

# Great Ones, Back To Back!





Media guides are also for use by the fans who follow college football, in this case Florida State. The Seminoles last fall achieved their highest national ranking ever, second at the close of the regular season. Many fans cherish the memories of the campaign and the second straight visit to the Orange Bowl. In order to keep those memories alive, once again we've added a special section to the media guide. We've selected game stories from writers who covered the *Tribe* last fall for the fans to once again read and enjoy. Also in this year's section are feature stories on Rick Stockstill and Rohn Stark. We've also added two features written by writers of the *Florida Times-Union*. One deals with FSU President Bernie Sliger and the other is an in-depth look at Seminole mentor Bobby Bowden.



## Florida State Pins Shutout on LSU

By **KARL GULBRONSEN**

*Post Staff Writer*

BATON ROUGE, La. — Everyone connected with Louisiana State football likes to refer to Tiger Stadium as "Death Valley." But as far as Florida State's Seminoles are concerned the Bengals' home might as well be called "Pleasant Valley" after last night's 16-0 win over LSU in the 1980 season opener for both teams.

The third largest crowd in Tiger history, 77,535, seemed to rattle the home team more than the Seminoles. Florida State took advantage of three fumbles and one interception to score all its points, run its regular-season winning streak to 16 games and ruin Jerry Stovall's debut as the Tiger head coach.

It was a somewhat methodical FSU offense but an always tough defense that made the difference.

"I thought if we could just put some points on the board, we could hold 'em," Florida State head coach Bobby Bowden said. "I was not happy, particularly with the offense, but the kicking game and the defense won it for us."

The Seminoles, ranked 13th, banged out 187 yards on the ground to just 35 in the air. It was the first start for quarterback Rick Stockstill and, for Sam Platt, the game's leading ground gainer with 79 yards, it was his first appearance as a tailback.

"I thought everything just worked fine," said Stockstill, who completed six of 11 passes with no interceptions. "We did what we had to do and didn't make any mistakes."

"I was a little nervous before the first snap, but after that everything was great. The crowd? They didn't bother us at all. We never thought about them."

The Florida State defense, ranked 10th in the nation in 1979, held the Tiger veer offense to 95 yards rushing despite the fact that All-America nose guard Ron Simmons sat out the final three periods with a badly sprained right ankle.

"I thought in the first half they fooled us with some plays, opening up some pockets," Bowden said, referring to the fact that LSU gained 144 yards passing.

"But we adjusted in the second half. We were afraid they would score on us and run away with the game, but turnovers hurt them."

"I thought our offense kept us from losing the game by not fumbling the football."

For Stovall, his dream of coaching the Tigers got off to a poor start and he blamed his offense, and its turnovers, for the defeat.

"The defense was great," said the former LSU star. "Offensively we absolutely gave the game away."

"Offensively, we were sorry. We didn't block anyone, fumbled the ball and made crucial errors."

The sellout crowd at Tiger Stadium, widely regarded as Death Valley, seemed to bother LSU more than Florida State in the first quarter. The Tigers fumbled on their first two possessions and the Seminoles turned the miscues into a pair of 34-yard field goals by Bill Capece.

The Tigers were much calmer on their third possession and put together a decent drive that stalled at the FSU 42. Starting from its 20, LSU picked up a pair of first downs as Risher found a couple of holes in the FSU secondary. With a third and 7 at the LSU 23, the sophomore quarterback hit split end Tracy Porter for 17 yards.

The Tigers, though, picked up an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty on the play and it was first and 25. But Risher went right back to Porter as the senior from Baton Rouge got between Monk Bonasorte and James Harris for 21 yards. Jude Hemandez got the first down with a 6-yard gain. But the Tigers ran into problems after that with two delay of game calls and were forced to punt.

Butler gave the Seminoles good field position midway through the second period as he blocked Don Barthel's punt. The ball managed to travel 17 yards but FSU had a first down at the LSU 39. They could do nothing with the opportunity, though, as Stockstill was called for intentional grounding on second down and was off the mark on third down.

The blocked punt was the sixth of Butler's career at Florida State, who has

started at cornerback the past three seasons.

Although Florida State had the lead at halftime, the Tigers dominated the statistics. LSU outgained FSU 145-87 yards in total offense. The yardage on the ground was the same—67 yards—but the Tigers picked up 78 yards passing to just 20 for the Seminoles.

