

'We Won't Win a Game Making Those Mistakes,' Says Veller

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"We're still improving," Florida State University Coach Don Veller said yesterday, "but we can't improve enough to win unless we stop making costly mistakes."

"You've got to have either a tremendously strong team or pretty weak opposition to win when you help the other fellow with your own errors, and we don't have either," Veller added as he surveyed the wreckage of the Seminoles 28-7 defeat at the hands of Virginia Military Institute Friday night.

Two long passes completed behind the Seminole defensive left half, a short 17-yard punt and two fumbles were the mistakes that cost FSU against the colorful Keydets. The fact that they were mistakes of honest effort softens the blow a little, but it doesn't alter the score.

"We can't win from a single team on the remainder of our schedule if we make as many mistakes as we did against VMI," Veller says in one of the few glum comments the Indian head man has made since his Seminoles started soaking up the first of three straight setbacks.

'HARDEST WORKERS'

"There's no question in my mind that the boys are working hard. This squad, in fact, is probably the hardest working unit we've had since I've been here. But one error at the wrong time can ruin the effects of a week's work in a ball game."

With an open date coming up this weekend and the Seminoles remaining idle until their Oct. 25 meeting with North Carolina State in Raleigh, Veller has called the usual Monday practice off to give his bruised gridders a breathing spell.

From the tentative practice program coming up later in the week they'll need it, because a lot of long, rough scrimmage is on tap from Tuesday on.

"We're going to check the squad carefully during the next two weeks to see if we're missing on any boys," Veller explained. "You can't always do that with a ball game coming up at the end of a week, but with an open date we've got some time to experiment."

Veller, who couldn't get entirely away from those Friday night errors, blames inexperience and pressure for some of those mistakes.

"Our schedule was improved so fast," Veller pointed out, "that it put the opposition well ahead of us. Our boys know they're going to be outmanned every game, and when you know that from Saturday to Saturday it puts pressure on the individual players. They know that they'll have to do something unusual to win, and when you try too hard you make mistakes. The tension that tightens a player up is his own worst enemy. And freshmen and sophomores just haven't played enough football to learn to take bad breaks and bounce back."

IT BEGAN LIKE AN UPSET

For almost 22 minutes Friday night it appeared that the Seminoles might have an upset up their sleeves.

After a scoreless first period in which FSU had dominated the play with its sharp running game and kept the Keydets pretty well bottled up along the ground, the Seminoles struck for a score in the first four minutes of the second quarter and took the lead for the first time this season.

Ronnie King got the drive started when he recovered George Chumbley's fumble on the FSU 44 late in the first quarter.

A 20-yard dash by Roy Thompson moved the ball into Keydet territory, and with the aide of a jump pass from Nelson Italiano to Curt Campbell, the Seminoles lugged the leather to the VMI 29.

Thompson, Italiano and Al Woodham worked the ball to the one in five plays, and after Thompson was stopped by Chumbley at right guard, Italiano slammed through the middle for the score.

Stan Dobosz converted and the 6,227 chilled fans—smallest turnout of the season—caught the upset fever.

THE I-OPENER

VMI, whose novel "I" hadn't produced anything eye-opening to that point, suddenly started to roll.

Taking the Seminole kickoff back to the 31, the Keydets struck through the air with Brehany passing to Wendell "Windy" Shay behind the Seminole secondary for 49 yards and a first down on the FSU 18.

Brehany and Nick Servidio went to the two in four plays, and the Keydet quarterback went around right end on a bootleg play for the score.

Royce Jones, a sophomore who went out for football on his "own" last year and quickly won the extra-point job, tacked on the first of his four straight conversions and the game was right back where it started, all tied up.

AHEAD TO STAY

Three minutes later the Keydets were ahead to stay.

After a 17-yard kick had sailed out on the VMI 42, Brehany found Shay out in the clear again. This time he hit the former guard who was recently moved to end, with a 36-yard pitch to the two and Tim O'Neill needed only one thrust to get home from there to give the Keydets a 14-7 margin at halftime.

Twice in the third quarter VMI flopped on Seminole fumbles and moved quickly to scores.

The first bobble came at a time when FSU appeared on the march. With inches to go for a first down near midfield, Italiano picked up the necessary yardage, but let the ball squirt out of his hands and Lyons recovered.

