

**Ohhh,
What A Year!**





Florida State last year enjoyed its greatest football season ever. We realize that many fans still cherish the memories of an 11-0 season and trip to the Orange Bowl. We want to keep those memories alive, thus the following special section dealing with the regular season and Orange Bowl. To keep those memories alive

we've selected stories from writers who covered FSU during the season. Read and enjoy, too, this year's special section containing feature stories on several of this year's Seminoles plus Tallahassee Democrat Sports Editor Bill McGrotha's article on FSU football since its start in 1947.



Oh, Henry and FSU win

By **ANDY COHEN**

Florida Times-Union Writer

After six consecutive fair catches, sophomore Gary Henry finally decided to return a punt Saturday night and in the process won a football game for Florida State University.

Henry's 65-yard punt return with just 6:28 remaining lifted the Seminoles to a come-from-behind 17-14 victory over a stubborn Southern Mississippi football team.

Playing in front of 45,467 fans — the largest opening night crowd in FSU history — the Seminoles were behind 14-3 as the fourth quarter began.

FSU's offense, billed as one of the nation's finest, had been an opening night flop and as Coach Bobby Bowden said later, "it was the worst case of stage fright I've seen by an offense in my entire life."

But luckily for FSU, its defense was in top form. With 11:40 remaining, cornerback Monk Bonasorte blocked a Southern Mississippi punt and the 19th ranked Seminoles took over at the Eagle 15.

Three plays later, on a fourth-and-3 from the 8, quarterback Jimmy Jordan found Jacksonville's Jackie Flowers on a perfectly thrown touchdown pass to narrow the gap to 14-9. The two-point conversion attempt failed.

The Seminole defense then took over, forcing the Eagles to punt deep in their own territory.

And there was Gary Henry.

Six previous times, he called for a fair catch with not a player within 10 yards of him. On his last two fair catches, the crowd vigorously voiced their disapproval.

But for Henry, No. 7 was lucky.

He caught the ball on the FSU 35, tip-toed down the sidelines for about 10 yards, got one crunching block from Ed Richardson, then cut across the field untouched for the score. This time the two point conversion attempt — a pass to Flowers — was successful and the Seminoles had themselves the 17-14 victory.

"Gary just didn't use good judgement on those six fair catches," said Bowden, whose team is now 1-0 with a crucial game against Arizona State coming up Saturday in Tampa. "I don't know why he didn't run them back, but I'm sure he'll see it in the films.

"Thank goodness he did run one back and thank goodness our defense played like world champions."

And Henry, still dazed from his new-found stardom, simply said, "that punt return was the greatest thrill of my life."

For a while — a long while, it looked as if FSU was in no mood for thrills. A 27-yard Dave Cappelen field goal with 6:14 left in the first quarter was all the points the Seminoles could muster until the fourth quarter.

Their running game (77 yards on 34 rushes) was almost non-existent and Jordan and starter Wally Woodham played nowhere near their pre-season billing.

"Our offense just did nothing," Bowden added. "I've got to blame it on poor coaching. But I'll tell ya, I think every receiver missed at least one catch and every running back ran the wrong way at least once. It was futile effort."

Meanwhile, on the other side of the field, the Eagles were building themselves a 14-3 lead. They took a 7-3 lead into halftime when Ricky Floyd scored from 2 yards out with 34 seconds left in the second quarter. A 28-yard halfback pass from Floyd to Chuck Brown set up the score.

With 12:03 left in the third quarter Floyd scored once again — this time on a 7-yard sweep — and the fourth largest crowd in FSU history sat quietly, preparing for the worst. That touchdown was set up by a 42-yard pass from quarterback Dane McDaniel

to Larry Taylor.

At that point, FSU's defense, which held Southern Mississippi to only 200 total yards, took over.

"I've said all along that one of FSU's strong points was their defense," said a somber Eagle coach Bobby Collins, whose team played well enough to win. "But even in losing, I think we proved we were a good football team and if you don't believe it you should ask some of the Florida State players."

The Eagles had one last chance to pull off the upset when FSU's Keith Jones fumbled a punt on his own 44. But once again the defense — led by muscleman Ron Simmons — came through and ultimately clinched the victory when Bobby Butler intercepted a pass with 4:05 remaining.

Despite the superb defensive effort, Bowden seemed stunned at his team's lack of offense, which produced only 258 yards as Woodham and Jordan combined to complete only 15 of 33 passes for 186 yards.

"I pray it was only the first game jitters," Bowden said. "This offense is too good to play like this for long."

"But we won, and when you play bad and win, I guess it shows you've got a pretty good football team."



WOW! FSU wins big

By JOHN VALERINO

Lakeland Ledger executive sports editor

TAMPA—Florida State could not have played any better.

The offense, led by quarterbacks Jimmy Jordan and Wally Woodham, shot holes in Arizona State's highly regarded defense.

The defense totally dominated the Sun Devil's famed and feared offense.

It wasn't a contest.

The Seminoles, coming off a lackluster performance against Southern Mississippi last week, put it all together here Saturday night and walloped Arizona State, 31-3, before a rain-drenched crowd of 33,484.

"Like the commercial says, 'Thanks, I needed that,'" commented a relieved Florida State Coach Bobby Bowden.

"I'm happy overall," he continued. "Our offense came around, especially the running game, and our defense was again just incredible."

The Florida State defense held the Sun Devils' highly publicized offense to an anemic 123 yards in total offense, forcing 10 fumbles and coming up with two interceptions, both by free safety Monk Bonasorte.

The Seminoles' offense, which coughed and sputtered last week, amassed 333 yards in offense, 225 through the air.

Tailback Greg Ramsey, getting his first start in two seasons, led the Seminoles' running attack with 59 yards, 50 of them coming on one play that set up Florida State's second touchdown.

Bruising fullback Mark Lyles continued his steady play, rushing for 56 tough yards, many of which came on key third down plays.

Arizona State, meanwhile, managed just nine completions in 28 attempts for 92 yards.

The running game, totally smothered by the Seminole defense, netted 31 yards on 43 attempts.

"We really needed a win like this," said Bowden, whose Seminoles are now 2-0 on the year. "We needed a big effort after last week."

Arizona State Coach Frank Kush, paying his respect to Bowden's squad, chipped in, "We got our butts kicked by a damn good football team. They deserve all the credit in the world. That's one fine team . . . as good a defense and offense I've seen in quite some time.

"I'm not writing off our season," Kush, now 0-2, added. "We have 10 games left. We're just going to have to work harder."

Woodham, who played the first and third quarters, completed 6 of 11 for 70 yards and a touchdown — an 18 yarder to Jackie Flowers late in the first quarter. Jordan was 12-for-23 for 155 yards and two scoring strikes — 8 yards to Grady King and 15



to Ricky Williams.

"We needed this," Woodham said. "After last week, we had to get our game back. That's exactly what we did.

"To tell you the truth," he continued, "I was expecting a 17-14 game. Our defense is great, but I didn't expect it to hold Arizona State to three points."

"It seemed this week everybody was ready to play football," chipped in Jordan, standing next to Woodham in the Seminole locker room.

"It was just a combination of everything," Bowden said. "But the key was our defense. Like I said, you get the big wins with the defense. You might go to a bowl because there's not much rain in Phoenix."

With a steady rain falling in the first half, the Seminoles charged ahead 24-0. When the skies were cleared in the second half, it was too late, as far as the Sun Devils were concerned.

With Florida State's running game, which garnered 108 yards, setting up the passing attack, the Seminoles kept Arizona State off balance all evening.

The Seminoles made mince meat of the Sun Devils in the first half, striking for 17 second-quarter points to take a commanding 24-0 lead at the intermission.

Bonasorte's first interception set up the Seminoles' first score late in the opening quarter. With Arizona State operating from its own 14 yard line, Bonasorte picked off a Mark Malone pass intended for Ron Washington at the 35 and returned it 16 yards to the Sun Devil 19.

After Lyles banged his way to the 18, Woodham found his favorite target, Flowers, alone in the left corner of the end zone for six points.

Cappelen, setting records every time he touches the football with his toe, tacked on the extra point to give Florida State a 7-0

lead with 42 seconds remaining.

Less than three minutes later, the Seminoles were on the board again, marching 58 yards on four plays.

Ramsey started the drive with a brilliant 50-yard dash to the Arizona State 8 yard line. Lyles then took charge, smashing the line for gains of 3 and 4 yards before going over from the 1.

Cappelen was again perfect on his point-after attempt, this one from 35 yards out after a Florida State holding penalty.

Cappelen then increased the Seminoles' lead to 17-0 with 2:17 left in the half on a booming 42-yard field goal. Cappelen's second field goal of the season was set up by Bonasorte's second interception.

On this one, Bonasorte picked off a Mike Pagel pass as the FSU 26 and returned it 39 yards to the ASU 35.

Less than a minute later at the 1:37 mark of the second quarter, the Seminoles charged ahead 24-0 following a fumble recovery by Simmons at the Arizona State 8 yard line.

Simmons, who was all over the field, hit Newton Williams at the line of scrimmage, jarred the ball loose and pounced on it at the 8.

On first-and-goal, Jordan, receiving excellent pass protection, hurled a high-arching scoring strike to tight end Grady King.

Cappelen booted the extra point, sending the Seminoles into the locker room with a somewhat surprising 24-point lead.

Simmons led an aroused Florida State defense, which held the usually potent Arizona State offense to just 26 yards in the first half.

That defense continued to dominate the Sun Devils in the third quarter.

Arizona State, however, did manage to score three points the first time it got its hand on the ball.

With Malone back at the helm, the Sun Devils drove from their own 38 to the Florida State 22 from where Scott Peterson kicked a 39-yard field goal at the 9:56 mark.

With Woodham back in the game for FSU, the Seminoles threatened to add to their 24 points, but with a drive, which started at their own 18, fizzled out at the ASU 28 when Woodham fired an incomplete pass on a fourth-and-two play.

But, with 15 minutes left to play, Florida State still held a comfortable 24-3 advantage.

The Seminoles almost waited until the very end to score their fourth and final touchdown, a 15-yarder from Jordan to freshman Ricky Williams with just 1:56 left.

Cappelen tacked on the 31st point and it was over: Florida State 31; Arizona State, surprisingly, 3.



FSU's defense leads to romp

By TIM ROSAFORTE

ClewaterSun Staff Writer

TALLAHASSEE — Jeremy Mindlin was striding off in triumph. "I wanted to say hello to some of my boys but they ran off on me," said the Florida State University senior from Miami.

"I wonder why," somebody said.

The defensive tackle raised his eyebrows up to the edge of his curly hair and looked up to the Doak Campbell Stadium scoreboard.

"40-23," Mindlin said. "That's why."

Chalk another one up to the Florida State defense, as they forced four turnovers on a pamper-aged University of Miami squad before 47,679 screaming Seminole maniacs, the second-largest crowd in the steel-girdered stadium's history. The 40-23 devastation against a team that has won here in each of the last five times its has invaded the state capitol represents the largest point total the Seminoles have racked up in two seasons, dating back to the 40-17 Tangerine bowl win over Texas Tech.

Ranked 14th in both wire service polls entering the contest, the question now arises, "Where to next?" Three teams ahead of the Seminoles — Pittsburgh (13), Notre Dame (5) and Penn State (6) were all upset victims. The Seminoles, despite not playing one of their more consistent games, scored 40 points against a 1-0 Miami team that easily defeated Louisville, one week earlier.

"We did better tonight," Coach Bobby Bowden said, slumping behind his leather office chair. "I thought we were in control of the football game. I don't know the stats — how many our defense scored or set up for us — but it sure feels like a lot.

"Like I told the boys. The Notre Dames, the Alabamas, the Oklahomas . . . the defense wins it for them. The offense just keeps in the game."

No doubt was left in the FSU locker room the the Seminoles now deserve a spot in the nation's elite. In the words of fullback Mark Lyles, who ground out 85 yards and two touchdowns, "There should be no question."

Seeing Lyles go for his average, while having tailback Greg Ramsey scoot for 76 more in his most impressive showing of the season, assistant coach Nick Kish looked at it this way.

"You win like that, and you play lousy," Kish said, "or at least not great, and still score 40 points, then shoot yes, we deserve it."

Miami Coach Howard Schnellenberger could not help but agree. Licking his wounds, the first-year Miami coach caught his breath and passed out the laurels.



"We played a very good Seminole team that did a lot of things right," he said. "I know we were coming into a hornets' nest against a good team and a team that could become a great team."

Nose guard Ron Simmons, the man in the middle of everything for the Seminoles, flexed his neck muscles and proclaimed the Seminoles as already prominent in the national picture.

"If we can go for No. 1, we'll go for that too," he said. "We're just like any of the other great teams in the country now. There's no doubt that we belong in the top 10. If we go out there and play the way we should, there is no doubt we can play with anyone there is."

Bowden, putting the load on his highly touted defense immediately, won the toss and elected to kick off to the nation's second-ranked passing offense, led by Mike Rodrigue, a cocky sophomore who was brought up five fly patterns from the FSU field house. His daddy, Ted, is an ex-Seminole star and his brother, Mark, was on the opposite sidelines, wearing the Garnet and Gold of the Seminoles.

After ripping off a first down on three straight running plays directed at Simmons, Rodrigue sprinted out left on an option, started to turn the corner and then hurled a phantom pitchout to nobody but an astonished back judge. Herring recovered on the 19-yard line.

