Effective Zipperly sets frosh records

BY STEVE PARKER
Sports Writer

The success of Coach Jackie Power's undefeated freshman team is largely attributable to the tremendous performance turned in by his running backs, led by record-breaking Tom Zipperly.

Zipperly's running talents have enabled him, after only three games, to shatter some freshman records and seriously threaten others.

During the Biddles 41-14 conquest of Clemson, Zipperly surpassed the Biddles' previous scoring record of 36 points held jointly by Roy Don Reeves, Billy Ray Rice and Jim Mitchell. Zipperly already has scored 44 points with two games remaining to play.

The same trio of former freshman had also held the touchdown record with six each. That record is no longer intact as Zipperly has already totaled seven touchdowns.

"I guess records mean a lot to anyone, they mean something to me," said Zipperly. "It's an accomplishment. I'm really happy I was able to do it."

"Tommy Simmons' Biddle rushing record of 253 yards in within the grasp of Zipperly. He already has accumulated 341 yards, meaning he needs an average of 118 yards in the remaining games to break the record.

But the leading freshman runner reveals his fondness for records definitely lies second to his desire to win. "I don't really care if I catch the record. I just want to win and the best way I can do that is to run as hard as I can. Always try to do better."

Zipperly's desire to do better would certainly appear hard to achieve upon review of his past performances. In the opening 35-0 victory over the Citadel, from the 6-9, 10back gained 81 yards and scored three of the team's five touchdowns.

He followed that fine game with an even more outstanding showing. Against N.C. State he rushed into the end zone twice in the fourth quarter. He followed the latter touchdown with a dive into the corner of the end zone for a two-point play which gave the Biddles a 14-15 comeback victory.

His 110 yards and two touchdowns against Clemson Monday helped the Biddles to maintain their running attack.

Zipperly, a former sprinter at Plantation High school in Florida in the 100, has demonstrated a blending of fine moves and great speed in a number of long yardage plays. His long gains include an 81-yard punt return, a 74-yard run from scrimmage and a 69-yard scoring pass and run play.

"We've got a good team," commented Zipperly of the undefeated Biddle squad. "We are real close and we have a lot of team spirit."

"If one person makes a mistake the rest of us are there to cover for him. I guess that's what keeps us going."

Running along side Zipperly are Billy Cregar, Tom Amrein and Jay Hodge—all enjoying success in the strong season.

"The line is the main reason our running game has been successful. It's a good, aggressive line and that's what you need to run," said Zipperly.

"We ran the T-backfield some in the Clemson game. I like it," commented Zipperly, "adding another back gives us a rest, and three backs are better than two. Besides it gives the defense that much more to look out for."

Previewing the remainder of the Biddle schedule he said, "We try to play the games one at a time but looking ahead we can tell Georgia is going to be as tough as Georgia Tech will be this week."

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Wrestlers schedule meeting

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The wrestling team at Carolina, a club spokesman said. "We have four matches beside the tournament and hope to get two more duals."

Currently the club is practicing Mondays through Fridays at 4:30 p.m. A meeting will be held tonight at 7 p.m. in Room 312 of the Russell House. All interested people are encouraged to attend.

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Eyeinthe Keyhole

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I saw the University of Florida's John Reaves when he was at his peak. I saw Pat Sullivan engineer a come from behind victory over Tennessee. I saw Jim Plunkett lead Stanford to an upset of Ohio State in last year's Rose Bowl. They are all very good quarterbacks. But on Saturday night, Gary Huff was the best quarterback I had ever seen.

Granted, Huff has receivers with hands made out of fly paper who run like midnight roaches in a well lit kitchen after they have caught the ball. He has a tough backfield full of effective runners that have the ability to keep a defense honest. It seems like anyone who is within two yards of a pass catches it.

In Tallahassee Saturday night, Huff did not have a good first quarter. I thought he was overrated. His passes fell short of their marks, or wound up twenty yards short of the goal. Perhaps he had finally met a defense to match his offensive skills.

Then, in the second quarter with Carolina ahead 10-9, Huff set to throw on a third and six from his own six yard line. He hit Rhett Dawson for 18 yards and a first down. Jimmy Nash almost picked it off. In front of Nash, there was nothing but pasture. But almost only counts in horse shoes.

From that point on, Huff put on an exhibition that left many of us in the press box absolutely amazed. He passed for three scores in the next two minutes of the game, a spree that left USC's defense probably as dazed as we were.

Huff throws the ball as well as anyone who plays college football. It is always a near perfect spiral: no dying ducks. The ball is always where it is supposed to be. And for the most part, the receivers catch on their assignment, too.

The part that surprised me most was the fact that Huff's air circus did not come at the expense of a mediocre defensive team. USC's senior secondary is by no means inadequate as Huff happened to make them appear. They are a solid unit that have played exceedingly well in the past, and undoubtedly will continue to do so.

Another key to Huff's success Saturday night was the protection offered him by the Seminole offensive line. Even with Florida State's big Roger Minor out for a brief time, the Gamecocks were futile in their attempts to trap Huff in his own backfield.

Huff has now thrown 15 touchdown passes this season...in seven games. He has completed 126-209 passes for over 1600 yards. That's an average of 23.7 yards per game. He is in the top five in the nation in both passing and total offense.

Each week a major wire service names the outstanding back of the week in college football. If Gary Huff does not get it for his performance Saturday night, there is something very wrong with the board of selectors.

A writer for an Augusta paper told me that in Florida State's most recent freshman football game, the quarterback threw away three passes; and they were all incomplete. Gary Huff is only a junior. It appears to be quite obvious that they are expecting the same from him next year.

So let Pat Sullivan, Sonny Sixkiller, Don Bunce and Jerry Tagge get all the praise. But start looking at Gary Huff. When the Heisman Award rolls around next year, he ought to be in contention. Or there is something very wrong with the board of selectors. Something very wrong.