No. 15 Seminoles Find VPI Rugged

Three plays later, Lambie hit Savage with a pitch down the middle of the field for 11 yards to FSU’s 14. Nine yards by Fitzgerald and a 1-yard run by Cole got Tech on top 14-3 with 4:47 left in the half.

The unlucky hosts’ final points were produced on a relentless 77-yard drive with Fitzgerald, Cole and Dennis Scott accounting for all of the big plays.

Fitzgerald, who totalled 112 net yards on 23 carries for his big day, took the ball on Tech’s 12 after a first down on his sophomore year in high school, ran for 31, Cole got 4, and in two carries Scott picked up 34.

Scott’s second run was the vital play, a 26-yard burst which carried the ball to FSU’s 7. Fitzgerald got the next two, Lambie barely gained one, but on the next play he was stopped just around end for the losers’ last six points.

The Seminoles kept in check FSU’s fine runner, Larry Key (70 yards in 22 carries), but Shuman proved too much with 39 on three hauls plus 39 with his one pass and 80 more on five catches. The Seminoles’ star was wound up with 218 yards total offense.

Although the Seminoles were threatening much of the day, Tech’s defense turned in another great job and both Sharpe and Captain Reck Bazzano declared “we looked like a football team today.”

Afterwards, Sharpe predicted Fitzgerald will “get better, better and better” and chances are much brighter that Tech can close the season strongly.

Once more, though, mistakes plus a little bad luck came back to haunt the Seminoles.

Cornerback Henry Bradley “came within a whisker” of blocking Cappelen’s game-winning field goal, but the backbreaker may have materialized in the first quarter when the Seminoles were advancing strongly on offense.

A blocked punt enabled FSU to take its 3-0 lead just 3:00 into the game, but an interception by Larry Joe Hunter in the end zone deprived Tech of a possible early touchdown which might have greatly affected later developments.


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Dave Cappelen’s field goals — 26 and 29 yards — which put FSU in front 28-14 with 4:37 remaining

It was a most crushing climax to one of the Gobbler’s best all-around efforts of the campaign, because they led by 7-3, 14-3, 14-10 and finally 21-20 with 8 minutes 27 seconds left in the game.

The Gobbler’s came up with a discovery of their own in former star lineman Mickey Fitzgerald, who deployed from the fullback position and scored Tech’s first touchdown on a 19-yard run.

Roosevelt Coles, who late in the game benefited from the presence of Fitzgerald but wound up the day with only 37 net yards gained, tallied the Techmen’s second TD from five yards out.

Paul Engle converted after each, but three plays after his third boot lifted the Gobblers into their late-game, 21-20 advantage, Shuman and the Seminoles completely screwed up their tough hosts.

Instead of running with his team in possession at its own 40, the brilliant performer from FSU’s home base in Tallahassee cut loose with a pass which Roger Overby gathered in at Tech’s 21 for a 39-yard gain.

Tech’s defense stiffened sharply, but then Cappelen cleared the uprifts and the Gobbler’s went down to their sixth loss against one victory and a tie while the Seminoles notched their seventh victory which might keep them in the Top 20 despite the narrowness of their margin of victory.

Late in the third quarter, Shuman raced 41 yards on the end around maneuver, this time taking FSU to the Gobblers’ 36. The Floridians were able to move for two more first downs, finally reaching the Tech 9, but once more they had to settle for a three-point play — this one from 36 yards away by Cappelen.

The Gobblers’ offense moved with good effect with Fitzgerald gridding out heavy yardage, but they needed a break to convert a long drive into a score, and a 48-yard run to register the second one.

FSU’s lack of Dave Lambie stalled the first march which had moved 59 yards, but Gene Rumm ran two plays later intercepted one of Wally Woodham’s aerials at the Seminoles’ 52 and ran it in to the 10.

On the next play, Tech’s left side of the line, led by Greg Britsch, opened up and Fitzgerald rambled through it to send Tech in front 7-3 with 6:22 to go in the first period.

Late in the second quarter, with the ball on the Gobblers’ 19, Lambie called for Tech’s own version of the end around and Ellis Savage carried it 48 yards to the Seminoles’ 22.