Fullback Mark Lyles started to break the Seminoles of their early-game bad habits, busting two runs of seven and five yards, giving Florida State a first-and-10 on the 8-yard line. But then Lyles ran into starting quarterback Wally Woodham on an important second-down play and Woodham wasted the touchdown opportunity by taking too much time to get off the third-down play.

Dave Cappelen shrugged it off with 9:12 remaining in the quarter, booting his third field goal of the year from 26 yards to give the Seminoles a 3-0 lead.

But not for long. On the next drive, Rodrigue showed why he is such a prized possession. As he did leading Choctawhatchee to the Florida state finals two years ago, Rodrigue calmly directed Miami to a silencing 13-play, 80-yard drive around, over and through the indomitable Seminole defense.

The big plays were two scrambles by Rodrigue out of the arms of Simmons and defensive tackle Mark Macek that he converted into swing-pass first downs. The crushing blow was a 40-yard sideline route to his favorite receiver, Pat Walker, down to the FSU 18. Three plays later, scatback Chris Hobbs turned a blast off left guard into a 10-yard touchdown sweep around right end when the Seminole defense completely collapsed. Dan Miller's first extra-point attempt was blocked, but the Seminoles were offside. His second attempt from a stride closer was good and with the Hurricanes leading 7-3, Doak Campbell was never quieter.

The Seminoles, however, were just getting loose. Knowing Miami is a young team, Bowden chose to open up his attack by having the Seminoles set up at the line of scrimmage without a huddle three times in the first half. Each time, it resulted in a key first down. He used this strategy twice in the Seminoles' first touchdown march as the quarters changed.

The big play in the momentum-changing drive was Sam Platt's one-handed catch down to the Hurricane 6-yard line. Cutting across the middle, Platt hauled in Woodham's 23-yard pass, setting up Lyles's back-breaking touchdown effort from the 4-yard line. Cappelen's extra point made it 10-7 with 12:30 remaining in the half.



FSU outlasts Virginia Tech, 17-10

By **MIKE FISH**

Fort Lauderdale News Staff Writer

BLACKSBURG, Va. — Bobby Bowden is organizing the search party. Somewhere between Tallahassee and this Virginia hamlet, Florida State lost its offense.

The Seminoles scored enough to beat Virginia Tech, 17-10, yesterday before a regional television audience and a Lane Stadium crowd of 39,200. But it was the defense that made the difference while the offense displayed a newly perfected knack for surrendering the ball.

There was no offensive shortage on the part of Florida State. But while in the process of accumulating 436 total yards the Seminoles repeatedly turned the ball over.

"The defense won it for us again," said Bowden. "She wasn't pretty, but it's a win. The offense just couldn't capitalize on what the defense was doing for it today."

What the defense did was hold a Tech team that began yesterday as the nation's eighth best on offense to a lone touchdown. Meanwhile, the offense kept Bill Dooley's Hokies in the game.

For starters, fullback Mark Lyles fumbled on the game's third play at the FSU 37. The defense, led by nose guard Ron Simmons, held Tech in check.

In much the same fashion, the defense preserved the win in the final two minutes after Tech's Paul Davis picked off a Jimmy Jordan pass in the end zone. Thanks to the final stand, FSU is unbeaten in four starts and hoping to improve its national ranking — 10th according to UPI and 12th by the AP's count.

"We're just not as sharp as we got to be," says Bowden, who picked up his 100th college coaching win. "A lot of it has to do with the play calling. I'm responsible for calling a lot of that junk."

"We need consistency here. Here we are out there marching from the 20 to the 20, and we come away with nothing."

For the afternoon, FSU's offense took credit for a fumble and four interceptions.

"We had a game last year against Pitt that was a carbon copy of this," offered quarterback Wally Woodham. "The best thing is that we won. But as a quarterback, it's disappointing to see all those yards and so few points."

It was Virginia Tech, 3-0 after the likes of William & Mary, Louisville and Appalachian State, that took a 7-0 first quarter advantage on a 40-yard run by freshman tailback Cyrus Lawrence.

On the very next series, with Woodham at the controls, FSU went 80 yards to knot the score at 7-7. Jordan, subbing for Woodham, connected with Jackie Flowers on an 18-yard scoring strike after Jordan had sustained the drive by completing third down passes to

Flowers and Phil Williams.

Florida State's other first half score came on a 16-yard run by Greg Ramsey, who had taken a flare pass from Woodham 26-yards en-route.

"Everybody had a block it seemed," said Ramsey, who injured his knee in the third quarter. "Mark Lyles had his man inside and I just followed Greg's (Futch) block."

With Ramsey taken to a local hospital for X-rays, Bowden alternated Gator Cherry and Michael Whiting through much of the second half.

Virginia Tech's Dennis Laury scored the final points on a 44-yard field goal on the opening drive of the second half.

FSU's Dave Cappelen answered the field goal later in the third quarter with a 20-yarder. The scoring drive was set up by Bobby Butler, who picked off a Steve Casey pass and returned it 24 yards to the Tech 12.


A fourth quarter Tech drive was halted by another interception, this by free safety Mark

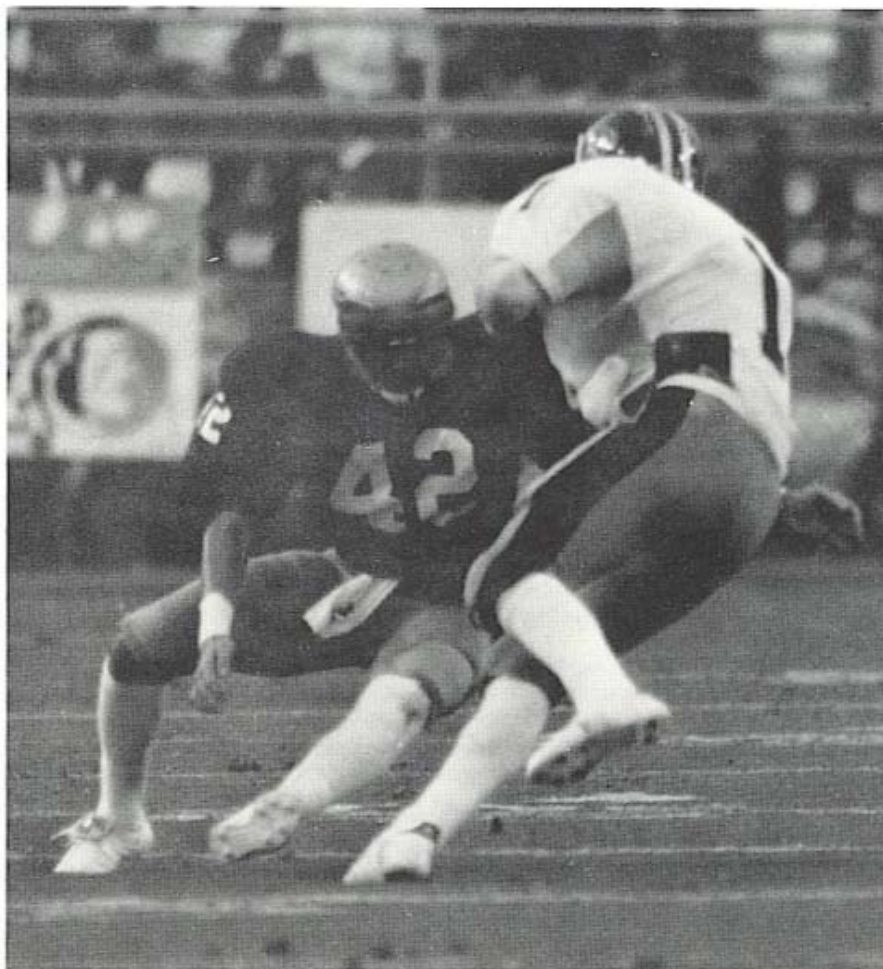
Bonasorte. After the exchange, FSU managed to move the ball to the Tech 27 but Paul Davis, who had three for the afternoon, intercepted a Jordan pass in the end zone.

"Since I've been here, either the offense or defense has been better than the other," says Butler. "Last year, it was all offense. The year before, my freshman year, we went to the Tangerine Bowl with a real strong defense."

How good FSU's defense can be is another question. While Bowden talks on about their early season accomplishments, several players feel it may even get better.

"Coach Bowden coaches the team," says Simmons, the game's defensive MVP. "But I'm out there every day with these guys. So I know if we're playing up to our potential."

"He means well, but we didn't play up to our potential today. Nothing against Virginia Tech or these other people. I just think that come another two or three weeks we should be peaking." 



Defense Keys 27-0 Louisville win

By **BILL BUCHALTER**

Orlando Sentinel Star Associate Sports Editor

LOUISVILLE — Florida State calls it M*A*S*H.

Louisville didn't find the football show a bit funny.

Saturday night, some 27,306 chilled Fairground Stadium fans watched FSU mash the Red Rage 27-0.

First the Seminole defense mached 'em. Then the Seminole running game mached 'em.

The result was a 5-0 record and protection of the lofty national rankings (9th in AP, 10th in UPI).

Despite the perfect record, it was an imperfect victory made easy by two blocked punts and a misplayed center snap from punt formation. Those three Louisville errors converted into a touchdown and two safeties. More than enough for the vaunted Seminole defense which limited the Cardinals to just seven yards rushing and 93 total yards.

And blessed with an early lead, FSU turned offensively conservative, relied on the run and never gave any indication that it ever lost control of the scrimmage line and the game.

"Yes," agreed Bobby Bowden, the happy Seminole boss. "It was a conservative game by FSU standards. But the way the defense is playing, it is to our benefit to control the ball. It is difficult to go 80 yards against our defense. Tonight it was difficult to go eight yards."

Louisville's Vince Gibson was in agreement. "We didn't execute very well, but Florida State was the reason for that. They made us look real bad with their excellent all-around play.

"Florida State reminded me of the Pittsburgh team we faced the year they went on and won the national championship. They are an excellent football team in all areas — defense, passing, running, kicking. They are superb."

Gibson's comments show statistics sometimes tell tall tales. FSU tried only 15 passes and few downfield. Wally Woodham and Jimmy Jordan completed but eight for 60 yards. But the Seminoles hammered out 275 rushing yards.

"Florida State was much better than I thought they would be," continued Gibson, "especially in their running game. We knew how good they were passing the ball but never dreamed they could mount the running attack they did. They certainly showed me tonight they could play with anyone."

FSU offensive coordinator George Henshaw explained the Seminoles played their mash offense for two reasons: to wear Louisville down and because the defense had already built an early lead.

"You know," said Henshaw, "people



think we're crazy. We run against Miami, pass against Virginia Tech, then run against Louisville. But I think that's the sign of a good team to do what it takes to win."

For Bowden, that means defense first.

Bobby Butler intercepted a Stu Stram pass in the first period after Monk Bonasorte crashed into the intended receiver and the ball bounced free. Butler gave the offense the ball at the 30-yard line and Woodham directed a seven-play scoring drive.

A 15-yard Woodham-to-Gator Cherry pass plus three Cherry runs moved the ball to the five where Woodham hit Sam Platt for the touchdown.

Then came the first of the three punt misplays.

Dave Betz let the center snap slip through his hands and he retrieved it in the end zone for a safety.

Then after FSU let several offensive opportunities slip away and Cappelen missed a 29-yard field goal, Rohn Stark dropped a punt on the Louisville six. On fourth down, Edenbur Richardson blocked Betz' punt and Butler recovered in the end zone for a touchdown and 15-0 halftime advantage.

Early in period three, Scott Warren crashed into a Betz punt and the ball caromed out of the end zone for still another safety.

Woodham directed a 56-yard scoring drive

following the free kick. FSU mached the ball 12 times in the 13-play drive before Woodham fired a one-yard scoring pass to sophomore tight end Sam Childers. Mark Lyles, who rushed for 118 yards, and Gator Cherry, who compiled 80, alternated ball-carrying roles in this drive.

Cappelen added a 36-yard field goal to conclude the scoring and his two PATs increased his consecutive streak to 19.

Louisville mounted three threats against the fired up Seminole defense. The Red Rage started at the 35 on a fumble recovery, moved to the FSU 28 after a second fumble recovery and managed a first-and-goal at the eight with time running out.

They came up empty handed all three times. A sack by Ron Simmons, an interception by Keith Jones and a harrasing pass rush forcing three incompleions were the keys to stopping the Rage.

Bowden enjoyed that one which gave FSU nine straight wins over two seasons, a feat FSU fans haven't seen since the 1949-1950-1951 pre-big time era.

He liked the way FSU mached. "I really can't recall a game where our defense hit better than they did tonight," he said. "Also, our offensive line really did a job knocking them off the ball."

FSU is still unbeaten

By TOM EDDRINGTON
Tampa Tribune Sports Writer

TALLAHASSEE — Florida State's defensive unit grabbed the Mississippi State wishbone offense at both ends, tugged furiously for four quarters and by game's end Saturday night, left the Bulldog runners bruised and beaten.

Unbeaten and untied FSU racked up its sixth straight win, primarily on the muscle of its defense, ranked fourth best in the nation. The score of this Seminole victory was 17-6 with only a dying-quiver drive by Mississippi State in the final two minutes costing the shutout that the big-play defense sought all night.

"I am not nervous," FSU Coach Bobby Bowden said as he watched his team warm up. And he had reason to feel more at ease — there was a record Doak Campbell crowd of 48,701 ready to cheer his team on.

"I want to pass more, say 60-40, running to passing," Bowden said. And that his team did. "We will throw many looks at them on defense, I figure we can shut them down, especially passing."

