VPI's Offense Comes To Life In Second Half

Continued From Page 17

Tobacco Bowl, Richmond whipped Villanova 24-7, and Virginia loss for the 13th straight time by bowing to South Carolina 35-7.

For the first time this season, the Gobblers displayed some explosiveness, erupting for three touchdowns in a four-minute span in the second half that broke open a 10-7 contest.

After fullback Paul Adams capped a 65-yard drive with a one-yard plunge, ex-Bethel speedster Greg Payne returned a punt 70 yards for a score and then Southampton graduate Mitchel Barnes, not considered much of a breakaway threat, surprised everybody by racing 46 yards for another six points on a quarterback keeper.

For Barnes, it must be something about "bowl" games that turns him on because that's his best run since a 43-yard scamper against W&M in last year's Oyster Bowl.

Both the Tech offense and Barnes had been under fire for their disappointing performances up to Saturday, but they should have quieted the critics for awhile.

Barnes solidified himself as the No. 1 quarterback again and the Gobblers piled up 372 yards in total offense, all on the ground.

"Our whole team played exceptionally well," said Tech Coach Jimmy Sharpe, who wore a maroon sweater with the words "I'm a Hokie and Proud of It" on the back of the garment. This apparently was his response to a handful of discontented Gobbler fans after last week's setback.

"I knew we'd be ready for this one," beamed stellar Tech linebacker Rick Razzano. "We walked around campus for two days with long faces earlier this week and we realized this was do-or-die week."