‘It Just Wasn’t Meant To Be For Us’

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TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—“I guess it just wasn’t meant to be for us,” said a disheartened Jimmy Sharpe from Tech’s dressing room here Saturday night.

Hopes for a possible bowl berth, the new Independence Bowl in Shreveport, La. were wiped away when Florida State’s “Tallahassee Connection” of freshmen Jimmy Jordan and Keith Unglaub combined for Tech’s Seminoles’ longest touchdown pass in history (96 yards) to send the Gobbler home with a three-game losing streak.

“The ball just didn’t bounce our way,” said Sharpe. “We just didn’t get many of the breaks.”

Tech played brilliantly most of the night, with junior tailback Roscoe Coles going over 1,000 yards on the season and becoming Tech’s all-time leading rusher.

“I’m proud of our players though, the way they rebounded after the last two weeks,” added Sharpe. “I’d like to compliment Coach Bowden and his staff. They just got the big play on us tonight.” FSU scored its two longest touchdown plays ever, the 96-yard pass play, and Larry Key’s 97-yard first half scoring rush.

“That’s the most big plays we’ve given up in one game since I’ve been here, something I didn’t think we would do,” lamented the dejected Tech boss.

“They’ve got a lot of speed. We knew the kind of player Larry Key was from two years ago. Our kids showed a lot of character, nothing fancy, just jaw to jaw football. I’m really pleased with the way we came back and played with great emotion.”

FSU Coach Bobby Bowden was elated.

“I can’t believe it...I can’t believe it,” he echoed. “I’m very pleased with our seniors this year. I believe the excitement in FSU football is back.”

“I’m not going to believe that 96-yard touchdown! That’s the only thing you could do against those ‘dadgum’ fellas.”

It was Jordan and Unglaub that hurt Tech the most, combining only twice, but doing as much damage as the iceberg did to the Titanic. The two teamed together at Tallahassee’s Leon High School only last season, but Saturday night the two passes covered 112 yards including the winning touchdown.

“I caught 82 of his passes, 20 for touchdowns in high school last season,” said Unglaub. “That last one was a straight take off pattern. The ball was a little high, and the defensive back on me just misjudged the ball pretty bad.”

Jordan was the hero, being grabbed by well wishers every five seconds in the dressing room. “We felt we could go deep on Tech. We’ve been throwing together for four years now,” he said speaking of Unglaub.

“I feel a little more confident throwing to him.”

Bowden added, “I hope this is the way it’s going to be for the next three years (referring to his freshmen). It’s encouraging to know that they’re going to be around for awhile.”