And that FSU did. The Bulldogs did not complete a pass until the final quarter and in the three periods prior to it, FSU battered the Bulldog quarterback and running backs again and again, leaving no fewer than nine MSU players lying on the turf at various times.

So solid was the defense that FSU needed just a short performance from its offense. That performance was short indeed — both TDs came in the second quarter — the first on a 1-yard plunge by reserve fullback Mike Whiting and the second on a 17-yard touchdown pass from Jimmy Jordan to Jackie Flowers.

The other Seminole score came on a 46-yard field goal by Davey Cappelen in the third period.

MSU had no scoring chances in the first half. The Bulldogs never made it into Seminole territory.

They had chances in the third quarter, two of them, but four turnovers quashed any hopes the Bulldogs had for an upset.

Once MSU drove to the FSU 10 in the third period, only to have defensive back Bobby Butler intercept a Dwayne Brown pass in the end zone.

Late in the period, James Otis Doss appeared headed for paydirt from 34 yards out. Keith Jones hit him at the FSU 2, he fumbled the ball into the end zone and Edenbur Richardson recovered it for the Seminoles. Only a 69-yard drive in the dying minutes prevented the shutout. Substitute quarterback Gary Schaffhauser hit Mardye McDole with a 17-yard pass then Fred Collins with a 33-yard screen that

went to the FSU 19. Schaffhauser then carried to the 3 and two plays later Mike Had-dix scored from there.

But beaten badly was MSU. Doss was knocked out with a concussion and Don Ray King, another running back, was knocked out of action.

In all, it was only close in the opening period, when Mississippi State fought to a scoreless standoff with the Seminoles.

With the vocal crowd ready for plenty of action from the Seminoles, FSU disappointed its partisans early. Indeed, there was no evidence of any Seminole domination in the opening quarter.

For both teams, it was mostly chorus line football — one-two-three kick.

Along with the no-action offense, there was other cause for concern in the FSU ranks.

Running back Gator Cherry left the game after the first series when his ankle was stepped on. More sweat came from the wearers of Garnet and Gold when Woodham was shaken up after the second FSU series and left the game with 4:50 to play in the first quarter.

Although FSU experienced little success, Mississippi State's offense did no better against the quick FSU defenders.

The Seminoles got things moving in their direction early in the second period when Monk Bonasorte recovered a fumble by running back Stanley Howell at the MSU 32.

Jordan moved his team to the MSU 19 with a 15-yard pass to Flowers the big play. But there, Mississippi State got tough, pushed the Seminoles back and Dave Cappelen was wide right on a third field goal attempt with 10:24 left in the half.

Although let down by the miss, FSU fans had no idea of what was to follow.

On second-and-five from the MSU 25, quarterback Dwayne Brown broke up the right sideline and went 60 yards to the FSU 15. But one of his offensive linemen was caught moving before the snap and the play was called back, a big break for FSU.

Inspired, the FSU defenders held and a 33-yard punt by Dana Moore put FSU in business on the MSU 44 with 8:16 in the half.

Jordan and the FSU offense immediately came to life.

Whiting carried twice for 11 yards then Jordan hit Flowers at MSU 23. After a sneak for the first down, FSU was hammering on the touchdown door at the MSU 22.

On first-and-10, Jordan dropped back and fired long to Flowers in the right corner of the end zone. Strong safety Rob Fesmire was called for pass interference, giving FSU the ball at the 1. Two plays later, Whiting scored and Cappelen added his 200th career point to give the Seminoles a 7-0

lead with 5:40 until intermission.

The big breaks went to FSU, but the Seminoles were not through.

Their defense got the ball back for them and after a 32-yard punt, FSU started from its own 37 with a little less than three minutes to go.

An 18-yard pass to Whiting, a 14-yard Jordan scramble then a 17-yard pass to tight end Grady King put the ball at the MSU 11 with 32 seconds left.


Two plays lost back to the 17 and on third down just 20 seconds left, Jordan lofted an alley-oop pass to Flowers in the right corner of the end zone. Somehow, the talented receiver beat MSU cornerback Willie Jackson for the TD, Cappelen added the conversion and the Seminoles were sitting pretty at the half, on their way to victory No. 6.

Bowden's only fear in this game was a possible letdown.

"I saw how Tennessee let down against Mississippi and that's the only thing that worries me," Bowden said just prior to the kickoff.

"I've preached all week to avoid a letdown. I want our letdown to come next Saturday."

Next Saturday, FSU is assured of a day without a loss.

The Seminoles play no one. 



HEAVEN: FSU wins the big one

By RAY HOLLIMAN

St. Petersburg Times Staff Writer

BATON ROUGH, La. — Jimmy Jordan started his first game of the season for Florida State Saturday afternoon because coach Bobby Bowden spotted some weaknesses in the Louisiana State secondary.

And Jordan made his coach look like a genius, throwing for 312 yards and three touchdowns as the Seminoles beat LSU 24-19 in what had been termed the most important game in school history.

It was the seventh straight win this season for the Seminoles, their 11th over a two-season span and should improve their national rankings of seven (United Press International) and eight (Associated Press).

The victory also enables Florida State to be considered a prospect for a major bowl bid. Saturday's regionally televised game was played before scouts from nine of the post-season bowls, including the Sugar and the Orange.

"I think we established ourselves today," said Bowden. "It isn't easy to win down here, and I'm suspecting now that we are good enough to be ranked in the top five."

Bowden said he decided Monday to start Jordan, who has played almost equal amounts of time with Wally Woodham this season but who had not started a game.

"Jimmy doesn't get excited," said Bowden, referring to the legendary crowd noise at Tiger Stadium. "Nothing bothers him, plus he's been a good TV player. We decided to go with the strong arm, and Jimmy is the one with the strongest arm."

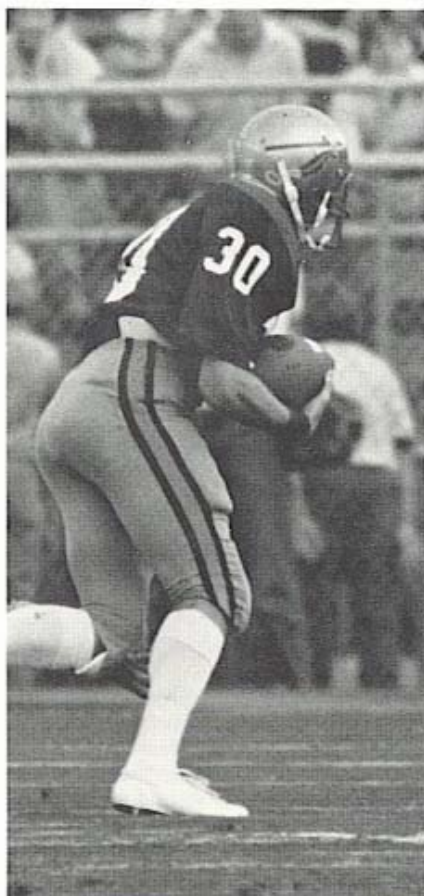
Jordan's assignment was to exploit the LSU secondary, which Bowden believed played aggressively enough and close enough to the line of scrimmage for the Seminoles to get their receivers deep.

Of the 14 passes Jordan completed in 31 attempts, most were thrown deep. The first touchdown pass to Platt was only a three-yarder, but the other two were bombs of 53 yards to Hardis Johnson and 40 yards to Jackie Flowers.

But it still took a 31-yard field goal by David Cappelen, who had missed an easy 27-yarder in the first half, to clinch the victory for the Seminoles. After Cappelen's kick made the score 24-13, Louisiana State came back with a rapid-fire touchdown drive, led by the passing of Steve Ensminger, who completed four for 68 yards as LSU scored one minute and 27 seconds after Cappelen's field goal.

Florida State's mission then was to waste as much as possible of the final 3:17. The Seminoles picked up two crucial first downs on a 30-yard Jordan pass to Flowers and a 28-yard run by Mark Lyles on a Statue-of-Liberty play.

By the time LSU got the ball back for



one final desperate attempt, only 17 seconds remained, and Monk Bonasorte ended it by intercepting Ensminger's long throw to Carlos Carson. It was the second interception of the day for Bonasorte, and he also had a fumble recovery.

Florida State got a break on LSU's second offensive play when Jude Hernandez fumbled and Bonasorte recovered at the LSU 32.

Jordan completed a 25-yard pass to Flowers at the nine on a third-and-12 play, and three plays later, he threw short to Platt cutting across the middle of the end zone from three yards out. With just over three minutes elapsed, FSU had the lead.

It looked as if the lead would be expanded when Florida State drove from its 28 to the LSU 10, the big play coming on a 44-yard pass to Flowers. But the drive stalled and Cappelen came on to try what, for him, should have been an automatic field goal. But it just missed to the right.

That was a signal that things were about to go wrong for the Seminoles. They are backed up to their eight on a punt, couldn't get out of the hole. Then they were burned by a 44-yard punt return by Chris Williams that gave LSU the ball at the FSU five. Tail-

back Hokie Gajan scored from the one on third down to tie the score with 13:55 left in the half.

Then Louisiana State took 10 plays to drive 55 yards for the go-ahead TD as Gajan led a strong running game that seemed to befuddle FSU's No. 5 nationally ranked defense. Sub quarterback David Woodley scored on a keeper from the two, and suddenly things were looking dim for the Seminoles.

The offense ran four series with but one first down, and the defense missed tackles as it has rarely done all season.

But the big break, perhaps the biggest of the game, came with a minute and a half to go in the second quarter. That's when Jesse Myles, with LSU in possession at the FSU 46, fumbled after being hit by Mike Macek and Scott McLean recovered for the Seminoles at their 47.

At that point, it seemed that FSU would be lucky to go into the half trailing by only a touchdown, but one play later they were ahead. Jordan dropped back, spotted Johnson running a couple of steps ahead of Williams and hit him with a perfectly thrown 53-yard TD pass. Cappelen's extra point gave the Seminoles a 14-13 lead.


In the second half, the defense recovered. "We were missing too many tackles in the first half," said Bowden, "and I think that was our problem. We talked to them at the half and maybe made a couple of adjustments and the defense played great in the second half."

LSU's rushing game had accounted for 139 yards at halftime, but could gain only 38 more in the second half. Gajan was limited to just 23 yards after an 85-yard first half.

Part of this could be attributed to the punting of Rohn Stark, who got Florida State out of serious trouble with a 49-yard punt from his own 12 and then rolled the ball dead twice at the LSU six and four yard lines.

Jordan had the Seminoles on the move often during the third quarter, but it wasn't until the first two minutes of the fourth period that he teamed with Flowers on a 37-yard pass play and then found Flowers wide open for the 40-yard TD pass.

A Jordan interception in the end zone cost FSU a chance at a field goal midway through the final quarter, but Lyman White tried to return the interception and got only to the three. FSU held, a punt carried only to the LSU 40 and was returned to the 29 by Gary Henry and this time Florida State managed to get the points it needed on Cappelen's field goal.

It looked like just gravy at the time, but it turned out to be just what the Seminoles needed to escape Tiger Stadium with the biggest win in school history. 

FSU escapes Cincinnati 26-21

By JEFF RUDE

Jacksonville Journal Sports Writer

CINCINNATI — Lazarus has company. Florida State University's Seminoles, like the biblical character, rose from the dead here Saturday, and the guardian angels who rolled away the stones from the tomb of defeat were fullback Mark Lyles, quarterback Wally Woodham, and a bevy of desperate defenders.

Television's Lazarus Syndrome doesn't dare compare with this FSU resurrected version, either in terms of ratings or arousal. What was to be a rout was a rocky 26-21 comeback victory for the sixth-rated Seminoles over a determined University of Cincinnati Bearcat team that carried a 21-7 lead into the fourth quarter.

"I had a great alibi ready," FSU Coach Bobby Bowden said after his team scored three quick final-period touchdowns. "Then those crazy guys went out and won the game."

Those were the same crazy guys who appeared to be choking on an orange — until the final burst provided Seminoles with an 8-0 record and continuing hope for a bid to a major bowl game and with their 11th straight victory over two seasons and 29th win in their last 34 games.

"They're still a very serious part of our plan," Orange Bowl scout Ben Benjamin, one of two Miami representatives present, said. "This doesn't scare us. They showed a lot of character. They were beaten in the third quarter. But this is a team. I've made the comment Florida State is going to a major bowl. I still say it."

FSU's players, however, reacted in the middle quarters as if they didn't want to go to any bowl. Cincinnati scored on each of its three possessions, especially after they intercepted a Jimmy Jordan pass at their own 30 and recovered a Lyles fumble at their own 11 in the third quarter.

But someone, somewhere, they decided to insert last season's script, which also produced an identical 26-21 win in a comeback manner.

Last year Sam Platt caught a 54-yard bomb with 1:29 left for the victory.

This time, it was an 8-yard run off right tackle by tailback Mike Whiting that produced the winning points with 1:38 left before a Nippert Stadium turnout of 14,539.

Whiting's winner, however, was set up by the game's most significant plays. Sophomore Gary Henry returned a punt 38 yards behind a wall left to the Cincinnati 40, and one play later Woodham threw a swing pass to Lyles, who trampled 31 yards to the nine.

"They set up a wall on that long punt return," said Bearcat Coach Ralph Staub, "and I'd have to say that was the turning



point of the game."

Touchdown drives covering 51 yards on 17 plays and 65 yards on 10 plays in the final quarter put FSU in winning position.

