Adams Celebrates Birthday With Win

CHARLOTTESVILLE—Was it Paul Adams’ birthday present or a resurgence of Tech’s killer instinct? It could have been either or both, but for Virginia Tech’s enthused players it was that most important thing—a win.

Adams, whose birthday was Sunday, the day after the Virginia game, didn’t want to wake up thinking about a loss and as it turned out, he didn’t have to as the Hokies pulled out a 14-10 win. The huge fullback from Dante contributed 86 yards rushing and a lot of powerful blocks to the victory.

Adams said “Having to come back when they got ahead had something to do with it. We knew that if we didn’t get it that drive we wouldn’t get it. The blockers really helped out the backs. Most of it was that everyone wanted to get the win.”

Had the team given Adams the win for his birthday? He smiled and replied that they had.

Commenting on his own run that scored the winning touchdown, Roscoe Coles said “It was a power play and runs by Dennis Scott and Paul Adams set it up. Someone mentioned last year’s West Virginia game in the huddle but they didn’t need to. We knew what we had to do.

“I was sort of surprised when the call came for me to run the ball since Paul had been running it a lot. We didn’t have the killer instinct until they scored. We thought the defense would hold them.”

Defensive leader Rick Razzano, strong side linebacker, was asked what had been the turning point of the game and replied:

“After that first down we knew we had it (Coles’ run on fourth and two at the Cavalier 16). After the score all we had to do was hold them another minute until time ran out.

“They passed a whole lot. The play action pass on the sprint draw puts me into the protection. We got the ‘W.’”

Asked to comment on former quarterback Eddie Snell’s addition to the defense as a safety he replied: “Snell will help us. He’s a heck of an athlete.”

Snell commented “Right now I’m a little hesitant. I want to learn some more.”

Tight end Dennis Fitzgerald said: “I have a lot of friends up here including some of the Virginia coaches I talked to before the game. I knew I had to do better in front of them. We made some mistakes in the first half and made some more in the second half but we steadied down. We felt that we could come back.”

WAHOO GAIN—Senior running back Billy Copeland of Charlottesville breaks through the Hokie defense for a long gain as linebacker Rick Razzano (far right) is in hot pursuit. Copeland, who led Virginia rushers with 68 yards in 18 carries, was injured later and taken out of the game.

FLYING CAVALIER—Diving through the air over the center of Tech’s defensive line is junior running back Skip Browning while Tech sophomore defensive back Chip Keatley (25) waits to end his flight.