O'Neill and Mike Foley carried to the FSU 44. A Brehany-Byron screen pass went to the 33, and Woods and Chumbley completed the journey from there in four plays with Chumbley going the 12 at right guard.

FINAL SCORE

Six minutes later the Keydets scored the final TD as Campbell bobbled a punt on his own 35.

A 15-yard Brehany to Powell pass went to the 19, and defensive specialist Chuck Dininger, in on the offensive for the first time this season, scored three plays later from the 18.

Thompson sparked the FSU offense, netting 56 yards on 16 carries, completing two of five passes and catching one for eight yards. Italiano had 25 yards in 8 carries, and Dobosz, the freshman star of the Louisville game, got 11 yards in six tries before being re-

moved with a mouth injury that cost him several teeth.

Several of FSU's freshmen linemen turned in good ball games as the Seminoles continued to show promise for the future. End Fred Greene, linebacker Bob Crenshaw and tackle Jerry Jacobs were among the yearling standouts.

TEAM STATISTICS

	VMI	FSU
First downs	17	9
By passing	9	1
By rushing	11	8
By penalty	1	0
Net yds. gained rushing	246	150
Yds. lost	58	45
Yds. gained passing	128	75
Yds. gained total offense	374	264
Passes attempted	12	14
Passes completed	5	6
Punts, number	6	4
Average punt	32.3	31.3
Fumbles, number	2	3
Fumbles lost by	1	3
Yds. gained, all kicks ret.	50	114
Yds. gained, kick-offs ret.	29	100
Yds. gained, punts ret.	30	14
Penalties, number	10	6
Yds. penalized	49	38
Touchdowns	4	1
Points after touchdown	4	1
Field goals	0	0
Safeties	0	0
Final score	28	7
Score by periods:		
VMI	0 14 14	6-28
FSU	0 7 0 0	7
Florida State scoring: Touchdowns—Italiano; conversion—Dobosz.		
VMI scoring: Touchdowns—O'Neill, Brehany, Chumbley, Dininger; conversions—Jones 4.		

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

FLORIDA STATE

Leading Rushers

	Carried	Yds.	Lost	Net Gain
Thompson	15	78	22	56
Italiano	8	25	0	25
DeBess	6	11	0	11

Leading Passers

	Att.	Comp.	Int.	Yds.	TD
Woodham	2	1	0	35	0
Italiano	4	3	1	23	0
Thompson	5	2	0	17	0

Leading Pass Receivers

	Caught	Yards	TD
Campbell	3	54	0
Thompson	1	8	0
Woodham	1	7	0

Leading Punters

	No.	Blocked	Avg.
T. Brown	4	0	31.3

VMI

Leading Rushers

	Carried	Yds.	Lost	Net Gain
Chumbley	5	41	1	40
Woods	9	40	0	40
Foley	5	34	0	34

Leading Passers

	Att.	Comp.	Int.	Yds.	TD
Brehany	11	5	1	128	0

Leading Pass Receivers

	Caught	Yards	TD
Shea	2	35	0
Byron	2	28	0
Powell	1	15	0

Leading Punters

	No.	Blocked	Avg.
Chumbley	6	0	30.3
Powell	1	0	44

VMI

Ends—Byron Jones, McCallum, Griffith, Shay, Lyons, Byrd, Guy.

Tackles—Cury, Gilbert, Landford, Miller, Ramer, Ralph, Drake, Westfall.

Guards—Bonnelt, Zeiders, Spaneas, Beaver.

Centers—Carlton, Thornton, Klinar.

Backs—Brehany, Chumbley, Woy, Fencel, Woods, Mapp, Keel, Carter, Powell, Foley, Dinninger, Lavery, Collins, Servidio, O'Neil.

FSU

Ends—Mann, Campbell, Green, Kalenich, King, McDonald.

Tackles—Szczepanik, Johnson, Brown, Duckworth, O'Neil, Huey, Barnes.

Guards—Booth, Jacobs, Karlowicz.

Centers—Boyer, Crenshaw.

Backs—Kelly, Thompson, Cassidy, Rathon, Griner, Woodham, Italiano, Dobosz, Bringger, Fiveash, Brown, Taylor.