Woodham directed both, and found the best way to the end zone was giving the ball to Lyles, who had 234 total yards. The big fullback from Buffalo rushed 29 times for 142 yards and one TD and caught seven passes for 92 yards and another score.

Lyles also fumbled twice, mistakes which he said sparked his performance down the stretch.

The first fourth-quarter drive included two clutch fourth-down conversions — a 12-yard Woodham pass to Phil Williams on fourth-and-3 from the Bearcat 37 and a 2-yard Lyles run on fourth-and-one from the Cincinnati 10. Lyles then scored on a third-and-goal play from the 7. He grabbed a lob pass from Woodham at the 10 and knocked over four defenders to gain the final 5 yards.

Keith Kennedy, though, dropped a two-point pass attempt off a fake kick, and FSU was behind 21-13 with 10:57 left.

A 21-yard Woodham-to-Lyles swing pass, however, pushed the Seminoles to the Cincinnati 44 on the next possession and Whiting followed immediately with a 14-yard run. This drive also included a gutsy fourth-down conversion when, with 10 yards to go, Woodham connected with Hardis Johnson over the middle at the 16 with a 14-yard pass.

A 5-yard Woodham lob pass to Jackie Flowers, who was just inbounds in the end zone's deepright corner, put FSU two behind, 21-19. A Whiting run for two and a tie fell short.

"I was definitely sweating," Bowden said.

The sweat, however, was wiped away by Henry's return and the subsequent winning drive.

Woodham, who replaced Jordan on the third series of the second half, completed eight of 13 passes for 111 yards and two TD's. Jordan, who engineered last week's 24-19 win over LSU while Woodham watched, hit seven of 11, but for only 57 yards and with one interception. "We won the first and fourth quarters and they won the in-between," said Bowden, whose team's first-quarter TD, on a 40-yard running drive, was set up by Francis "Monk" Bonasorte's eighth interception on the third play of the game.

"We're just lucky to have two quarterbacks," the coach said. "We couldn't have won with only one of them."

Placekicker Davy Cappelen, for one, said he wasn't expecting to win with two of them. Afterwards, relieved with the pulsating comeback while walking into the dressing room, Cappelen said to a fellow player: "I never thought we were going to win."

Woodham, however, never lost hope.

"I thought we could win if we executed perfectly at the end," Woodham said. "And that's what we did. I think we showed a lot of character."

Another second-half insert was nose-guard Ron Simmons, who sat out the first half because of a sprained left wrist. His presence — plus one sack — aided the defense which was flat in the second quarter. "Our defense was different with him in there," Bowden said. "He really played."

His teammates did, too — but only when they had to.

"It's amazing," Bowden said. "But this team just does what it has to. Each group pitched in. We needed a punt return and got it. We needed a run, and Lyles got it."

It was all needed because Cincinnati (2-6), which had no first downs and only 14 total yards on four first-quarter possessions, produced three second-quarter scores. They were all keyed by quarterback Tony Kapetanis of Coral Springs, who threw a 15-yard TD to Ralph Williams and scored two himself on runs of 1 and 9 yards.

"I was alarmed," Bowden said. "It gets tight no matter who we play. We could play a high school team and it'd be tight."

"But it's the win that counts. I'm sure they (bowl scouts from the Orange and Gator bowls) were not impressed. But if we go 11-0 and nobody wants me, that's okay because I'll take 11-0."



Seminoles bowl over S.C., 27-7

By **DON GREENBERG**

Miami Herald Sports Writer

TALLAHASSEE — Improving its record to 9-0 and enhancing its prospects for a major-bowl bid, seventh-ranked Florida State knocked the socks off the Gamecocks of South Carolina, 27-7, Saturday night before a record crowd of 49,490 Homecoming fans at Doak Campbell Stadium.

"Probably the best game we've played this year," beamed FSU Coach Bobby Bowden, whose team increased its two-year winning streak to 13 straight.

It was indeed. With Wally Woodham and Jimmy Jordan directing the offense, the Seminoles were in control for four quarters. They made just one mistake — allowing tailback George Rogers to rip off an 80-yard touchdown run — but it proved inconsequential.

"This was our best team effort of the year — no question about it," said FSU nose guard Ron Simmons, who helped limit South Carolina, ranked 19th, to 51 yards passing and nine first downs.

"I have to say that for the first time this season, I'm satisfied."

FSU scored on four field goals by Dave Cappelen, including a 51-yarder, and registered its two TDs on a one-yard run by fullback Mark Lyles on its opening series and on a seven-yard pass from Jordan to Sam Childers in the fourth quarter.

"It feels real good," Bowden said of FSU's 9-0 record. "I was mighty scared after last week [a 26-21 escape from Cincinnati]. I know that people don't go undefeated any more. Someone's always waiting to knock you off."

Those conducting a death watch for the Seminoles probably will have to wait at least a week, though, with unimpressive Memphis State (4-5) coming to town next Saturday night.

"Hopefully, we'll get into one of the major bowls," Woodham said. "We've had a lot of lucky breaks this year. We haven't been hurt by a lot of injuries."

"Yep, I guess we've been real lucky."

South Carolina (6-3) wasn't beset by bad

luck Saturday night — the Gamecocks just got whopped.

"What can I say — it was obvious," said FSU linebacker Reggie Herring. "It was our greatest effort of the year, and it came just at the right time."

"We just let 'em have that one play; then they got nothing. We just hit the hell out of 'em."

Herring won't get an argument from S.C. Coach Jim Carlen.

"I thought we got whipped real good," he said. "Florida State is a deserving football team. They are the best team we've faced this season. I said that before the game, and I still believe it."

"I give them a lot of credit. Bobby has done a heck of a job here. They were charged up to play tonight."

Making effective use of the short pass, Woodham shedded South Carolina in the first half as the Seminoles surged to a 16-7 lead.

With the Gamecock linebackers dropping deep to defense the bomb, Woodham continually connected with Lyles and half-back Mike Whiting in propelling FSU to four scoring drives, three resulting in field goals.

"I felt like we could nickel-and-dime them to death," Bowden said of his game plan. "We knew they were waiting for the long ball, so we just threw junk."

Woodham agreed, saying he took what the Gamecocks would give. "Their linebackers just turned and ran when I dropped back," he said. "I guess they were worried about us burning 'em deep, but we hurt 'em pretty bad with the short stuff."

The Seminoles opened by bullying South Carolina halfway to Florida A&M, rolling to a TD on an 82-yard march in 13 plays, capped by Lyles' plunge. Highlighting the drive were passes of 16 and 19 yards to Whiting and a 12-yarder to Lyles. The big play, though, was a 15-yard strike to Jackie Flowers when Woodham was faced with third and 14 at South Carolina's 25.

Rogers fumbled the second time he had the ball, and Scott Warren recovered at the Gamecock 28. Woodham was unable to

move FSU into the end zone, so Cappelen booted an 18-yard field goal with 5:31 left in the opening quarter to boost FSU's lead to 10-0.

Unable to move again, South Carolina put FSU in the hole with a punt into the end zone. The Seminoles had to start at their 10 because of an illegal block, but, no sweat, they motored 90 yards on 11 plays to register another Cappelen field goal, this one a 29-yarder.

Lyles ripped off gains of 26 and 15 yards to put FSU in position for the 13-0 lead with 13:45 left in the half.

Then, quicker than you could say "South Carolina's out of it," Rogers tore off right tackle on his TD run with 15:35 left in the half. Eddie Leopard's conversion cut FSU's lead to 13-7.

Two possessions later, the Seminoles seemed in great shape with a first down at South Carolina's 29 after a 16-yard punt by Jay Feltz. But they moved backward on off-sides and holding penalties and seemed out of field-goal range.

But not out of Cappelen's range. He booted a low liner 51 yards, the second-longest in FSU history, to propel FSU to a 16-7 lead with 5:51 left in the half.

The Seminoles then forced South Carolina quarterback Garry Harper, a Miami Lakes High graduate, to fumble when the Gamecocks were threatening at FSU's 21 with less than a minute left in the half.

Statistically, the Seminoles ran roughshod over South Carolina in the first half, gaining 264 yards in total offense to South Carolina's 156 in the first half. Rogers had 127 of those yards on 11 carries. Lyles led FSU runners with 87 yards on 14 first-half carries. Woodham completed 15 of 25 attempts for 145 yards.

After that exciting first half, both teams got a bit conservative in the third period and seemed content to wage a punting war. South Carolina punted five times, FSU three. Neither was able to move within field-goal range.

Probably the most noteworthy events of the third quarter were the quarterback changes. Jordan came in for Woodman midway through the period, and threw an interception. Scott Beckham replaced Harper late in the quarter but was unable to generate any sort of offense.

The fourth quarter was a different story, though, as Jordan engineered a 75-yard touchdown drive, capping the 11-play drive with the seven-yarder to Childers.

After the TD, Jordan passed to Childers for the two-point conversion to pad FSU's lead to 24-7 and put the game out of reach.

Still, FSU wasn't through. The Seminoles recovered a Gamecock fumble after the ensuing kickoff and Cappelen capped the scoring with a 27-yard field goal.



66-17! Seminoles slaughter Tigers

By RAY HOLLIMAN

St. Petersburg Times Staff Writer

TALLAHASSEE — Florida State spent one quarter celebrating its upcoming Orange Bowl trip Saturday night before getting its mind back on matters of immediate importance.

Then the Seminoles exploded in Memphis State's face, humiliating the Tigers 66-17 for their 10th consecutive victory of this season and their 14th in a row over a two-year span.

For fifth-ranked FSU, it was the second-highest point total in school history, surpassed only in a 74-0 trouncing of Whiting Field in 1949 when the program was still considered small-college.

At the end of one quarter, 4-6 Memphis State was in a 3-3 tie, and it sounded funny when Florida State coach Bobby Bowden said later, "I thought we might get beat."

But Bowden was serious. "I mean it," he said. "I think we had our minds on other things in that first quarter; then we started throwing and catching."

As it was, the Orange Bowl, which had extended Florida State its first "Big Four" bowl invitation ever a few hours earlier, left Doak Campbell Stadium happy.

"I think the Orange Bowl should be happy," said Bowden. "Tonight, we did what we did best, and, as hot as we were, we could have gotten more."

Bowden said he was confident prior to the game that Florida State would turn in an impressive performance. "There was no reason not to play well," he said. "We got the big bowl bid we wanted, and that was all behind us. But in that first quarter, I said, 'Uh, oh.'"

Dave Cappelen kicked a 20-yard field goal to give FSU a 3-0 lead after the Seminoles' first offensive series, but this was offset by a 23-yarder by Memphis State's Rusty Bennett, the result of Michael Thompson's interception of a Jimmy Jordan pass and a 31-yard run by Leo Cage.

But Jordan threw 24 yards to wide receiver Jackie Flowers, who caught 11 passes for 117 yards in the first half, to give the Seminoles the lead again midway through the second quarter, and then Florida State all but clinched the game with a flurry of points in the final minute of the half.

Jordan threw another scoring pass, this one four yards to Hardis Johnson, with 45 seconds left. Mike Smith gave the Seminoles the ball again when he recovered a short, pop-fly kickoff at the Memphis State 29. Jordan threw 17 yards to Flowers, Memphis State drew a penalty for pass interference that put the ball at the five, and Jordan hit Grady King with a five-yard scoring pass with 18 seconds remaining to give

FSU a 24-3 halftime lead.

If that didn't clinch the victory, a play by linebacker Paul Piurowski on the Tigers' first series of the second half did. On Memphis State's fifth play, Piurowski intercepted a pass from Kevin Betts and returned it 29 yards for a touchdown. When sub quarterback Wally Woodham directed a 77-yard touchdown drive in seven plays the next time Florida State had the ball, the rout was on. Woodham set up that score with a 24-yard pass to Phil Williams, who made a diving catch at the one. Mark Lyles smashed over on the next play.


Bobby Butler and Keith Jones combined for the next score halfway through the third quarter when Butler blocked Hugh Owens' punt and Jones picked it up and sauntered 16 yards for a touchdown.

