FSU Whips
Gritty Tech

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Five years from now, they’ll look back at the record books and say “Oh, yeah, Tech lost to Florida State back there in 1972.” And they’ll be right because Florida State whipped Virginia Tech 27-16 on a muddy Saturday afternoon, but it may have been the day the Hokies became football team.

You can call it just another loss, but it wasn’t. The bitterness of the loss to Virginia a week ago was gone. Nobody likes to lose but there were more good things than had been in this book here Saturday.

It was a passing show supreme, this game that featured Heisman Trophy candidate Gary Huff and Tech’s Dave Strock. The final score made Huff a clear cut winner, but the storylines didn’t end there.

It was also a game which Tech could have won, and too, a game which Florida State could have turned into a run-away had Tech just written off another bad day.

Huff, who faced a tough improved pass rush, threw the ball 17 times and completed 19 for 233 yards and one touchdown. Strock’s stats read: 46 attempts, 22 complete and 231 yards (and a touchdown). FSU jumped off to a 14-point first-quarter lead and the Seminoles appeared to be on the way to a laugher.

The Seminoles, who took advantage of a sloppy Tech kickoff team, found themselves at midfield the first time they got the ball.

Swift Hodges Mitchell went for 16 up the middle, then four more running plays sent the ball to the Tech three, where Mitchell ran it over. Jimmie Askew, a soccer kicker, booted the point. FSU’s second touchdown was a gift. FSU’s Mike Cadewell, who was in briefly after Huff had his belt run, threw down the middle to Joe Goldsmith and Tech’s left corner back Bobby Dobbs appeared certain for an interception. But the ball got away and Goldsmith kept it in the air for the final 15 yards of the 46 yard touchdown play. Askew made it 14-6.

Tech got on the scoreboard early in the second period when Dave Strock kicked a 41 yard fielder.

Then the Hokies got back in the game when Jerry Chambers grabbed an FSU fumble on the FSU four and J. R. Barber ran the touchdown on fourth down from the three.

Dave Strock’s point attempt was blocked by James Thomas, an FSU defensive back who has blocked 12 extra points or fielders in his college career.

Tech got the ball back quickly and the Hokies’ coach Charlie Coffey decided to rent Strock. With Bruce Arinzo at quarterback and the Hokies in good field position, halfback Doug Cooper fumbled and FSU recovered at the Tech 42. It took Huff only four plays, one a 33-yard pass to receiver Barry Smith to move the Seminoles to the touchdown. Mitchell tried to run for two points but was buried.

FSU, at this juncture, led 21-6.

Touchdowns came quickly in the second half.

FSU moved 61 yards after

See Page B4, Col. 3