Seminole Reverse Gobbler

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Florida State's end reverse seemed to be the Seminoles' clutch play at Lane Stadium as Bobby Bowden's FSU team edged the Hokies 23-21 to spoil Va. Tech's Homecoming.

Seminole quarterback Wally Woodham claimed that all three reverses which went for long gains were in FSU's gameplan.

"We worked on the play all the time in practice but we only used it twice this season and neither time did it work," Woodham declared.

The play that helped to set up the winning field goal came second and five with FSU trailing 21-20 with seven minutes to go.

Mike Shumann took the end reverse from tailback Larry Key rolled to his left and fired deep to Roger Overby for a 44 yard pickup and a first at the Tech 21.

"Tech played us to run, Shuman remarked in the winners locker room. Tech breaks on the ball so fast that we went to the end reverse play."

"It's something that hasn't worked until today mainly because Tech is the first team against us to explode off the line on the run," Shuman noted.

Roger Overby, who took the pass from his shoulder pads in stride declared, "Yeah me and Mike work on it all the time. We're always saying that one of these days this play will work," he remarked.

Florida State drove to the Hokie 13 with little over five minutes to play before the drive stopped on the 13 when Key was dropped for a one yard loss.

Dave Cappelen, one of two FSU field goal kickers lined up for a 29-yard field goal but the Hokies called time hoping to put more pressure on Cappelen.

"No, I wasn't worried," Cappelen noted. "In fact the timeout actually helped me because I could then practice my kick and concentrate more. The first time I kicked I wasn't prepared but this time Tech aided my cause with a timeout," he confirmed.

Cappelen booted the 29-yard field goal which gave the Seminoles the lead for good.

"This is probably my biggest field goal of the season," Cappelen noted. "It ties my point production from last year (43) and now I know I will break it for sure."

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Cappelen, who leads the team in scoring but alternates with Bill Capace on field goal attempts believes Capace's foot is actually stronger.

"I think the coaches feel he's got the edge but in warmups and in practice I can get 'em 45 yards out. But the coaches think Dave has a better chance on making it."

The Hokies have surprised everybody in Lane Stadium by taking a 2:10 lead with 1:36 left to play before halftime.

"I don't think we were ready for Tech in the first half. I think we thought that Tech was going to lie down for us but they were fired up," defensive end Willie Jones admitted.

"Nobody knew that (Mickey) Fitzgerald was going to open at fullback for them until it was announced. He runs real tough and Lamie is very competitive he'll battle you all the time," Jones declared.

With the rain coming down in sheets during much of the second half, Florida State's Key carried 22 times for 70 yards once he got his footing.

"Actually being hit three and four times wasn't that bad. The turf was very slippery and the grass was high but I stuck to pounding away at them," Key remarked.

Woodham, who played under similar conditions when he directed his high school team to a championship added, "One of the things we noticed was that Tech linebackers did a good job but not 10 yards from the line of scrimmage. So we used Larry (Key) on swing passes coming out of the backfield which I thought helped us."

"However, those end reverses by Mike (Shumann) were big pluses for us."

Shumann netted 99 yards on three plays besides throwing deep to Overby which set up the winning field goal.

"I'm ambidextrous and when the team goes either left or right doesn't matter. I just switch hands automatically. I guess I prefer my left but it really doesn't matter," Shumann noted.

With the win FSU is 8-1 but are they thinking Bowl?

"Well, it's on our minds," Woodham declared. I know I think about it but we learned today that we'd better play them one at a time. This team has come along way in such a short time. There's just more unity that's probably why we're having a successful campaign," Woodham added.

"I think we'll go to a bowl provided we keep winning," Carter remarked. "But it will be a minor bowl, but like Wally (Woodham) said, we got to play them one at a time."