Woodham stayed around to get one more score, sending Ricky Williams eighty yards after FSU got excellent field position on

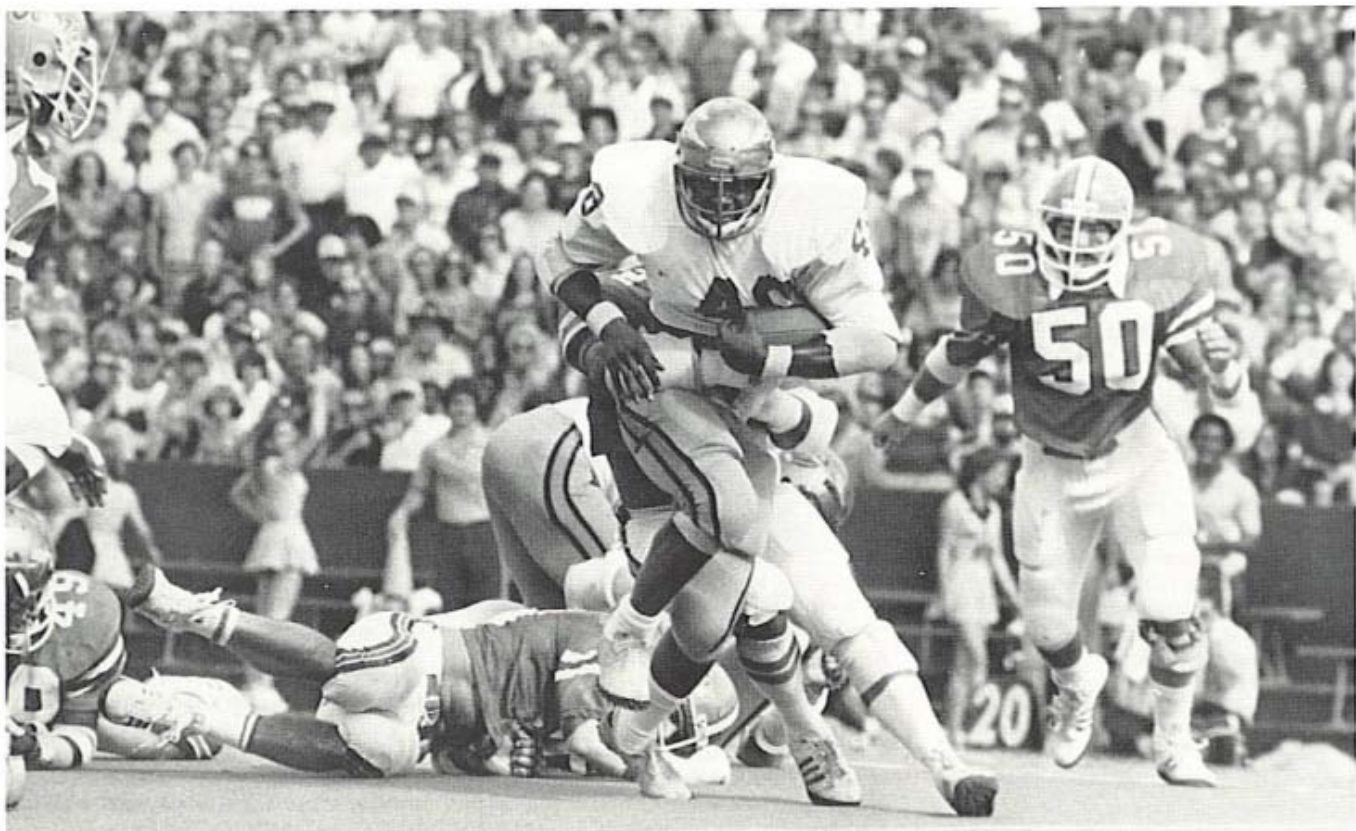
Gary Henry's 32-yard punt return to the Memphis State 20.

Then Rick Stockstill, the third-stringer who has played in only a few series all year, came on with virtually an all-freshman lineup and quarterbacked the Seminoles on TD drives of 62 and 61 yards. Stockstill set up the first with a 35-yard completion to Dennis McKinnon and teamed with Bill Keck on a 23-yarder to put the Seminoles into position for the final score.

Florida State piled up a massive 525 yards of total offense, 347 of this coming through the air, while the defense was limiting Memphis State to only 239 yards. Much of this came late in the game after Bowden began wholesale substitutions.

"That was nice," said star nose guard Ron Simmons of the first-stringers' rest in the second half. "I kind of enjoyed it, sitting back and watching the game just like the fans were." 





Oklahoma outruns FSU in O.B.

BY BILL BUCHALTER

Associate Sports Editor

MIAMI — Julius Caesar Watts divided Florida State's defense into three parts Tuesday night.

The slick Oklahoma quarterback ran past FSU's linebackers for a 61-yard touchdown. He pitched out to Billy Sims on a brilliant downfield execution for a 34-yard scoring play. He faked the Seminoles outside and handed off to Stanley Wilson inside for a five-yard TD.

The result was a convincing 24-7 Sooner thumping of the Seminoles in the Orange Bowl to end a Cinderella season.

Oklahoma's greyhound-swift defenders harassed FSU's tandem quarterbacks Wally Woodham and Jimmy Jordan, forcing them to overthrow much of the game.

Yet, for 17 minutes, it looked as though the Seminoles would continue the miracle of 1979.

They took a 7-0 lead, had an opportunity to double it — but failed. Momentum swung toward Oklahoma on the flying feet of Watts who was named the game's most valuable offensive player. Bud Hebert, who intercepted three passes, earned the defensive honors.

Before the game, FSU Coach Bobby Bowden had expressed concern about Oklahoma's speed. It turned to reality as the Sooners closed down the Seminole offense in the final three periods.

FSU wound up its finest season at 11-1 while Oklahoma matched it with its victory.

For seven FSU seniors who began a comeback four years ago at Norman, it was a repeat of that begi...ng when Oklahoma won 24-9.

As anticipated, it began with an unusual note. Basil Banks raced 59 yards with a Rohn Stark punt all the way to the FSU 10-yard line but fumbled into the end zone when hit by Scott Warren.

Edenbur Richardson claimed the ball for FSU and it was just like the game had started anew from the 20. An exchange of possessions later, FSU marched to its first touchdown.

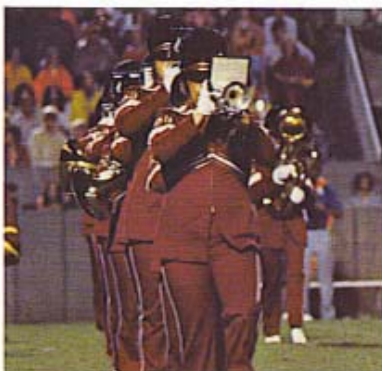
Jordan challenged the swift Sooner secondary with intermediate routes and Mark Lyles ground out 22 yards against the middle of the Sooner line.

It was a 13-play drive of intricate beauty.

From the Oklahoma 15, Jordan lobbed one toward the end zone corner and interference was ruled when Jim Jimerson ran into FSU's Jackie Flowers going for the ball.

From the one, Mike Whiting powered into the end zone and Dave Cappelen booted the seventh point. FSU held the ball for 5:08 and it was 7-0 with 3:24 remaining in period one.

Now, FSU was on the verge of dominat-



ing. Bobby Butler blocked Mike Keeling's punt and Keith Jones finally claimed it at the 17. Jordan and Grady King teamed up for a first down at the six-yard line. Then came confusion, mistakes and change of momentum.

FSU was penalized for delay of game on third-and-two from the two-yard line. So Jordan found Hardis Johnson at the goal line. The freshman caught the ball, squirmed for the end zone, appeared to penetrate the plane, then lost the ball, FSU recovering around the four.

The closest official signaled complete at the one-foot line and the Seminole players yelled to the bench to "go for it."

It was one of those plays with several options. It could have been a touchdown, or FSU's ball at the one or the four.

However, another official overruled the call, and the referee signaled an incomplete pass. It was fourth down from the seven. FSU took a deliberate delay penalty to get a better kicking game angle for Dave Cappelen's field goal.

He never had a chance. Usually reliable Rick Stockstill fumbled the snap and Cappelen picked up the loose ball and was tackled at the 19.

Momentum was swinging.

Billy Sims, held in check at this point, slipped to the outside for 25 yards to the 44. J.C. Watts tossed to James Gilbert for a six-yard loss on second down and it looked like FSU would maintain its poise.

But kaboom. Watts kept on an outside option. Linebacker Reggie Herring was knocked down and nobody was there to contain the Sooner quarterback who broke free for 61 yards and the tying touchdown. Keeling kicked the extra point and it was 7-7 with 11:35 on the second quarter clock.

Momentum had swung.

On the first FSU offensive play following the kickoff, Jordan passed directly into coverage. Bud Hebert intercepted and returned 25 yards to the 10-yard line.

An offside penalty moved it to the five, then Stanley Wilson slipped out of Paul Piurowski's grasp and outran everyone to

the flag for a TD. Keeling kicked it to 14-7 with 10:59 on the clock.

Oh, that momentum.

Stark bobbled the center snap, then shanked a 14-yard punt to the FSU 41. Watt's run moved Oklahoma to the three where the Seminole defense stiffened, forcing Keeling to come on and kick a 24-yard field goal just 3:08 before intermission.

One play prior to the field goal, David Overstreet appeared to fumble with FSU recovering. TV replays showed the apparent fumble, but the officials had ruled the play dead.

Momentum was clearly with the Sooners now as the second half began and Bobby Bowden was trying to figure a way to crank up the offense for a repeat of the first quarter when the Seminoles dominated. Oklahoma scored its two TDs in a lightning one-two knockout punch just 36 seconds apart.

The next 15 minutes proved to be offensively frustrating.

Oklahoma had one penetration into FSU territory erased by a fumble and a second stopped by the Seminole defense.

FSU had its lone excursion into Oklahoma territory eliminated by an overthrown Wally Woodham pass. Jackie Flowers was alone in the middle around the Sooner 30, but the misfire wound up in Hebert's hands at the 21 for his second theft of the evening.

With Watts scooting past the Seminole linebackers for 21 yards, OU reached the FSU 40 before being forced to punt as the final period began.

But Woodham still was having his problems throwing and Stark got off a poor kick which the Sooners fair caught at their own 49.

Then came a comedy of errors.

After Watts teamed with Fred Nixon for 29 yards to FSU's 22, Sims fumbled when hit by Monk Bonasorte and Mark Macek recovered for FSU.

Jordan came back in the game and fired long on first down, but the ever-present Hebert came up with his third interception, this one at the 38.

But on the next play, Overstreet fumbled when tackled by Reggie Herring and Macek claimed it again for the Seminoles.

Jordan drilled a first down pass to Sam Childers at the Oklahoma 49 and FSU was on the move.

There was 9:51 to play and it was fourth-and-four after Sam Platt was nailed on third down for a yard loss on a deep reverse. But Bowden, conservatively, elected to punt and Mike Whiting downed it on the one-yard line.

Wilson bulled the ball out of trouble and Oklahoma appeared on the move once more with the clock winding down.



Simmons protects his real estate

By LARRY GUEST

Sports Editor, Orlando Sentinel Star

Though he is majoring in business administration, one could build a case that Ron Simmons, Florida State's All-America nose guard, has a special interest in real estate.

There are two sections of land particularly important in the life of this 242-pound game breaker. First is the corner of a Georgia cemetery where Ron's mother and grandmother are buried. Those adjacent tombstones have provided Ron with a source of inspiration and an altar of meditation where he has gone to solve many of life's nagging problems.

Second is an area he protects perhaps even more jealously — the vast expanse of turf in the middle of whatever football field upon which his Seminole defense happens to be deployed.

A muscular mongoose with railroad ties hanging where arms normally grow, Ron rules all the terrain between the hash marks. It's an area, when Simmons is on the field, that is identifiable by the dense foliage and the sounds of erotic birds. It's the kind of forbidden territory where a search for downed aircraft is aborted after three days. You don't take a football into Ron's habitat: you take a machete.

The result is that the traffic is heavy near the sidelines while Ron's area in the middle could have pumas roaming loose for all the opposition knows. What is known is that Simmons roams there and that's enough to dust off all your sweeps and reverses and screens and anything designed to route the ball carrier closer to the cheerleaders than Ron.

Confirmation of that theory was provided last September when FSU met powerful Arizona State in a game which, widespread reasoning had it, held the blueprint for the Seminole season. The Sun Devils inexplicably kept running right into Ron's area and he was soon wearing their running backs as watch fobs. By halftime, usually explosive Arizona State was all the way up to minus six yards rushing and FSU was frolicking toward a 31-3 laugher — not to mention a perfect 11-



0 regular season and the school's first-ever New Year's Day bowl bid.

One wonders who films ASU studied in gathering intelligence for that early-season match. Rivals usually need only a few frames of FSU game films to reach a universal conclusion: running into Simmons zone is no more suicidal than skydiving with a pillowcase.

Rain doesn't get past Ron, let alone a full-grown college student dressed in shoulder pads and helmet and double-knits of enemy color. Slipping a lamb-chop past a wolf would be easier.

"That No. 50 ate our lunch," frustrated Arizona State Coach Frank Kush said of Simmons. "I've never seen one man handle an offense like he did. We double-teamed him, we triple-teamed him, we trapped him, we axed him — and he gave us fits."

FSU coach Bobby Bowden's pudgy jowls settle into a nostalgic smile when

he looks back on that game. "Ron probably dominated that game as much as any I've ever seen," he says. "A lot of times, defensive people don't stand out that much, but Ron does."

Simmons combines uncommon quickness with strength that has permitted him to bench press a phenomenal 525 pounds. "He's a mini-atlas," moaned an Oklahoma State offensive lineman following an afternoon of frustration trying to keep Simmons out of the Cowboys' backfield. "No, he's just an Atlas."

Simmons' defensive domination will be even more important this year to FSU, its offensive firepower defused with the graduation loss of heralded quarterback combo Jimmy Jordan and Wally Woodham.

Most credit Bowden with the remarkable reincarnation of Seminole football, but the popular, home-spun coach

points a stubby finger, instead, at Simmons. He compares Simmons' contribution to FSU's football turnaround to that made by Heisman running back Tony Dorsett a few years ago at Pitt.

"I was coaching at West Virginia when Dorsett came on the scene at Pittsburgh. Pitt was able to reach greatness and I don't think they could do that without Tony," says Bowden. "It's been a lot like that here with Simmons. He's turned our program around like Dorsett did at Pitt.

"We're not a one-man defense. But Ron has been the type of big-play man that other teams have had to concentrate on — double team, triple team. And as a result, they've been unable at times to handle our other people.

"Without Ron, something would have been missing."

