By Dave Bisset

Defense is the name of the game and for winless Florida State, they couldn’t stop the excellent running of James Barber or sophomore running back Phil Rodgers as the Seminoles lost 36-13 to Va. Tech before a crowd of 25,000 cold and happy fans.

Besides the good running game Tech used three field goals by place-kicker Wayne Latimer and a record tying performance by monster man John Bell to defeat FSU. Latimer kicked goals of 30, 27, and 28, and missed on three long boots of 56, 66, and 61 yards. Bell intercepted three passes as the Hokie defense which has been under constant criticism all year stopped the Seminoles most of the afternoon.

Holding FSU on downs, Billy Hardee raced 45 yards with a punt return to give Tech the ball at States’ 37. After two plays, Barber ran 19 yards up the middle for a touchdown and to make it 6-0. The hold for the extra point was bad and Wayne Latimer, who tied a school record with three field goals missed his first PAT of the season.

Six minutes later Latimer kicked a 30-yard field goal for a 9-0 lead. Tech, then fell asleep on defense briefly as Mark Orlando hit tight end Tom McDougule for a 15 yard strike and Armet Askin’s kick made it 9-7.

That was as close as FSU got all day long as Latimer kicked a 27 yarder, to make it 12-7. After a poor punt of 17 yards, Tech again scored as Latimer kicked another one from 28 yard out to make it 15-7.

At this point junior John Bell intercepted his first pass of the day and returned it to the one where James Barber plunged one yard as the Hokies built their lead to 22-7 at the half.

Tech opened up the second half with Eddie Joyce throwing complete to Ricky Scales for a six yard pick up. Rodgers busted up the middle for 10 and Barber dashed 12 yards to the Seminoles 47.

On first and ten, Scales took a step over the line of scrimmage. turned, took several steps back to catch the pass, began to run, dropped the ball, picked up, meanwhile his blockers were knocking down some people (FSU’s defense and went 47 yards untouched down the home sidelines for a touchdown. Latimer added the extra point and just like that it was 29-7.

Tech kicked off and FSU’s Mike Allan and Doug Glossom both caught the pigskin and started to run with it. The ball squibbled towards a Tech player and finally went out of bounds—that was the kind of afternoon FSU was having.

On the first play FSU’s Orlando attempted to pass but, Tech’s man for the ball, John Bell intercepted, dashed 33 yards for the score as the Gobblers upped their lead to 36-7.

With five and a half minutes left in the third quarter, Florida State’s freshman quarterback Billy Prescott engineered a 46-yard scoring drive. This included two passes for a first down at Tech’s 21, a Prescott keeper for a six yard pick up, and an incomplete pass to McDougule but, Tech had been called for interference at the one. Prescott then scored from

the one yard line- The PAT was an attempted run that failed.

Tech, 2-8, now faces VMI, 2-8, in the season finale for both clubs this Saturday at Lane Stadium while Florida St. plays South Carolina.

On offense running back Phil Rodgers gained 166 yards on 20 carries, Barber gained 124 yards on 21 carries and freshman George Heath gained 19 yards on four carries. Eddie Joyce completed 6 of 14 passes for 84 yards and one touchdown.

Game stats follow:

For FSU, Mike Davison gained 55 yards on 10 carries, Hodges Mitchell, second leading ground gainer in FSU history, was limited to 22 yards on 13 carries and quarterback Billy Prescott carried four times for 17 yards. Orlando hit 8 of 21 passes for 122 yards and was intercepted three times while Prescott who played the last half, hit 8 of 18 for 110 yards and one touchdown.