TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Florida State scored early in each half Saturday on the passing magic of quarterback Gary Huff and the running prowess of halfback Hodges Mitchell to defeat a tenacious Virginia Tech football team 27-15.

Mitchell ran for 28 yards on Seminoles’ first offensive play and scored the opening touchdown five plays later on a 3-yard run. He rushed for a total of 143 yards.

Opening the second half, Huff completed six straight passes in a 13-play drive that gave the Seminoles a 27-9 lead.

The touchdown came on a 6-yard pass from Huff to Mike Davison.

However, the Gobblers kept coming back with Don Strock’s throwing and J.D. Barber’s running.

Down 14-0, Virginia Tech’s Dave Strock kicked a 48-yard field goal after Barber had run for 15 yards and his brother Don Strock passed for nine to put him in position.

Barber ran three yards for a touchdown after a fumble recovery to make the score 14-9.

However, just a minute before Florida State had held Tech inside the Seminole 10 and did it again in the fourth period.

Don Strock, who was No. 3 in the nation on offense last season, won his individual contest with Huff, who was No. 1. Strock completed 22 of 48 passes for 276 yards and one touchdown. Huff passed 37 times, completed 19 for 253 yards and one touchdown. He also sneaked one yard for a touchdown.

Florida State’s second touchdown came on a very unusual 40-yard pass. Huff had run the ball on the previous play and was shaken up on the tackle. His substitute, Mike Cadwell, came in for the only play he was in until the final moments of the game.

Cadwell passed down the middle and at the 10-yard line Virginia Tech’s halfback Bobby Dabbs hit the ball, it bounced into the air and Joe Goldsmith grabbed it. He juggled it for five yards and then fell into the end zone for a TD.

Barber ran with the ball 17 times and gained 53 yards. He caught seven passes good for 63 yards, and he returned two kickoffs for 79 yards.

Smith was Florida State’s top pass receiver, catching 10 for 146 yards. That included a 38-yard strike to the one-yard line in the third quarter.

Defensive halfback Eddie McMillan did not dress for the game because of a concussion received Tuesday in practice. His replacement, Buzzy Lewis, filled in ably. He intercepted one pass, returning a kickoff 27 yards and holding down his area when Don Strock challenged him.

This was the third straight victory for the 17th ranked Florida State Seminoles; Virginia Tech is now 0-2.