Kendra Impressed
Gobblers' Defense

By JERRY VERNON
Sports Writer

Most fans in Lane Stadium Saturday probably thought West Virginia University passed about as well as a semi-
going uphill.

But don't try to convince the Virginia Tech defensive unit that Mountaineer quarterback Dan Kendra offered a four-
cylinder passing effort in this V-6 sport during Tech's 24-7

"I think he's (Kendra) an excellent quarterback," said Hokie linebacker Rick Razzano in the locker room. "They
must have a lot of confidence in him to keep him in when the
pressure is on. We put a lot of pressure on him and that'd
tough to pass against."

The 188-pound junior quarterback hit on 15 of 35 throws
with four of his inconsistent passes landing in the hands of
Tech defenders. One of defensive end Stuart Patterson's two
interceptions gave the Hokies the final time-up needed for
their sixth win of the season.

"I've never touched the ball going back for a pass on
defense before," smiled a happy Patterson after the game.
"I recovered a fumble once, but I had never intercepted. I'm
just happy now."

The 215-pound senior pulled down his first steal of the game
in the third quarter on one key pass Kendra didn't throw.
Mountaineer punter Jeff Pettee panicked in his own end zone
on a high snap and hurled the ball downfield. Patterson
yanked the lazy toss from the air at the 15 and returned it to
the three.

"I just tried to hold onto the ball," said the defensive end.
"I wasn't fast enough to score, but I was just happy to get the
interception."

A lot of other Tech players expressed jubilation over the
play that at least three Hokies called "the icing on the win."

"It put us in excellent position for another touchdown,"
recalled tackle Tom Beasley. "That set it. Stuart Patterson
played a helluva game. He's going to be tough to live with for
the next couple of weeks."

The West Virginia win was important to all the Hokies. But
two Gobblers, Beasley and linebacker Rick Razzano, con-
sidered the game a special treat for different reasons.
"This was a big one," laughed Beasley. "For the last three
years they've beaten us. In the summers I worked for U.S.
Steel in Pinxfield (W. Va.). A lot of West Virginia people
worked with me and always gave me a rough time. This
summer they'll catch hell. I've got three years to catch up on
in that department."

The 227-pound Northfolk, W. Va. native missed one hopeful
confrontation in this game. Beasley expected to knock heads
Saturday with an old high school opponent, Mountaineer
tailback Dave Riley. The tackle never got the chance
because Riley was injured last week against Penn State.

But Razzano did get a shot against an old high school op-
ponent from Pennsylvania—fullback Paul Lumley. If anyone
claimed honors in the revived battle, Razzano would have to
get the nod.

"I looked good," admitted the 225-pound junior
linebacker. "I told him that after the game. We knocked
heads a lot and it was great."

Saturday's win gave the Hokies big lift with their first win
over West Virginia in the school's last six meetings. None of
this year's Tech squad had even beaten the Mountaineers.
"They're all big (games)," beamed Razzano, "but we just
couldn't wait for this one. All we've got to do now is play as
well as we have been playing for a bowl shot I think. We've
got to beat Tulsa first and they're next."

Quarterback Mitchell Barnes earned the Hokies most
valued honor of the season Saturday—the annual Frank
Loria Award. Barnes three year role at quarterback gave
him the most-rounded football title which commemorates
All-American Loria who was killed in a plane crash four
years ago. But the Hokies' favored signal-caller was thinking
more about fan support than his own personal success in the
locker room.

"It always helps when the fans come out," said Barnes of
Tech's capacity house Saturday. "It feels especially good
when you see seats in the end zone. There was even bad
weather today and I don't believe a soul left for a good
while."

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