

FSU Is Beaten By VPI In Third Period, 20-7

Virginians Pull Away From State

By BILL McGROTHA
Democrat Sports Editor

A swift, rough Virginia Tech football team hustled away from Florida State here tonight with two third-quarter touchdowns that sent the Seminoles to 20-7 defeat.

FSU stayed on the heels of the hurrying Gobblers during the first two periods, coming from behind to tie it up at 7-7 two minutes before halftime.

But Tom Nugent's men, with a trio of halfbacks on the ailing list, were unable to match the two-platoon tactics of Tech in the final half. There was none of the rallying power the Seminoles forged against Tech a year ago when, down three touchdowns midway the game, they almost took it out of the fire before losing, 24-20.

FSU had some individual heroics from righthalf Buck Metts and Bob Nelluma, both turning in rugged all-round performances.

PASSING SPARK

But the only sustained offensive spark FSU was able to strike came when Ted Rodrigue, fourth-string quarterback, came in to throw passes that brought the lone touchdown.

Rodrigue threw 15 yards to Nelluma for the score.

Completely bogged down in the first quarter by a stubborn FSU defense for more than a quarter, Virginia Tech "awoke" when halfback Bobby Wolfenden took a punt and raced it back 65 yards for a touchdown. The Gobblers were a dangerously different team on offense after that.

From the second half kickoff, they marched 65 yards to another TD. Fullback Bobby Conner scored from the one.

LONG AERIAL

Minutes later Tech got No. 3. Ray England paved it with a 27-yard punt return to the FSU 38. Two plays later, Jimmy Lugar sailed a 34-yard pass into the arms of Nick Mihales as he crossed the goal line.

It was Tech's third victory in four starts, FSU's second setback in three.

A band-day crowd of 16,783 saw

FSU loosen its heaviest passing attack of the young season. The Seminoles hit on nine of 19 for 104 yards. But the only effective weapon in their ground game was Metts, who emerged with 79 of the team total of 80 rushing yards. He carried 12 times. Rodrigue hit on seven of 12 passes for 81 yards.

Metts was on the field for all but one play of the game.

If Tech had a "star," it must have been Wolfenden. His was the biggest lick with that long punt return for six points. He also picked up 53 yards rushing in 10 carries and punted for a 45-yard average.

The Gobblers had numerous unsung standouts up front. Their work in opening up holes for backs in the last half was something to watch.

BRISK BEGINNING

The Seminoles started briskly and Virginia Tech sluggishly enough. On the first play from scrimmage, after VPI's opening kickoff went into the end zone, Corso shot a pass to Bob Nellums for a 20-yard gain. But a penalty—familiar FSU bugaboo—nullified it and the Seminoles started over again from the five.

Crisp FSU tackling stopped the Gobblers each of the first three times they had the ball on defense. VPI, however, got large mileage from Wolfenden's punts. He kept FSU backed up with 38, 51 and 55-yard efforts in the first quarter.

After one Wolfenden punt rolled to the FSU 6, Buck Metts swept left end for 20 yards, then lit out off right guard for 15 more, to the 41. That thrust played out when the No 2 unit came in, with Wes Minton decked immediately for a 5-yard loss.

WOLFENDEN SCORES

It was Wolfenden 55-yard boot to the FSU 16 that set things up for VPI's first-quarter score. Stalled after three running plays, Metts punted from the 23.

Wolfenden hauled it in on the Tech 35, then headed straight up the middle, got a block or two and was on a 65-yard pay-off run. Barry Frazee kicked the point and VPI led 7-0 with a minute and a half to go in the first quarter.

Some heady running by Corso put the Seminoles a yard inside VPI territory a little later. Metts and Odom alternated in pushing to a first down at the 34. There Tech's line bowed up sharply. Metts was socked for minus five, then Corso was hit

for losses of five and six. Metts punted from the 50, had to do it over again from the 35 when the Seminoles drew a holding penalty.

Tech was on the go again. With Wolfenden and Ray England taking turns behind a fore-wall that was doing some precise blocking, the Gobblers ripped from their 42 to the FSU 19. FSU's first unit entered the game and Bob Nellums cracked Don Divers on the 27, forced a fumble and recovered it.

That livened up the Seminoles considerably, and from the 27 they cut loose on a time-consuming drive for a touchdown.

