Coles Chosen Top Virginia Athlete

VPI News Services

Roscoe Coles, Tech’s record-shattering junior running back, has been named the Virginia Collegiate Football Player of the Year by the Norfolk Sports Club.

Coles, a 5-9, 169-pound speedster from Virginia Beach, was presented the award at a banquet last week.

The award topped off a year of numerous honors for the talented performer. Earlier, Coles earned honorable mention All-American honors and was picked to the first team All-South Independent squad.

Coles, a repeater on both the All-South and A-A squad, rewrote the Gobbler record book for rushing during the 1976 season. He surpassed Tech’s career rushing record in the ninth game (Tulsa), and finished the year with new rushing marks for a single game and a season, plus the most 100-yard plus performances for a season and a career.

Though hampered by injuries much of the year, Coles was able to finish the season with 1,119 yards rushing, surpassing his own record of 1,045 set last year. He now has 2,787 yards rushing for his career, putting him well ahead of the previous mark of 2,461 yards set by Phil Rogers (1973-75).

Against Tulsa, the speedy junior set a single game standard by gaining 214 yards. Bob Schweickert held the old mark of 204 yards set in 1963.

The Tulsa game was one of six 100-yard plus performances for Coles during the ’76 campaign, giving him 13 for his career — four more than the previous record held by Rogers.