime, got back in strong contention early in the third period when Gary McNeal returned a punt 43 yards to the Tech 26. A moment later, a pass interference call against Tech gave VMI a first down at the Hokies' three-yard line, and Steve Oddi shortly scored the TD on a two-yard slant off right tackle.

That seemed to awaken the sluggish Hokies. Taking over at its 35 following the kickoff, Tech began hammering the ball downfield. The march ate up

seven minutes, 12 seconds, and the key play came on a fourth-and-two at the VMI 32. Heath, who got Tech's first TD on an 11-yard run midway of the second quarter, rambled for nine yards and a first down at the Keydets' 23. Coles followed shortly with a seven-yard run to the one, setting up a dive by Adams for the six-pointer that gave the Hokies a little bit of breathing room. Paul Engle, whose 47-yard, first-quarter field goal provided the first points of the game, kicked the second of his four extra points.

Less than two minutes later, the Hokies were able to relax altogether. Payne, who was the Hokies' No. 1 returner only because Henry Bradley is hurt, gathered in a punt at the Tech

### Orantes, Ramirez Gain Net Finals

TEHRAN (UPI) — Manuel Orantes and Raul Ramirez moved into the final of both the singles and doubles competition of the \$150,000 Arzamerh Cup tennis tournament Saturday.

Orantes disposed of top-seeded Guillermo Vilas of Argentina, 6-7, 6-0, 6-3, while Ramirez, seeded second, downed fourth-seeded defending champion Eddie Dibbs, 6-2, 7-6.

In doubles play, top-seeded Ramirez and Wojek Fibak defeated the fifth-seeded team of Australian Paul Kronk and Cliff Letcher, an Australian now playing for Austria, 6-3, 7-5.

The second-seeded doubles team of Orantes and Juan Gisbert easily defeated the seemingly disinterested fourth-seeded team of Vilas and Dibbs, 7-6, 6-3.

30. He broke for the sideline, got two blocks, then found only Tom Mihalik blocking his path. He faked out Mihalik at the VMI 25 and scored standing up. All the Hokie players and some of the coaches charged off the sideline to swarm Payne in the end zone, and from then on the outcome was beyond question.

The decisive victory raised the Hokies' spirits just when they most needed it. "Everybody was asking, 'What's wrong?' Everybody was so NEGATIVE," said Sharpe.

"Our offensive guys kept reading that Tech had a good

defense and a bad offense," said Razzano, "and I think it shook their confidence. But we had super practices this week, the best we've had for any game this year. I knew we'd be ready. Added Sharpe, "Our whole team played exceptionally well," he said. "I'm proud to be a Hokie."

**INDIVIDUAL RUSHING**  
 Virginia Tech — Coles, 24 carries, 111 yards; Adams, 22-86; Heath, 13-67; Barnes, 7-41; Snell, 4-7; King, 1-3; Scott, 2-28; Lamie, 4-19; VMI — Gibson, 10-39; Oddi, 9-30; Clark, 18-12; Garnett, 2-minus 4; Lambert, 1-minus 8; Gildewell, 4-25.

**INDIVIDUAL PASSING**  
 VMI — Clark, 5 completions, 17 attempts, 0 interceptions, 83 yards.

**INDIVIDUAL PASS RECEIVING**  
 VMI — Garnett, 3 catches, 60 yards; Oddi, 1-9; Ferguson, 1-4.