

**Despite 123 yards rushing by Ramseur**

# Wake Forest falls to Va. Tech 21-20

By SAM DAVIS  
Chronicle Sports Editor

If ever the saying "We played well enough to win" could be applied, Wake Forest's 21-20 loss to Virginia Tech last Saturday night fits the bill. The Deacons had their chances, but came up empty.

The final opportunity for a Wake Forest win occurred with three seconds left. But, with time

*"The sad news is that we played hard enough to win ... The bad news is that we lost the football game. And the good news is that Wake Forest has a good football team."*

-- Wake Forest Coach Al Groh



Junior tailback Michael Ramseur gave the Wake Forest offense a much-needed boost in the second half, stinging Virginia Tech for 102 yards and running a one-yard touchdown (photo by James Parker).

running out, the Deacons' Doug Iling missed a 40-yard field goal.

A Virginia Tech win had seemed unlikely as the Deacon running game and defense completely dominated all but about four minutes of the second half. Wake Forest came from a first-half deficit of 14-6 to go on top 20-14 with 13:50 remaining in the fourth quarter.

However, Virginia Tech went through the Deacon defense like a buzz saw en route to the winning touchdown, eating up chunks of yardage along the way to notch the win after Iling missed a 34-yard field goal with 6:45 remaining in the game.

"If we had played better in the impact areas, we could have won," said Deacon Coach Al Groh after the loss. "The game reinforced why those things (kicking, turnovers, fumbles) are so vital to us.

"The sad news is that we played hard enough to win," Groh said. "The bad news is that we lost the football game. And the good news is that Wake Forest has a good football team."

A nemesis for Virginia Tech over the past two years, the Deacons outgained the Hokies

327 to 208. Yet, Virginia Tech clawed back to preserve its preseason Top 20 ranking.

Groh, visibly upset by the loss, chose to concentrate on the remainder of the Deacons' schedule rather than the heartbreaker.

"I'm poised and classy about the loss, but I am disappointed," said Groh. "We're getting better and better. I saw some good things out there tonight."

One of the pleasant sights for Groh was the running of junior halfback Michael Ramseur. Ramseur had 123 yards rushing on 29 attempts, 102 coming in the second half.

"I felt all along that we have good backs and an outstanding offensive line," said Groh. "That doesn't mean we don't want to pass; it's just something we've developed as a team.

"We were making a lot of yardage with the runs, so we stuck with it."

At the start of the game, it looked as if the Deacons might be in for a long evening. After Wake held Tech on its initial posses-

sion, starting quarterback Jamie Harris was sacked and fumbled on the Deacons' first play of the season.

The Hokies quickly reached paydirt, going 12 yards in only two plays. Tech quarterback Mark Cox went up the middle on a keeper to score the touchdown from three yards out and Don Wade's kick made the score 7-0 with 12:09 left in the first quarter.

However, the Deacons came right back with a score of their own, mounting a 12-play, 66-yard drive from their 20 to the Tech 18. When the drive stalled, Iling booted a 32-yard field goal to make the score 7-3.

After the exchange of several punts, Tech mounted a 52-yard drive to get its second touchdown. Cox went the final three yards to get the score and Wade's second extra point widened the margin to 14-3.

Again, the Deacons mounted a scoring drive of their own, this time under the leadership of Foy White, who came on to replace Harris after he was shaken up by

a vicious hit. Wake made it to the Tech 5-yard line before Iling was called upon again to attempt a three-pointer. Iling's kick brought the Deacons within 14-6 with 33 seconds left in the first half.

The first 24 minutes of the second half were dominated by the Deacons. Their opening drive of the third quarter went 80 yards and consumed 5:05, the score coming on a three-yard pass from White to Topper Clemmons. Iling's extra point pulled the Deacons to within 14-13.

The Deacons controlled the ball for most of the third quarter, taking a 20-14 lead with 13:50 left in the game on Ramseur's dive from a yard out and Iling's subsequent P.A.T. Wake had an opportunity to extend the lead, but Iling missed a 34-yard field goal attempt with 6:45 left in the game.

From that point, Tech moved briskly down field to score its winning touchdown.

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## Rams defeat A&T 35-21

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second half. "We went with a lot of finesse plays in the first half and tried to go outside a little too much.

"At halftime the kids said we should just go out and take the ball straight at them," Hayes said. "In the second half we just shot Horn and (freshman halfback Lonnie) Puley right up the gut."

The Rams' revamped offensive line, which had difficulty blocking in WSSU's opener against Virginia State, showed marked improvement against the Aggies.

"It just takes time to put together an offensive line," said Hayes. "But I'm the kind of coach that puts my money on the offensive and defensive lines.

"Our offensive line likes to go down in the pit and pound on you," Hayes said. "After our performance today, I feel that we have another great offensive line."

In the second half, the Ram defensive unit was equally as impressive as the offense. After giving up 111 yards rushing and 97 through the air to the Aggies in the first half, the Ram defenders shut out the Aggies in the second half (the only A&T points of the second half coming on a fumble recovery in the end zone).

"In the first half we allowed them too much time to throw the football," said Hayes of the Aggies' first-half passing assault. "We were only rushing three men on passing downs. At halftime, we decided to put a little heat on them and it worked well for us.

"Throwing the football is their (A&T's) thing," said Hayes. "We knew if we could put pressure on them, we could shut them down. So we started sending our backers on every throwing situation."

The Rams' size and experience took their toll in the second half, as the Aggies were often caught trying to arm-tackle the oversized WSSU offensive backs.

Another tactic Hayes used in the game was shifting

Horn, the Rams' leading rusher a year ago at halfback, to fullback. Horn responded by rushing for 147 yards in 22 attempts and a touchdown. Horn also caught a 16-yard touchdown pass.

"After last week's game, we saw that Horn wasn't getting the football enough," Hayes said. "Another reason we moved him is because our fullbacks hadn't been getting off the ball as quick as we would like them to."

Puley complemented Horn well. The highly recruited freshman from Laurens, S.C., accounted for 95 yards rushing in only 12 attempts.

Another plus for the Rams' already-deep running corps was the return of senior Thomas "Truck" Turner, who broke his hand in pre-season drills. In a reserve roll, Turner ran for 43 yards.

Although the Ram running backs performed splendidly, the play-calling and execution of senior quarterback Mike Winbush were vital to the WSSU offensive attack. The 5-10, 175-pounder threw for two touchdowns and ran for another.

"In the second half, the only thing we had to do was run the basics," said Winbush. "Our size and strength took their toll. I thought we could have passed on them, but we wanted to establish the run. I want to thank the offensive line because they played an outstanding game."

Winbush only completed two of his eight passes on the day, but his fourth-quarter toss to tight end Bobby Clark provided the winning margin. Seemingly trapped on the sideline, Winbush fired a pass to Clark in the end zone, who made a diving catch between Aggie defenders to put the Rams on top.

"I threw him a fastball low and inside," said Winbush, whose 95-mile-an-hour fastball has made him a major league pitching prospect in the Texas Rangers organization. "The offense played a lot better this week and I felt better about the way I played."

## NCAA to modify Proposition 48

ORLANDO, Fla. -- The NCAA is expected to modify its controversial Proposition 48 following a report that says the proposition discriminates against blacks. Proposition 48 requires

prospective college student-athletes to pass minimum test scores and take required courses while in high school. Among the other requirements is a score of at least 700 out of 1600 on the

Scholastic Aptitude Test and 15 out of 36 on the American College Test. The recent report showed that the tests discriminate against blacks and rural whites.

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