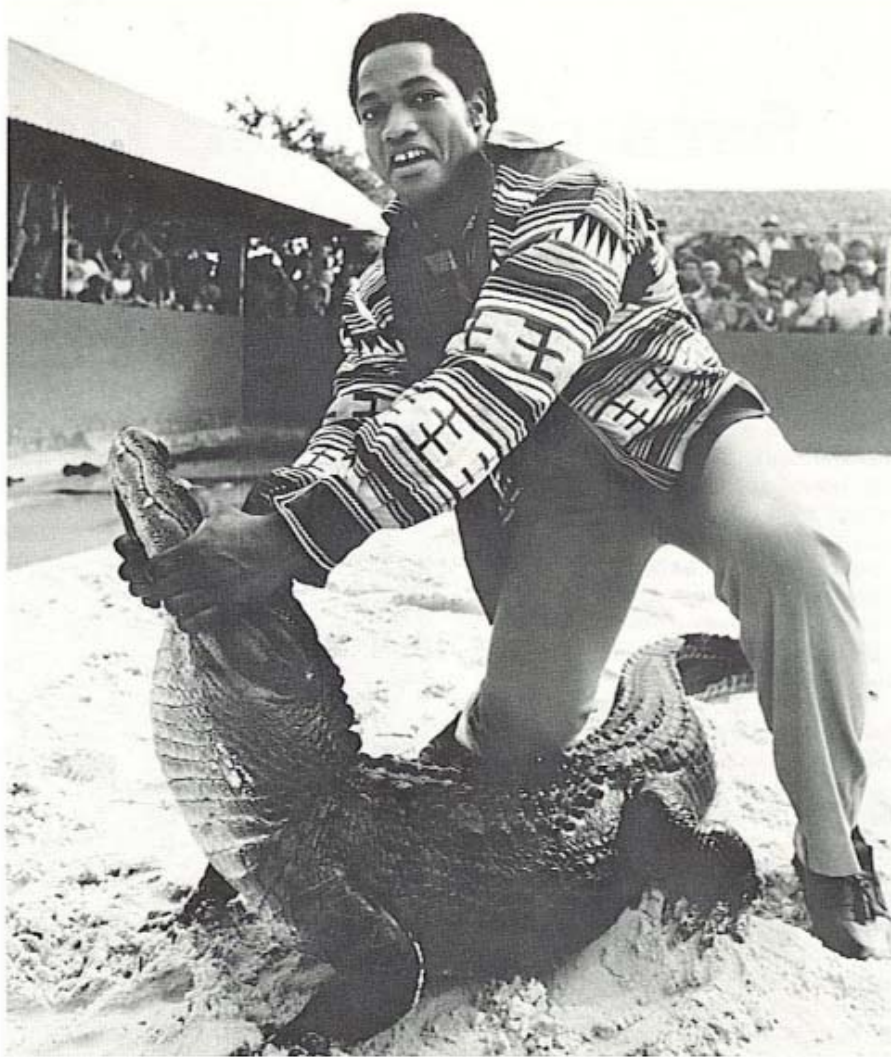
Simmons' impact was felt right from the start. In the 1977 season opener in Ron's freshman year, Florida State was on the verge of an upset at the hands of lightly-regarded Southern Mississippi. But with the Seminoles trailing 6-0 in the second half, Simmons broke through to block a punt that defensive end Scott Warren scooped up and converted into the go-ahead touchdown.

"No doubt," says Bowden, "that being upset by Southern Miss could have gotten things going the wrong way for us." Instead, the Simmons-inspired escape launched a 10-2 season that included a Tangerine Bowl romp over Texas Tech — FSU's first post-season appearance in six years.

It is no minor coincidence that in the four years prior to Simmons' arrival, the Seminoles went 9-35, while in the three campaigns since his arrival the program has flowered to 29-6.

That arrival was made possible by one of Ron's regular visits to the modest cemetery fronting Sand Bed Baptist Church on the outskirts of his native Warner Robins, Ga. Sensitive and deeply religious, he harbors strong binds to his mother, who died when Ron was in junior high, and to his grandmother, who raised him at great personal sacrifice before also dying two years later. In times of personal stress, Ron has routinely made the 12-mile trip across town to stand in front of the two graves and discuss aloud his problems.

"Yes, I've done that often," Ron says proudly. "They meant so much to me, I just get a better, peaceful feeling about things when I go there and talk about it. I was 13 when my mother died and a short time later my father



just split. I don't know where he is and haven't seen him since.

"There were three brothers and three sisters and my grandmother tried to raise us. Then when I was 15, she died and we all had to go separate ways. Some went to live with an aunt in Detroit. My older brother went to a small school in Tennessee and I stayed there in Warner Robins to live with my uncle."

Last winter, Ron tried to find his father while in Hartford, Conn., being honored as a member of the Walter Camp All-American team. He had heard his father lived nearby, but the search proved fruitless. If successful, Simmons said he was unsure whether he would have embraced or abused his runaway father. "I'm not really sure what my reaction would have been," Ron chuckles. "The fact is that I had younger brothers and sisters that had to be fed when he split."

Ron and one of those brothers, John, now a 19-year-old nose guard at

Eastern Michigan visited those special, maternal gravesites in June. "Going there and talking to them doesn't mean as much to John because he grew up in Detroit," says Ron. "But it still means a lot to me."

Those gravesite consultations also played a vital role in Simmons' decision to sign with Florida State. After earning acclaim as Georgia's best schoolboy lineman, the pressures from college recruiters became suffocating. Warner Robins is a hotbed of support for University of Georgia football and a number of local businessmen applied pressure through Ron's uncle to ditch his stated intentions of going to FSU and sign, instead, with the Bulldogs. A midwest school plied this young man of modest means with lucrative, but illegal offers.

Only after repeated "discussions" at the cemetery, standing there in solitude in front of those two cherished tombstones, did Simmons decide to stick with his choice of FSU.

Sims Won't Forget Butler

BY MIKE FISH

Early last summer, after being named to yet another All-America team, Ron Simmons slipped away to Connecticut for the usual coat-and-tie awards ceremony. Charles White, Lam Jones and all the regulars were in attendance. And so too, of course, was Billy Sims of Oklahoma.

A lot had transpired in the long months since the Orange Bowl in Miami, but Sims hadn't forgotten Florida State or its skinny cornerback — No. 21. Bobby Butler? Smooth talking, fleet-footed Bobby Butler?

"I'll never forget that guy, ever," Sims assured Simmons. "He's still on my mind."

Butler looks out of place on the playing field. A smaller man — even bony — among college football's imposing physiques. Stand him alongside Ron Simmons and he looks malnourished. But against Oklahoma, it was Butler who gave the former Heisman Trophy winner his stiffest test.

When Sims skirted to the outside against FSU, Butler was usually there for the tackle. And, as Sims remembers, a constant verbal challenge. It was the great on-the-field debate. Here was Bobby Butler, an unassuming-type, taking on a fellow soon to be the NFL's No. 1 draft pick.

"I was trying to intimidate him, see what kind of a player he was," Butler explains. "I was just so psyched up that I was shooting off at the mouth. He told me I was obnoxious, can you imagine that?"

Unfortunately for the Tallahassee contingent, Sims proved to be everything they said he was: quick, elusive and strong. Yet the 170-pound Butler, as he had all season, waged a battle on every down.

He finished the season with 79 solo tackles — a fair share for any defensive back. It was against Mississippi State All-SEC wide receiver Mardye McDole that Butler — the defender — enjoyed perhaps his best game last fall. McDole, who only a year earlier had burned FSU for two touchdowns and 175 yards, caught two meaningless passes for 25 yards.

Butler's toughest enemy, however, has been injuries. Two years ago, he donned Johnny Unitas-like high tops after injuring his ankle in preseason. It was a lost season.

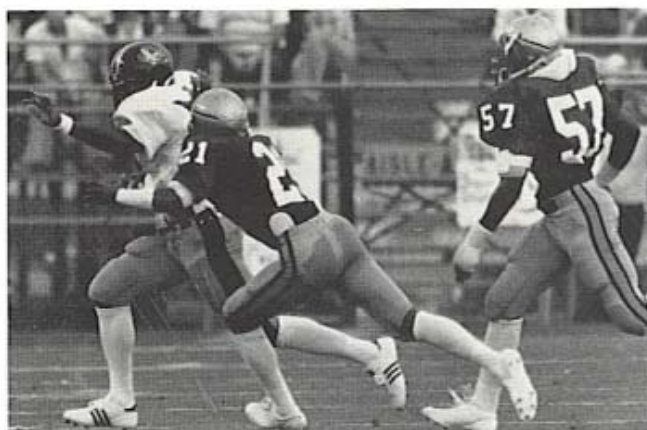
"O! Bobby Butler is deceptive," says FSU coach Bobby Bowden. "He doesn't look like much size-wise, but you know he can get the job done."

This might be a case where physical appearance is misleading. Butler has mimicked his teammates. He's eaten the extra food and religiously made the daily treks to the weight room. But the product has been altered slightly. He's still the slender kid.

It's his foot speed — a team best of 4.33 for 40 yards — that is most responsible for allowing him to survive the weekly football grind. So it wasn't a surprise when last season drew to a close, and Butler decided to put this speed to good use with the Seminole track squad.

In the third meet of the indoor season, Butler leaped 24-5 to capture the long jump at the Metro Conference Championships in Blacksburg, Va. He returned to Tallahassee with both a conference and school-record, and also a painful hamstring pull that would curtail his jumping career.

When the outdoor season rolled around, Butler recuperated well enough to run the lead-leg on FSU's impressive



400-meter relay team. Running with Kevin Johnson, Mike Roberson and Walter McCoy, Butler and FSU placed third (39.1) at the NCAA Championships in Austin, Texas.

"I just figured that this year I'd go out and improve my speed," he says.

Suddenly, in the time required to blaze 100 meters, Bobby Butler had become a two-sport man. No Lam Jones or Curtis Dickey, mind you. But the FSU senior had earned himself another plus with the professional scouts.

"He can run like the devil . . . very, very fast," offers New York Giants general manager George Young. "Just like somebody said to me one time: 'He's not very big but his speed makes him 7-foot tall.' He's one of these guys who can make up for his stature with sheer foot speed.

"If you can run 4.3 that's just unbelievable. The better you play the less weight is a problem. A lot of guys (in the NFL) are listed as being bigger than they actually are."

Like everything, football goes through its cycles. Not too long ago every program in the country seemed intent on incorporating some facet of the wishbone, then it was the veer and more recently college football has rediscovered the passing game.

Woody Hayes recruits one Art Schlichter, and suddenly Ohio State introduces the passing Buckeyes. You can state a case for similar conversions at Wake Forest, Minnesota, Brigham Young and Michigan State. Many of the so-called reborn programs have been successful because of the forward pass.

In professional football, Gil Brandt talks about the quick defensive back. According to Brandt, the Dallas Cowboys personnel director, Butler fits nicely into the new cycle.

"He's only 170 but we're throwing the ball so much that we're looking for a guy who can run with the pass receivers," he says. "If you bring sprinters into the league on offense, it's only logical that it affects who you bring in to cover them.

"You run under 4.5 and you excite me. We're in a passing cycle. Rules have been changed, things like bumping the receiver only once. So you need quicker defensive backs."

Butler, the near constant smile adorning his face, nods his head in an I-told-you-so fashion. Yes truly, Butler possesses something far more rare than brawn and bulk.



'Monk' comes up with key plays

BY GREG LARSON

Florida Times-Union Sportswriter

One could not blame Francis Joseph "Monk" Bonasorte if he were satisfied.

After a solid high school career at Pittsburgh's Bishop Boyle High, a small Class B school, he received no scholarship offers.

Somewhat slow of foot and of questionable size at 180, Bonasorte received word that an Old Pittsburgh area coach, Jack Stanton, was a member of the Florida State staff. After playing a year of sandlot football for the Hazelwood Volunteers, Bonasorte arrived on the FSU campus as a walk-on.

Stanton immediately moved him to the defensive backfield, his area of coaching responsibility. The rest is history. Bonasorte earned a letter as a freshman and started as a sophomore, intercepting three passes. After undergoing knee surgery, he came back to intercept eight passes in 1979, equalling an FSU record.

Third team Associated Press All-America honors also came his way plus a trip to the Orange Bowl via the Seminoles' 11-0 regular season record.

Not bad for a walk-on, somebody who was supposed to be satisfied if he got to suit up for home games and maybe throw a block on the kick return team if the score ever reached 48-0 on Homecoming Day.

"I know a lot of people think I should be satisfied with what I've accomplished and what the team has accomplished," Bonasorte said, "but it can't be that way. Coach (Bobby) Bowden is real big on goals and setting them high.

"Team-wise, the Seminoles were 10th in the nation in total defense in 1979. Bonasorte would like to improve on that ranking and also whittle down the points allowed per game average which was 12.4 in 1979.

"You know, even though we were 11-0 in the regular season and 11-1 overall in 1979, there was still a lot of doubt about whether we deserved to have a record that good," Bonasorte said. "If we can do it again, and that means we'll have to beat Nebraska and Pittsburgh, we could erase all doubts forever. And if we can get the points allowed average down to seven or eight, that would give us an awful good chance of going 11-0 again."

Personally, Bonasorte wants to make a first team All-America unit. "It doesn't matter whose, where it's at, when or why, I just want to be a first team All-America."

Bonasorte doesn't expect the opposition to throw away from his weak safety position because of his reputation.

"First of all, it's going to be very tough to run against us, so the teams are going to have to throw the ball," he said. "If they throw it to Bobby Butler's area, well, he intercepted six passes in 1979 and if they throw it to Keith Jones' area,



well, he'll knock somebody's head off. So I expect to be seeing some passes and if I can intercept a bunch, I should have a good chance to make somebody's first team."

