Blasts Winless FSU

Virginia Tech Triumphs

By JERRY RATCHIFFE

BLACKSBURG—Twenty-five thousand fans braved subfreezing weather Saturday to watch the Virginia Tech Hokies win their second game of the season over winless Florida State, 30-13.

In what was termed "the Ice Bowl" at a pre-game briefing, the Hokies of Coach Charlie Cofield used three field goals by place-kicker Wayne Latimer and a record-breaking performance by monster John Bell to hold the visiting Seminoles to just 10 consecutive losses. Latimer kicked goals of 36, 27, and 28 yards and missed on three long distance kicks of 38, 46, and 46 yards as the Hokies were never in serious trouble throughout.

Bell, a junior from Norfolk, intercepted a Tyng Tech record three interceptions and returned one for a touchdown as the Hokies defense, under constant criticism all season, again slammed the hapless FSU team on several occasions.

The game started off badly for the Hokies, now 1-9 on the season. Freshman quarterback Eddie Joyce was intercepted on the very first play, but the Seminoles were forced to punt and return specialist Billy Barnes returned the boot 45 yards to the FSU 27.

Sophomores running back Phil Rogers of Gate City, and senior James Barber ran to the 19. From there, Barber broke three tackles to score from straight ahead.

The point after was missed by Latimer, only the second time he's been off target this season, Tech led 6-0 with 12:47 left in the first quarter.

FSU was forced to punt again, and after the Techmen had moved the ball to the Seminoles 22, Rogers carried four straight times down to the 13. Not taking a chance on fourth down, Cofield sent Latimer in for the first of three field goals and with 5:15 Tech took a 9-6 lead.

Florida State made it close with 2:39 left in the first quarter when quarterback Mark Orlando hit tight end Tim McDougal on a 15-yard scoring strike. Kicker Armet Askim converted to make it 8-8 Tech.

Another Tech drive fizzled out at the beginning of the second period when Barber carried twice for 29 yards to the FSU 10. Joyce fumbled the ball and Rogers fell on it, then a Joyce pass was off the fingertips of Steve Galloway in the end zone, and on third-down Barber rushed for no gain. Latimer entered, 12-7 Tech with 9:26 left in the first half.

Tech missed on a 33-yarder with 7:40 left in the half, behind a 28-yarder an hour wind.

The Hokies defense put the hand cuffs on FSU premier running back Bde急性Mitchell. Held to 23 yards on 13 attempts, he was stopped nearly everywhere he touched the ball, and this was crucial to FSU which built its offense around him.

However, the Seminoles were successful through the air where they gained 231 of their 321 total yards.

The Seminoles punter Joe Downey got off a bad 17 yard punt with less than five minutes left in the half that gave the Hokies another scoring opportunity from the FSU 36. Barber took the 29, then took a pitchout to the 14 for a first down. On third down Joyce rushed two yards to the 12, and again, Cofield called on Latimer for a field goal, this one a chip shot from 28 yards out.

It was good and Tech led 15-7 with 3:13 left.

The game took on the semblance of a rout only moments later when Bell intercepted a sideline pass intended for McDougal, and raced 36 yards with the ball to the Seminoles one yard line.

Barber scored lighting up the Tech Turkey scoreboard for 2 big ones, as the Hokies took a commanding 22-7 lead.

With only eight seconds showing on the clock, the Techmen showed how hungry they were for a win, by attempting a 66 yard field goal behind the very strong wind. It was no good, but they really didn't miss by much.

Rogers had 106 yards running in the first half alone.

The fans that showed up must have been kept fairly warm for the first few minutes of the second half from jumping in and watching Tech score two quick ones.

On second down, Joyce hit Ricky Scalea a forward pass toward the sideline. Scales dropped the ball, in what many people thought was an incomplete pass. But, the officials ruled it was a fumble and before anyone had realized it, Scales picked up the ball and darted down the sideline 47 yards past numbers of the bedazzled FSU secondary, to bring the score up to 22-12 left in the third period and send Tech way out front, 28-7.

Moments later, Bell picked off his third pass of the game and romped 35 yards for another touchdown. That made it 28-7 with 12:52 left in the third quarter.

Florida State missed on a 53-yard field goal attempt with a little over 10 minutes left in the period, and Tech punt the ball back. But Mitchell was chilled time and again by the Tech defense.

The punt was matched and Greg Mullinax came in to quarterback. From his own 40, he fumbled to make his appearance in the game short-lived and FSU had the ball on the Hokie 46. The Seminoles took advantage of the Tech mistake and turned it into a score.

Freshman quarterback Billy Prescott came into the game for Orlando, to make his first appearance of the game, and hit McDougal 30 yards downfield at the Tech 21. He then scrambled to the 13 on his own, and forced Tech to tamper for a pass in the process, calling the ball on the one for a first down. After two runs, Prescott kept and scored with the PAT missing to close the gap at 36-13 with 5:57 left in the third period.

FSU was threatening again in the scoreless fourth period when Prescott hit Rick Jones at the Tech 23 for a first down, but Mitchell fumbled on the next play.

An alert Bell picked up the ball and had clear sailing down field, but the ball was called back since you can't advance a fumble in college football.

After Tech and FSU had turned the ball over, Joyce made a 42-yard run, rambling down the field using his left hand well to the FSU 16. Rogers went to the 8, then Joyce tossed an incomplete and Joyce fumbled the ball away on the next play.

Suds played out the rest of the contest.

Tech plays WMU in the season finale for both teams next Saturday in Lane Stadium. Tech ended the game with two backs over the 100 yards rushing mark.

Rogers had 115 yards in 20 rushes, Barber had 114 in 21.

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STATISTICS

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Times Photo by Don Walls

Barber Bolts

Senior J.B. Barber Of Tech has 121 Yards Rushing.

Rogers Rambles

Soph Phil Roger Rolls Up 155 Yards On Ground.