

WEEK TEN
FLORIDA ST at BOSTON COLLEGE

Seminoles rally past Boston College, close in on bowl eligibility

BOSTON -- D.J. Matthews caught a short pass, faked out three defenders on his way to the sideline and then dove for the end zone, taking off from the 6-yard line before clipping the pylon to give Florida State the go-ahead score.

"It kind of reminded me of high school, doing the long jump," Matthews said after helping the Seminoles beat Boston College 38-31 on Saturday in their first game since coach Willie Taggart was fired.

"I just wanted it. I want to score for my team," Matthews said. "I want to make plays for my team, so we can just be better."

Matthews turned a short slant pattern into a 60-yard touchdown to break a fourth-quarter tie, and Jordan Travis followed with a 66-yard run for what turned out to be the winning score for Florida State (5-5, 4-4 Atlantic Coast Conference).

James Blackman threw for 346 yards and two TDs, hitting Tamorrion Terry seven times for 156 yards and one score. Six days after firing Taggart, Florida State moved to the verge of a bowl berth and preserved two-time interim coach Odell Haggins' perfect record.

"Guys came out and played for Coach Odell. They love him," Matthews said. "When things happened last Sunday, that's what he did -- he brought us together."

Florida State fell behind 14-3 in the first half before scoring 21 straight points, only to watch BC (5-5, 3-4) tie it 24-all in the final minutes on Dennis Grosel's half-yard roll-out and dive for the end zone. The Seminoles took over at their own 41 with 2:27 left, lost a yard and then Blackman found Matthews across the middle, about 5 yards away.

The receiver juke past three defenders on his way to the right sideline, then leaped for the pylon to make it 31-24.

"That was a backbreaker right there, to me," BC coach Steve Addazio said. "It was just quick, and it goes for 60. That can't happen."

After Grosel threw an interception, Travis broke free for 66 yards to give Florida State a 14-point lead -- his second TD run of the game.

"When it comes in bunches like that it can be a little bit deflating," Addazio said. "You've got to bounce back from that."

Grosel hit Kobay White from 20 yards out to make it a one-score game with 14 seconds left. But with Doug Flutie and BC's 1984 team in attendance, FSU recovered the onside kick and left no chance for a last-second miracle.

With the sun setting and the temperatures dipping into the 30s, the Seminoles drenched Haggins with a water cooler.

"They didn't flinch," Haggins said. "When everything happened this past weekend ... they wanted to show: 'We are Florida State. We are unconquered. We've got your back, Coach.' That's what they showed me."

Florida State fired Taggart on Sunday, a day after a 27-10 loss to Miami, and named Haggins as the interim coach. Haggins, who also took over when Jimbo Fisher left for Texas A&M, is now 3-0 in two stints as a Seminoles fill-in.

Travis gained 94 yards on three runs, scoring on two of them.

AJ Dillon ran for 165 yards on a career-high 40 carries, and David Bailey added 67 yards and a touchdown as the Eagles rushed for 281 yards in all. Grosel, a walk-on who earned the starting job when Anthony Brown was injured, completed 20 of 29 passes for 227 yards, two touchdowns and an interception.

Behind its 500-pound backfield of Dillon and Bailey, BC gained 166 yards rushing in the first half, taking a 14-3 lead before Blackman found Terry for a 74-yard score at the end of the second quarter. Travis took a direct snap on a third-and-3 and found his way down the right sideline for the score that made it 17-14 in the third, before Cam Akers ran 13 yards to give the Seminoles a 24-14 lead.

A field goal put BC within a touchdown, and then Eagles got to the FSU 2 before the Seminoles were flagged for offsides on back-to-back plays when they had stuffed Dillon short of the goal line. On the fourth try, Grosel rolled right, tucked the ball in, put his shoulder down and dove over the goal line.

Aaron Boumerhi, who missed two field goals earlier, nailed the point after to tie it.

THE TAKEAWAY

Florida State: Haggins helped the Seminoles avoid a second straight season without a bowl berth; they need one more win, with games against Alabama State and No. 10 Florida remaining. But that's not good enough for the school's boosters, who are looking for a big name to come in and restore the program to national championship contention.

Boston College: The Eagles play No. 15 Notre Dame in two weeks, and absent a victory in the Catholic school rivalry game they will need to win in Pittsburgh on Nov. 30 to pick up their sixth win and qualify for a bowl.

