Hokies Have More At Stake Than Tribe

BY DAVID J. BISSET
Sports Writer

Football games between Va. Tech and Florida State usually fall into the "grudge" category, and the edge will be on the rivalry more than usual Saturday night in Tallahassee for a number of reasons.

First the Hokies will be trying to end a two game losing streak.

Secondly, Tech running back Roscoe Coles needs 41 yards against the Seminoles to reach the 1,000 mark in rushing and the young man is also within range of the Tech record for yards rushed in a season (1,665) which he set last season.

Third, the Techmen hold a 19-9-1 overall mark in a series that has dated back to 1965 and hoped to keep a three game winning streak alive over first year coach Bobby Bowden's club.

But the number one concern for Sharpe's Gobblers is to get Tech's explosive offense untracked which was shutout in City Stadium last week.

"We need to get that offense going declared Sharpe. Our blocking stunk for most of the game. David (Lamie) and Mitchell (Barnes) needed time to set up, but the Spiders were blowing in there quicker than we could control them."

"When you don't give the quarterbacks time to set up then the rest of the offense also suffers, he declared."

"Everytime we get the ball to Roscoe (Coles) they were keying on him and he did a good job considering that fact."

And this week Coach Bowden will be trying to do the same thing.

"He's got a young, but talented team and they have surprised a lot of folks."

"They played Florida and Oklahoma and lost, but it was respectable and they have won a couple that they weren't supposed to win. Even last week they defeated North Texas 22-20 in a snowstorm."

"You've got to give that bench credit and especially Black; he's worked miracles with that team."

"I expect that we will have to contain their quarterback Jimmy Black," added the Hokie boss.

The 5-11 scrambler has connected on 66 percent of his passes for 1351 yards and has thrown for eight touchdowns. "Not only are we going to have to stop their aerial show, we'll have to clamp down on Black's ability to run with the ball."

Black has gained 347 yards and he's less than 100 yards away from a FSU record of 1791 yards rushed in one season. Along with Black, the Seminoles will also have Larry Keys a 186, junior who has netted 558 yards in 131 carries. "We've got our work cut out for us this week."

"I just hope the seniors and the rest of the kids play with plenty of enthusiasm for that's the key to our success, remarked Sharpe."

"Wished we had won more games this season, for the seniors have done a tremendous job for us here, but we've just not been able to get them to a bowl game. It's a shame for those youngsters that have done so much for our program remarked Sharpe."

"Besides having to crank up the offense Sharpe's also concerned with the defense led by Rick Razzano. When he left the Richmond game we were hurting. We shouldn't have been leaning on one guy to get us fired up on defense. But Rick's a team leader, he boilers and gets excited and things start happening when he's in there."

"I'm not at all sure that he'll seek any action on Saturday. He's very doubtful and is still nursing that bruised thigh, declared Sharpe."

"If we can play with enthusiasm and intensity then we're capable of winning. But it should be a real close contest. Coach Bowden's teams are always tough and he prepares his teams real well."

"I just hope that we come back with a crate of big oranges stamped with victory on them, he remarked."

GOBBLERS' JIMMY SHARPE
Wants His Team Excited