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who went right back to the air, his time connecting with Jackson who was wide open at the 12. Jackson raced in untouched and suddenly Tech was a serious trouble.

The Hokies trailed 14-0 with :40 showing on the clock.

Henry Bradley intercepted a Taylor pass in the end zone late in the half, but Tech again united. The Hokies defense layed their best series of the day by holding Richmond to minus two yards on four plays, seemingly firing up the squad.

Barnes, who completed only three of nine passes for 53 yards, connected with wide receiver Moses Foster for 17 yards to the Tech 40. With Coles and Heath rattling off two more first downs to the 16, it appeared Tech’s offense was finally on the prowl.

Coles ran twice to the eight with a penalty moving the ball to the three and another first down. Heath and Coles got the call again but cracked it only to the one where Coles was met by defensive tackle Orlandus Branch, Richmond’s defensive leader on the day with eight solo tackles.

Tech, which was out of timeouts, lined up with Coles gaining to within inches of the goal line. With time running out, the Hokies tried to line up for another shot at the goal line but couldn’t get the play off.

“There’s no question that hurt us,” said Sharpe. “Before we had a scoring opportunity, then again just before the half and we didn’t get anything.”

“Sure, I think it would have made a difference if we had scored before the half. The score would have been different anyway.”

Tech would only get one more shot at scoring, while Richmond’s 14-point margin proved to be an insurmountable lead.

Early in the third quarter the Hokies made their deepest penetration as a result of a Keith McCarter fumble recovery of a Taylor miscue at the Richmond 34. After three running plays Tech was only on the 31 and soccer-style placekicker Paul “Chile Beans” Engle missed on a 48-yard field goal attempt with 6:02 remaining.

Tech moved the ball effectively only once more in the game but Spider linebacker Ricky Crawford erased the comeback with an interception of a Lamie pass at his own 24. Crawford, who was covering Foster, didn’t even see the ball which miraculously stayed in his hands like metal to a magnet.

On Tech’s next series Barnes was chased out of his own end zone for a safety by left tackle Billy Cheshire.

Richmond’s success at stopping Tech came indirectly from stopping the Gobblers’ most dangerous offensive weapon, Roscoe Coles.

The junior running back failed in his bid to gain 1,000-yards rushing in a season for the second year in a row. Coles, who netted only 41 yards in 16 rushes, is 41 yards short of the 1,000-yard barrier.

The Tech back was held to a minus one yards rushing in the second half on five carries.

Richmond had keyed on Coles all day. “We knew they’d stick to our tight end side to keep us from doing some things we like to do,” noted the Tech coach.

“We told Adams before the game that we would give it to him the first three times, but on the second carry he fumbled. Sure they keyed on Roscoe, but it still comes down to making something happen and we didn’t do that.”

Richmond faces another Big Five opponent next week in neighboring William & Mary, while Tech hopes to put the cap on a somewhat disappointing season at Tallahassee against Florida State.