Florida State Is Nationally Ranked

BLACKSBURG - If Virginia Tech's old grads are to see a Tech triumph Saturday they also will be looking at an upset of a nationally-ranked team with possibly the most explosive offense among southern independents this year. The Seminoles from Tallahassee, Florida State University, have sprung a. rags-to-riches comeback that rivals that of an earlier Tech opponent, Clemson of the ACC.

Prominent in both the national rankings and statistics, Florida State is back in the limelight of collegiate football after four consecutive losing seasons. Under second-year coach Bobby Bowden, the Seminoles are off to a 6-1 start utilizing a trademark of successful FSU squad's of the past - an exciting, high-powered offense.

The Seminoles actually rekindled that offensive wizardry in the final three games of 1976. Saddled with a 2-6 record and trailing Southern Mississippi, 27-10, with only 1 ½ minutes left, FSU ignited what had been a dormant offense. In an amazing span of seven minutes and 23 seconds Florida State scored three touchdowns for a 30-27 victory. The following weeks produced further excitement with come-from-behind victories over North Texas State and Virginia Tech.

In those final three games the Seminoles had four scoring plays from scrimmage of more than 90 yards, including two against Tech.

Never before, in 30 seasons of football, had the Seminoles had one scoring play from scrimmage as long as 90 yards.

Carrying that offensive spark over to the '77 season, FSU has now won nine of its last 10 games, and is presently riding a four-game winning streak.

The job of directing the Seminoles' potent veer offense—which ranks among the national leaders in pass offense—is capably handled by junior quarterback Wally Woodham (5-11, 182), who has connected on 63.4 per cent of his passes (52 of 82) for 725 yards and four touchdowns. His backup, sophomore Jimmy Jordan (6-1, 185), has also been productive (641 yards, 5 Tds), though not nearly as accurate (51 of 117).

Woodham's talented corp of receivers is headed by seniors Roger Overby (6-0, 170) and Mike Shumann (6-0, 170). Overby leads the squad in receptions with 21 for 311 yards and one touchdown.