The march almost stopped before it got rolling. Metts had to punt but was roughed up after the kick and VPI got a 15-yard assessment that kept FSU alive.

Rodrigue came on the scene for the first time with FSU at its 45. He shot a 6-yard pass to Odom, then an 8-yarder to Nelums. After Joe Holt picked up two, Rodrigue fired again, to Metts in the flats for a gain of 19 to the VPI 20.

Two Rodrigue passes fell incomplete before he connected with Ron Schomburger for a first down on the 10. Rodrigue then threw a strike to Holt in the end zone but the fullback dropped it after a vicious VPI tackle.

A screen pass to Schomburger

lost five and moments later Rodrigue was confronted with a fourth-down-and-15 situation. Nelums weaved loose from defenders, however, and took Rodrigue's pass over the middle a couple of steps from the end zone, bounced across for the score.

Johnny Shappard came in to kick the point for 7-7 two minutes before halftime.

Still, VPI had time for another threat. Jimmy Lugar passed and ran the Gobblers to the FSU 30 before the clock took things out of his hands.

Tech rambled from the second-half kickoff 65 yards to its second touchdown. It took a dozen runs, one pass,

Wolfenden and Frazee led the charge. Bobby Conner clinaxed it by bucking over from one yard out on fourth down. After Len Swantic jumped the gun twice in an effort to block the point-after and rattle the center, Conner tried to run the ball over from the half-yard line. He was stopped cold. Score stood 13-7.

METT'S 'SAVER'

FSU couldn't muster a first down after the kick and Rodrigue punted. England was almost away on the return but Metts side-stepped a pair of blockers and somersaulted him with a knifing tackle at the FSU 43.

Mett's big effort was in vain. Tech got to the end zone anyway. From the 34, Lugar threw a long one that end Nick Mihales gathered in at the goal line. Frank Webster converted for 20-7.

Opening of the fourth quarter found Tech on another crunching march that carried from the Gobblers' 35 to the FSU 16 before the Seminoles stiffened enough to hold for downs.

FSU couldn't get out of its own backyard. One effort was nipped by Frazee's interception of a Vic Prinzi pass at the FSU 45. Finally, the Seminoles moved into VPI territory on a 23-yard pass from Rodrigue to Corso, now operating at halfback, but VPI's Albert Sebest swiped Rodrigue's next toss.

And that was the last chance FSU had.

LINEUPS

VIRGINIA TECH

Left end: Dale, Mihales, Brinkley.
 Left tackle: Delay, Moon, Uzelac.
 Left guard: Webster, Belcher, Carperito.
 Center: Hall, Olson, Randall.
 Right guard: Schmidt, Cruickshank.
 Right tackle: Burks, Dalzell.
 Right end: Jones, Moody.
 Quarterback: Luger, McCoy, Holclac.
 Left halfback: Ehert, Wolfenden, Bailey.
 Right halfback: Frazee, England, Keast.
 Fullback: Conner, Divers, Sehest.

FLORIDA STATE

Left end: Schomburgher, Bisher, Philp.
 Left tackle: Musselman, Thomas.
 Left guard: Baggett, Elliott.
 Center: Barnes, Leonard, Pope, Keith.
 Right guard: Pacifico, McGee, Keys.
 Right tackle: Boyer, Craig, Graham.
 Right end: Nellums, Fountain, Arnold.
 Quarterback: Corso, Swantic, Prinzi, Rodrigue.
 Left halfback: Odom, Dobosz, Weaver.
 Right halfback: Metts, Minton.
 Fullback: Holt, Johnson, Battaglia.

The Yardstick

	VT	FSU
First Downs	14	10
Rushing Yardage	186	80
Passing Yardage	71	104
Passes	4-6	9-19
Passes Intercepted by	2	0
Fumbles	5-22	8-24
Fumbles Lost	1	1
Yards Penalized	45	45

Virginia Tech 7 0 13 0-20
 Florida State 0 7 0 0-7

Virginia Tech Scoring—Touchdowns: Wolfenden (65, punt return); Conner (1, run); Mihales (34, pass). Conversions: Frazee, Webster.

Florida State Scoring—Touchdown: Nellums (15, pass). Conversion: Sheppard.