Final	1	2	3	4	T
FSU	3	7	14	14	38
BC	7	7	0	17	31

Scoring Summary -----

	FSU	BC
FIRST QUARTER		
BC TD 9:22 Kobay White 17 Yd pass from Dennis Grosel (Aaron Boumerhi Kick)		
14 plays, 75 yards, 5:38	0	7
FSU FG 5:51 Ricky Aguayo 20 Yd Field Goal		
11 plays, 51 yards, 3:22	3	7
SECOND QUARTER		
BC TD 5:12 David Bailey 11 Yd Run (Aaron Boumerhi Kick)		
6 plays, 61 yards, 2:06	3	14
FSU TD 4:31 Tamorrion Terry 74 Yd pass from James Blackman (Ricky Aguayo Kick)		
2 plays, 84 yards, 0:35	10	14
THIRD QUARTER		
FSU TD 12:24 Jordan Travis 26 Yd Run (Ricky Aguayo Kick)		
7 plays, 65 yards, 0:00	17	14
FSU TD 2:23 Cam Akers 13 Yd Run (Ricky Aguayo Kick)		
10 plays, 63 yards, 3:54	24	14
FOURTH QUARTER		
BC FG 12:10 Aaron Boumerhi 30 Yd Field Goal		
15 plays, 57 yards, 5:08	24	17
BC TD 2:33 Dennis Grosel 1 Yd Run (Aaron Boumerhi Kick)		
13 plays, 90 yards, 7:08	24	24
FSU TD 1:48 D.J. Matthews 60 Yd pass from James Blackman (Ricky Aguayo Kick)		
2 plays, 59 yards, 0:39	31	24
FSU TD 1:03 Jordan Travis 66 Yd Run (Ricky Aguayo Kick)		
3 plays, 67 yards, 0:20	38	24
BC TD 0:14 Kobay White 20 Yd pass from Dennis Grosel (Aaron Boumerhi Kick)		
4 plays, 75 yards, 0:49	38	31

Team Stats	FSU	BC
First Downs	19	31
Passes for First	11	12
Rushes for First	7	18
Penalties for First	1	1
Third Down Efficiency	6-12	14-20
Fourth Down Efficiency	1-1	0-1
Total Yards	524	508
Total Plays	57	93
Avg Gain Per Play	9.2	5.5
Net Yards Rushing	178	281
Rushes	31	64
Yards Per Rush	5.7	4.4
Net Yards Passing	346	227
Comp-Att	18-26	20-29
Yards Per Pass	13.3	7.8
Times Sacked	1	0
Yds Lost To Sacks	-10	0
Interceptions	0	1
Punts	4	2
Punt Average	0.0	0.0
Penalties	11	6
Penalty Yards	61	60
Fumbles	2	2
Fumbles Lost	0	0
Time of Poss	21:35	38:25

Individual Stats

RUSHING							
FLORIDA ST	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Jordan Travis	3	94	31.3	2	66		
Cam Akers	18	59	3.3	1	13		
James Blackman	8	29	3.6	0	10		
Team	1	-2	-2.0	0	0		
Tre'Shaun Harrison	1	-2	-2.0	0	0		
BOSTON COLLEGE							
	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
AJ Dillon	40	165	4.1	0	19		
David Bailey	12	67	5.6	1	20		
Dennis Grosel	7	30	4.3	1	24		
Kobay White	1	8	8.0	0	8		
Zay Flowers	2	7	3.5	0	6		
Travis Levy	2	4	2.0	0	3		
PASSING							
FLORIDA ST	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
James Blackman	18	26	346	13.3	2	0	90.7
BOSTON COLLEGE							
	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Dennis Grosel	20	29	227	7.8	2	1	51.8
RECEIVING							
FLORIDA ST	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Tamorrion Terry	7	156	22.3	1	74		
D.J. Matthews	3	80	26.7	1	60		
Cam Akers	4	49	12.3	0	26		
Tre'Shaun Harrison	3	37	12.3	0	17		
Camren McDonald	1	24	24.0	0	24		
BOSTON COLLEGE							
	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Jake Burt	4	66	16.5	0	23		
Kobay White	5	62	12.4	2	20		
Ethon Williams	2	28	14.0	0	17		
Korab Idrizi	2	27	13.5	0	18		
AJ Dillon	3	25	8.3	0	14		
Travis Levy	1	9	9.0	0	9		
David Bailey	1	9	9.0	0	9		
Zay Flowers	2	1	0.5	0	1		