Bonasorte needs just one more interception in 1980 to tie the FSU career record of 12 held by Bobby Jackson. Bowden however, makes the point that Bonasorte's interceptions overshadow his other talents — such as tackling.


"He's played as good as any defensive back in the country, so much of the All-America thing is done with pre-season publicity. Monk comes up with a key play in every game. How many players in the country do that?"

Bonasorte makes up for his lack of speed with loads and loads of homework. He pores over game films of opposing teams and by Saturday, he's in the right place at the right time.

"I know where the ball is and I'm going to get there before the other people," he said. "My speed isn't that great, but I know my way around."

Even though he is in line for lofty collegiate honors during and after this, his senior season, Bonasorte isn't looking for a lucrative professional contract. National Football League scouts, he figures, will opt for the speedy defensive backs.

"It's kind of hard walking on in college, I kind of invited myself," he said, "but it's much tougher to do it in the pros. Everything's so different there. But coming from where I did, I'm not going to go around moping if I don't play pro football. I'll be happy with what I've done. I just can't look past this year. If we get in a big bowl game and win and I make any kind of first team All-America, I'll look on it as a successful career."

That is what it will take to satisfy Monk Bonasorte. 

Lanier hopes to exit in style

By RAY HOLLIMAN

St. Petersburg Times Sports writer

Ken Lanier became a starter in the Florida State offensive line two games into his freshman year, and he admits he was "playing scared."

Four years later, Lanier is a senior — and still a starter. There's nothing to be scared about. Nobody is likely to come up and take his job away.

Yet, Lanier plans to get back to that "playing scared" attitude, because he isn't quite satisfied with his improvement since that freshman year of 1977.

"When I was a freshman, I was more or less scared," Lanier said. "I was more intense then, and I don't think I have had the same intensity since."

"Now I'm a senior, and I know I have to have it now if I'm going to have to go out in style."

Lanier at 6-foot-4, 260 pounds in the picture of an offensive lineman, and his play at tackle is one of the reasons Florida State has gone 29-6 and been to two bowl games in the last three years.

For most of the players who came in under coach Bobby Bowden's regime that started in 1976, last year's 11-0 regular season record was the ultimate.

But, then, Florida State was bounced 24-7 by Oklahoma in the Orange Bowl — FSU's first-ever appearance in one of the big four holiday bowls — and those like Lanier who are coming back realize that the ultimate is yet to come.

"The 11-0 record helped some," said Lanier of Florida State's emergence into college football's national limelight. "But, still, everybody just judges you on your last game."

Such a judgment would not be favorable to Florida State despite the Seminoles' finish solidly in the nation's top ten. And that's why the underclassmen from 1979, like Lanier, think the loss in the Orange Bowl gave them incentive to improve.

"I think the loss to Oklahoma will help this team," said Lanier. "A lot of the players thought Oklahoma was just another team, and we knew in our minds we could have beaten them if we hadn't made a few mistakes."

"We know now we can play that caliber of ball, and this year we have the incentive. We open with LSU, and then we play Pittsburgh and Nebraska (two perennial top 10 teams), and that gives us the feeling of big time ball."

"Any criticism we got for that loss to Oklahoma, we just take that as incentive for this year."

Despite his lack of self-satisfaction, Lanier is one of the favorites of Bowden and his coaching staff. In fact, his lack of self-satisfaction could be one of his greatest assets.

During practice, Lanier constantly questions the quality of his own performance and seeks advice from the coaching staff on how to do his job better.

"For the last two years, I don't think I've been playing up to my capabilities," he said. "You have to keep making adjustments. And last year, I had a few nagging injuries early in the season and that threw me off track a little."



"But I've been working hard in the off-season, and I'm looking forward to a great year. We want to work hard on offense and try to put it together early. I know I can play better, and now it's just a matter of going out and doing it."

Lanier and all the other members of the Seminoles' offensive line face some changes this year.

For the past three years, the linemen's most important job has been to protect drop-back quarterbacks Jimmy Jordan and Wally Woodham.

But those two, with their similar styles that rarely included a scramble, graduated last year, and replacement Rick Stockstill is very different. Stockstill, a good runner, will be relying much more on a running threat to make the offense go, and the offensive line will have to adjust to this more diversified offense.

"We know we can run the ball this year," said Lanier, "and all of us (the offensive linemen) will have to be more alert. We're going to have to move more so we can turn it upfield whenever we have a chance."

Lanier is a busy man. He also competes for the Florida State track team and holds the school record in the shot put.

But his mind usually drifts back to football, where he has hopes of being drafted into the pros at the end of the 1980 season.

And, it is in football where he sets his goals.

His goal for 1980?

"Just improve on what I've been doing," he said.

If he manages to do that, the Florida State coaching staff is going to be most pleased with that particular portion of the offensive line.



And the search continues. . .

BY BILL BUCHALTER

Associate Sports Editor, Orlando Sentinel Star

To face Florida State's challenge of the 80s, the national championship-type schedules, Bobby Bowden went out searching for athletes of the '80s. The kind of rawboned, strapping player who could run and strike a blow while undergoing a controlled frenzy.

The FSU coach feels he was fortunate to find a solid number of "his kind of players" among the 23 freshman and one junior college recruits Florida State added to its growing program.

He likes the look of them on the hoof: 11 standing 6-foot-3 or taller; and in the head and the heart.

Tallest of the newcomers are Jim Thompson, a center from Midlothian, Va., and Al Carreker, a defensive end from Columbus, Ohio. Both reach 6-foot-6. Tight end Keith Lester and defensive end Allen Dale Campbell reach 6-foot-5. Only two are under 6-foot and both of them — receiver Eric Riley and defensive back Anthony Smiley — can fly.

Heaviest is 248-pound Jerry Riopelle, a 6-foot-3 tackle from Wyandotte, Mich. Lightest are Riley, the track star from Fort Myers, and Reggie Webb, a wide receiver/defensive back from Jacksonville Raines. Both tip the scales at 165.

There are even two "little" brothers who Bowden happily describes as helping make this squad a real "family affair." Thompson is the younger brother to rising sophomore quarterback Weegie Thompson while John McLean, a 6-foot-3 and 217-pound defensive end/linebacker from Clermont, is the brother of junior Scott McLean.

If there is one intangible that describes the group best, it would be raw athletic ability.

For example:

Riley, a 3.7 academic student (out of 4.0) who spent time at Boys State, was also an outstanding point guard on his basketball team and established a state record in the 330-yard hurdles (37.70) with a PR of 37.4.

Offensive lineman Darryl Kershaw, from Columbus, Ohio, placed fourth in the Ohio state track meet in the discus with a heave of 178-6.

Jeff Ledbetter, an unsung 6-foot-4 quarterback from Clearwater, was an all-Pinellas County basketball and baseball selection.

Brian Williams, a super student (3.6) and linebacker out of Winter Haven, was a state finalist in wrestling.

Sam Restivo, an all-state linebacker for Jamestown, N.Y., doubled as a starter on a solid basketball team.

Campbell, a hulking 6-foot-5 and 230-pound speedster, doubled as a basketball standout for Taylor County High of Perry. Campbell earned Parade Magazine football All-America honors.

Larry Harris, a 197-pound running back, defensive back, linebacker, whatever he wants to be, from Gainesville Eastside, was also a basketball star. He missed track to enroll early at FSU where he was a spring sensation, averaging nearly 100 yards per scrimmage and gaining 97 yards in the Garnet and Gold Game concluding spring drills. Joining Harris in the spring was scholar-athlete David Ponder of Cairo, Ga., a 220-pound defensive lineman with honor roll grades.

Carreker, like Campbell, doubled as a basketballer.

Carl Armstrong, a lanky receiver/defensive back from Merritt Island, played basketball and was a track hurdler his junior year.

Anthony Smiley, a compact defensive back from St. Augustine, earned a state track berth on his team's 440-yard relay and also competed in the long jump and sprints.

Webb, a scholarly receiver/defensive back from Jacksonville Raines, had the speed to run track but played baseball instead.

The one junior college player is Tim McCray, originally signed by the Seminoles out of Ware Co. High School in Waycross where he gained 2,000 yards. He was the nation's leading JuCo rusher this past season.

Completing the Seminole roster are Georgians Herbert Butler, Robert Davis and John Houston, all honorable mention all-staters; and Floridians Prince Matt, Tim Mitchell, Rick Taylor and Kim Mack, again all of whom earned all-state mention.



Seminole Football: A Point of Pride

By **BILL McGROTHA**

Tallahassee Democrat Sports Editor

It was altogether the Year of the Seminole. A coveted cup ran over and over and over.

The season of 1979 was the year of The Great Dream That Came True — a perfect 11-and-0 regular season followed by a first-ever appearance in a New Year's Day bowl. Florida State got the one it most wanted, the Orange Bowl.

It was a season of record-breaking attendance, and one in which the Seminoles reaped more than \$700,000 from television and radio revenue plus \$1,300,000 from that Orange Bowl date again Oklahoma.

And it was a year in which Florida State enjoyed its highest ever ratings in the wire-service polls, No. 4 nationally in both AP and UPI balloting before the bowls. FSU's No. 6 ranking by AP after the bowls was its highest final finish ever.

Spectacular defense contributed most to the extraordinary year. In final national statistics, that defense was No.

10 overall, No. 13 against the running game. It was another superb season for Ron Simmons, the All-America nose guard. He had lots of help.

It was a year in which Florida State made few big errors while forcing opponents into many. The Seminoles lost only eight fumbles all season, and only Dartmouth lost fewer (six). FSU intercepted 23 passes, and only four teams in the country swiped more.

In winning them all, the Seminoles found two opponents not so highly rated — Southern Mississippi and Cincinnati — maybe the toughest of all on the days they played, winning 17-14 and 26-21. Conversely, highly ranked Arizona State fell 31-3 and South Carolina 27-7. Perhaps the most satisfying victory was 24-19 over a good LSU team in Baton Rouge on a day that saw quarterback Jimmy Jordan at his passing best. And for the third year running Florida State beat rival Florida (27-16).

The LSU game was the pivotal one — the one that said to most of the country that the Seminoles were for real!

It was the year that Bobby Bowden was acclaimed national Coach of the year by ABC, and the year that he was presented with a splendid new contract guaranteeing him more than \$100,000 a year. Terms of the contract may bound Bowden to Florida State for as long as he continues to coach, which he has said is exactly what he wanted.

Football got started at Florida State on a point of pride.

It was Bowden who brought FSU from 0-11 in '73 to 11-0 in '79.

Florida State had gone 8-3 in '78 despite a horrendous run of crippling injuries.

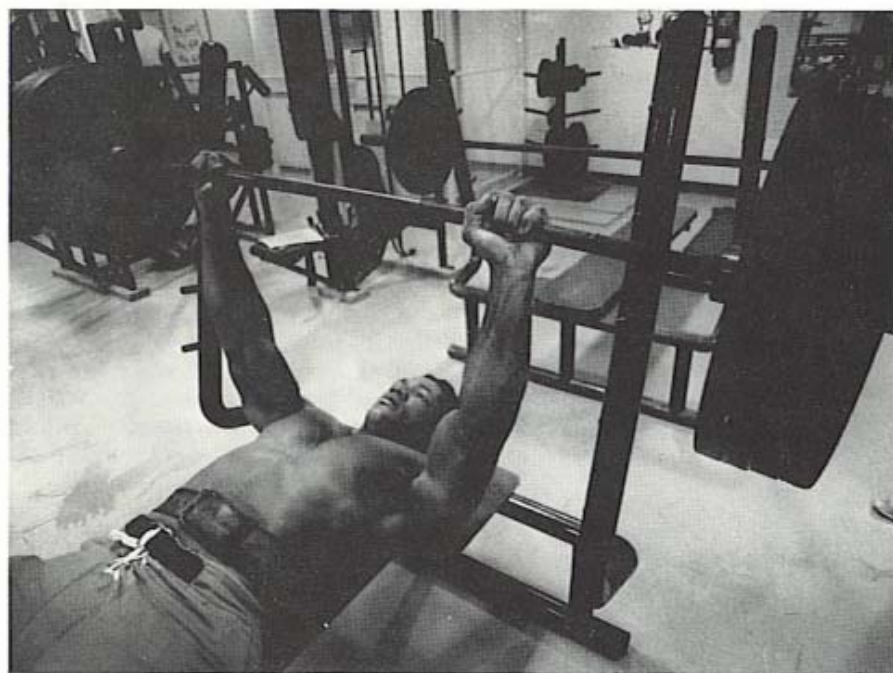
In the season prior, '77, Florida State went 10-2, including a first victory over Florida since '67 and a runaway triumph over Texas Tech in the Tangerine Bowl. It was the senior season of the incredible Larry Key, who amassed a record 2,953 regular-season running yards during his time. Running back kicks, catching passes, blocking, he finished as the best all-round back in FSU history.

Way back yonder, football got started at FSU on a point of pride.

It was just after World War II. Many would-have-been students had gone to war as 18-year-olds. Colleges were swamped by returning veterans. There was no room for them all.

One of the multiple developments that came about was the evolution of Florida State into a co-educational institution — and the quick birth of modern football at the school.

In one form or another, however, Florida State had been around for a long time, since 1857 when it was first the Seminary West of the Suwanee. By 1861 it was Florida State College. In the year 1901 Florida State played its first football, and the schedule included winning games against a school that would become the University of Florida.



at Indiana), and the notable triple-treat Bobby Renn, still regarded by some as the best all-round back in Florida State history.

Nugent's last year, 1958, was a memorable one. The record was 7-4, but it included a thundering 10-0 upset of Tennessee in Knoxville — one of the two or three biggest victories in Florida State history. It also was the first year that Florida State played Florida.

Maryland lured Nugent away, and the Seminoles hired Perry Moss, a Tulsa-reared former quarterback who had served as an assistant at several schools.

The 4-6 season of 1959 was a depressing one. The word leaked prior to the Homecoming game against William & Mary that Moss would leave to accept a lucrative offer in Canadian pro football, at Montreal — and the Seminoles were victims of a 9-0 upset that day. Still, with many players hurt, with morale supposedly shot, the Seminoles closed with a gutty 18-8 loss to a vastly superior Florida team.

Then came Bill Peterson as coach, and Florida State's most interesting decade of football. An Ohio native, Peterson had served under Paul Dietzel at Louisiana State in years that included a national-championship one in '58.

Those games rather typified an all-out defensive style. In '62 the

Seminoles tied Kentucky, Georgia Tech and Auburn, beat Georgia 18-0 and finished 4-3-3, with defense much the name of their game. That battling team of '62 remains one of Peterson's favorites.

Peterson set out to "establish a defense" at Florida State, and did. Playing Florida the first six years of the series in Gainesville, Peterson's first two teams lost down there 3-0 and tied 3-3.

By '64 the Seminoles were rolling on offense — and now Peterson had made a vow to "throw the football — even if I have to fire every coach on my staff." And no team in college football over the next seven years threw the football as effectively as those Seminoles.

In spring practice of '64 a lanky quarterback named Steve Tensi threw to a quick and graceful Fred Biletnikoff... so often it became monotonous.

That fall, prior to the first kickoff, defensive players — the seven closest to the line of scrimmage — decided to shave their heads and proclaim themselves "The Seven Magnificents." Avery Summer, a tackle, instigated the move. (During the season that followed, the seven got so much attention players in the secondary came to dub themselves "The Forgotten Four.")

With high dedication, Florida State shut out its first three foes of '64. In the fourth game, Kentucky — unbeaten, untied, ranked No. 4 in the nation — came to town. Florida State startled the football world by clobbering the Wildcats 48-6.

That game is rated by many as Florida State's greatest victory.

But "The Seven Magnificents" cried after the game — because Kentucky had managed to score on them after recovering a fumbled punt down deep near game's end.

The Seminoles' passing game that day was peerless. For the remainder of the season it was much — in Peterson's words — "like stealing." The regular season ended 8-1-1, the lone loss to Virginia Tech, the tie with Houston on a day when Biletnikoff was hurt. The Seminoles took their first-ever victory over Florida 16-7, with Biletnikoff scoring on a Tensi bomb and Les Murdock kicking three field goals.

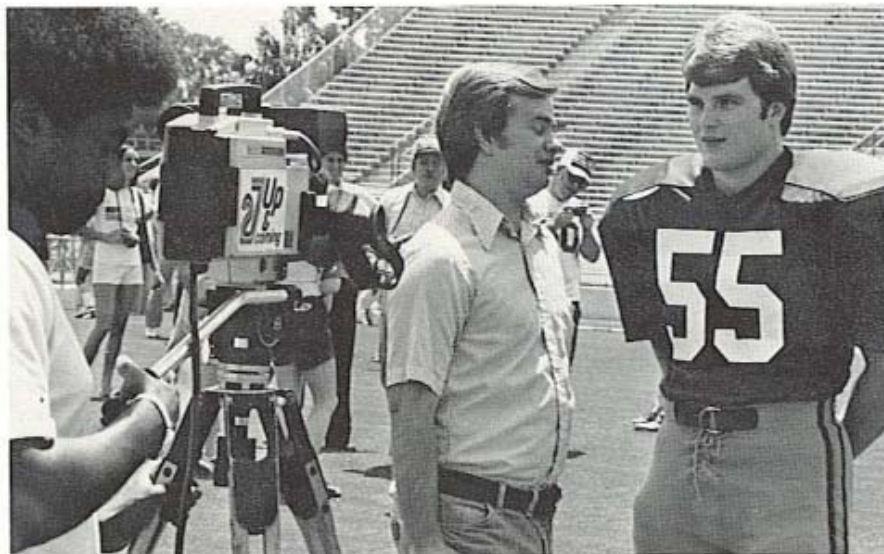
Florida State capped that big year by taking Oklahoma apart in the Gator Bowl 36-17 as Biletnikoff caught four touchdown passes.

Another rather unbelievable season came in '67. Following a crushing 33-13 opening loss at Houston, the Seminoles tied Alabama 37-37 in Birmingham — surely one of the great football games of all time.

It was another sensational passing combination — Kim Hammond to Ron Sellers — that got the job done. ABC-TV was doing a documentary on Alabama Coach Bear Bryant at the time. The shocking tie at FSU hands took up much of the film that was later shown on national television. There was a memorable moment when a stunned Bryant, his team down 14-0, was hollering to his players: "What's going on out there — what the HELL is going on out there!"

With Sellers and Hammond doing their big thing, Florida State won the last seven games of '67, then tied Penn State 17-17 in the Gator Bowl.

Going 8-2 in '68, the Seminoles again got a bowl bid, playing LSU in the Peach. That was the fourth bowl for Peterson in a 5-year span.



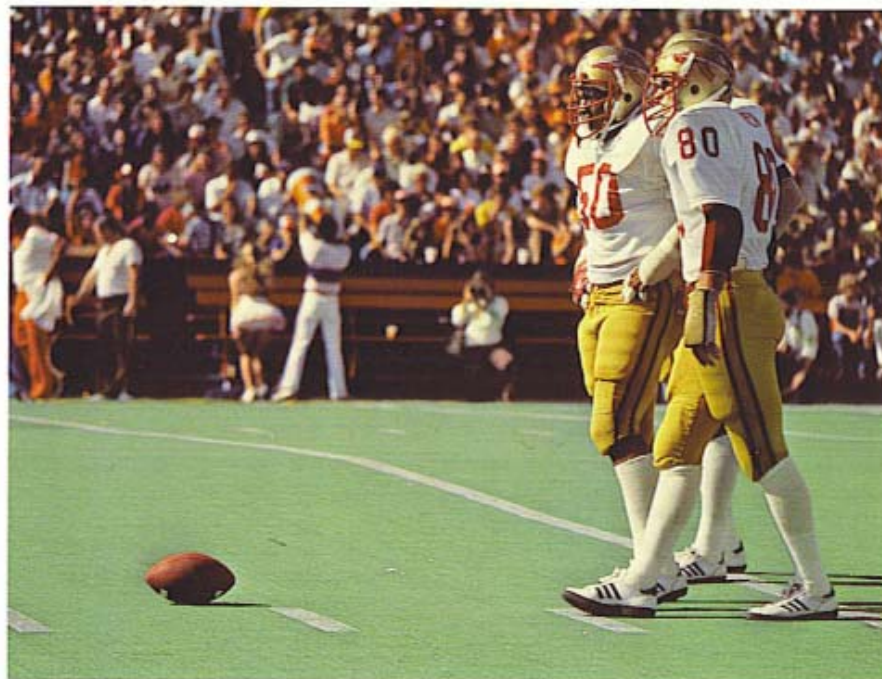
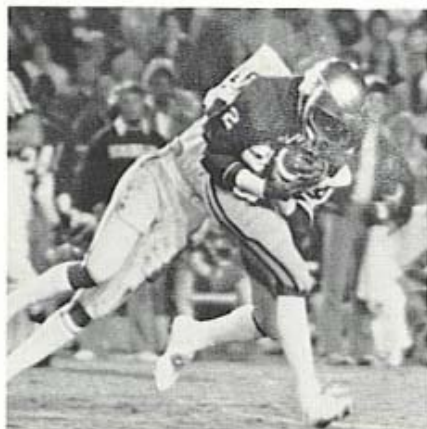
The scores and records of those early days are clouded, but Florida State continued with football through 1905. The passage of something called the Buckman Bill in 1905 meant wholesale change in Florida higher education. Florida State College became Florida Female College, and retained that name until 1909 when it was rechristened Florida State College for Women.

Florida State University was born, by act of the state legislature, in the spring of 1947. And by September of that year Florida State had its first football team of modern time.

After World War II the school became part of the answer for those returning veterans. Briefly, there was the Tallahassee Branch of the University of Florida, set up on what was called West Campus — previously the site of Dale Mabry Field, where Air Force pilots were trained during the war. FSCW remained intact a couple of miles away, but the TBRUF boys attended classes on that campus.

In a nutshell, football came to Florida State because those returning veterans demanded that it come — and as a point of pride. The student body, the townspeople promptly rallied around the cause. That rallying hasn't stopped yet.

Reflecting that early pride was a famed cheer. One story has it that the origin was an impromptu one, with an exuberant veteran rising to his feet in the stands during one of the first games and yelling: "FSU one time! FSU T-W-O times! FSU T-H-R-E-E times! FSU A-L-L the damned time!" The stirring



yell continues unchanged, and has been copied by other schools.

Florida State's first coach was Ed Williamson, a Tallahassee native who played football at University of Florida. He agreed to take the job for one year only. A five game schedule was hastily drawn up. The Seminoles started proudly, losing an opening game 14-6 to Stetson in downtown Tallahassee, at old Centennial Field (a block from the State Capitol). Stetson was pretty good in those days, and fans quickly came to expect too much too soon. FSU scored only two touchdowns the rest of the way, and lost the remaining four games. Williamson resigned, as he had said he would, at season's end.

Florida State hired as his successor Don Veller, a soft-spoken gentleman and scholar who had a doctorate and a distinguished football background. He had had been a whiz running back for the University of Indiana under the great coach, Bo McMillan.

Operating with a formation called the Cockeyed-T, Veller quickly got Florida State football on the road. His first season was 7-1, his second 9-1, his third 8-0 and his fourth 6-2. Hard-nosed combat veterans contributed significantly to those proud showings.

Along came Tom Nugent as the next coach. An imaginative man, a showman, Nugent brought with him a capacity for

creating excitement. He also brought with him the "I" formation that many years later was to become so popular all over the country.

Moving toward the bigtime, Florida State started playing tougher opposition. In 1952 the Seminoles really moved into high cotton, and the result was a disappointing 1-8-1 record. Veller resigned, but remained at FSU in a prominent physical education role. He's still there. His overall FSU coaching record was 31-12-1.

Nugent's 6-year record was 34-28-1 at Florida State. In his second year the Seminoles went 8-3 and earned an invitation to play in the Sun Bowl.

Among those who went to the Sun Bowl, after that '54 season, was a freshman running back name of Buddy Reynolds. A better than average runner, Reynolds got hurt in an auto accident soon after. Later, after starting his acting career, Buddy (Burt) Reynolds was ready to give it all up for another fling at Florida State Football. But after a brief period — he had a little problem playing defense in a day you had to go both ways — Reynolds returned to Hollywood and moved on to box-office fame.

Stars of the Nugent years were many, among them quarterback-halfback Lee Corso (now head coach

In 1969 the record was 6-3-1 and in '70 it was 7-4. Peterson resigned after the year to become head coach and athletic director at Rice.

The Seminoles hired Larry Jones, another former Paul Dietzel aide, as the new coach. In 1971, with Gary Huff throwing to Barry Smith, Florida State finished a strong 8-3 and played Arizona State in the first Fiesta Bowl, falling 45-38 in an extraordinary offensive battle.

In '72, with high expectation, the Seminoles won their first four. Then injuries took a heavy toll. The final record was 7-4, with South Carolina springing a 24-21 upset at the end and knocking the Seminoles out of a Peach Bowl bid.

Disaster came in '73. The Seminoles won none. It was a combination of many things that wrought an all-losing season, including the graduation of several pro-type players. But it stemmed notably, many feel, from an unsettling aura of ill publicity prior to the season's start.

Jones left after that season. Darrell Mudra, with a successful background at smaller schools, was hired. Mudra teams went 1-10 and 3-8. A highlight, reflecting familiar Seminole pride, was a first-year loss at Alabama 8-7. It was a stunner that Florida State not only could have won but, in the view of most, should have won.

When Mudra departed after the '75 season, Bowden was hired. Notably successful as head coach of West Virginia, Bowden had strongly wanted to return to Florida State where he had served as an assistant under Peterson for three years.

Bowden's dramatic first-year showing included a 28-9 upset of then-unbeaten Boston College up there, and an "almost" victory over Florida — the Seminoles lost 33-26. Larry Key put himself in the Florida State's record book as the leading Seminole ground-gainer of all time as the racked up more than 700 yards in his junior season.

Nugent returned here to live after his coaching time at Maryland, but now is associated with Florida Tech in a public

relations role. Moss is now Coach of the semipro team at Charlestown of the American Football Association, and Jones is assistant athletic director at LSU. Mudra is now head coach at Eastern Illinois.

It says something favorable about Florida State that Bowden would leave West Virginia to come here. Something favorable is also said in the fact that three former coaches — Williamson, Veller and Peterson — live in Tallahassee.

One of Bowden's top aides is Bob Harbison, a fixture at Florida State. He's served with every head coach except Williamson, the first. Harbison has been associated with 31 of the Seminoles' 33 seasons.

Florida State's 33rd year of football will be a continuing point of pride with those World War II veterans who started it all. Most of them are still around, too.