Stockstill hit four of seven passes while Risher was five of nine.

The Seminoles started the second half by going backward. On first down at the Florida State 19, Platt was stopped for no gain. Stockstill went to the air on second down and his pass to Platt netted just 2 yards. On third down, Stockstill was dropped for a 9-yard loss and it appeared the Tigers would have good field position after an FSU punt.

It didn't work that way, though, as LSU's Chris Williams fumbled Rohn Stark's punt and Seminole Brian Williams pounced on it at the FSU 48.

Florida State's offense again stalled after picking up just one first down and Capece made it 9-0 with a 45-yard field goal.

The Tigers continued to be plagued by turnovers as Monk Bonasorte intercepted a Risher pass at the Seminole 15 and returned it 28 yards to kill the next Tiger drive and set up FSU's first touchdown of the season.

The Seminoles got consecutive first downs after the Bonasorte interception as Stockstill hit Phil Williams for 15 yards and Platt ripped off a 13-yard run to give Florida State a first down at the LSU 31.

The Seminoles got another break after this drive stalled and Capece missed a 35-yard field goal attempt. But there was a reason for that as LSU was called for roughing the kicker and the Seminoles were given a first down. Five plays later Platt scored from 3 yards out and Capece's extra point gave Florida State a 16-0 lead with 2:32 left in the third period.

Simmons, the 6-foot-1, 232 lb. defensive stand-out, forced the opening-play fumble with a jarring tackle on Gajan, but had to leave the game early in the second quarter with an injured right ankle.

# FSU passes by Louisville 52-0

By **CRAIG BARNES**

*Fort Lauderdale News Staff Writer*

TALLAHASSEE—"After the LSU game, I wanted to see if we could throw," said Florida State coach Bobby Bowden. "I wanted to put our passing game to the test."

Some test.

Starting quarterback Rick Stockstill threw four touchdown passes and back-ups Kelly Lowrey and Blair Williams each threw one last night in FSU's 52-0 victory over Louisville before a record crowd of 52,623 at Doak Campbell Stadium.

Stockstill's scoring passes were eight yards to Dennis McKinnon, seven yards to Zeke Mowatt, 26 yards to Hardis Johnson and 19 yards to Phil Williams. Lowrey threw 11 yards to Johnson and Williams threw 47 yards to McKinnon.

The six scoring passes were a Florida State record. The Seminoles' other points came on a 50-yard return of an interception by Ron Hester and Bill Capece's 31-yard field goal and seven extra points.

While the offense was tuning up the passing game, the FSU defense, without injured All-America nose guard Ron Simmons, got its second straight shutout, allowing Louisville only five first downs and 56 total yards. Florida State recorded 442 total yards and had the ball for 84 plays as compared to 49 for the Cardinals, losers in their opener to Miami, 24-10, a week ago.

"We played about as well as we could," said Bowden. "We mixed our offense a little better, and our defense was superior again."

The defense established its excellence a week ago at LSU. It was Stockstill, who completed only six of 11 passes for 35 yards, that caused the doubts in the Seminole opener.

Last night, however, was a different story.

The first time the Seminoles had the ball they wasted no time in entertaining their fans, driving 55 yards in 10 plays. Sam Platt, who carried 10 times for 107 yards in the game, was the big man in the drive. He covered 41 yards in five carries, but Stockstill got the touchdown, throwing the final eight yards to McKinnon with 9:36 remaining in the half.

"I know I only had 107 yards," said Platt, who was a wide receiver last year, "but I only played a half. Before it's over, I'll show them the real Sam Platt."

Louisville fumbled the ensuing kickoff, giving FSU the ball at the Cardinals' 13, but the Seminoles were stopped on fourth down at the one.

"That really bothered me," said Bowden, "that we couldn't get in at that point.

If we didn't do anything right, it was then."

An interception by James Harris gave the Seminoles another chance, but Stockstill returned the ball when he was intercepted trying to hit McKinnon for the touchdown.

After an exchange of punts, Stockstill moved his team for touchdowns on three of the next four possessions and also got the field goal.

He finished the night completing nine of 12 passes for 115 yards before leaving the game midway through the third quarter.

"I never lost confidence in my ability to throw the ball," said Stockstill. "Last week was a game where passing was not the way to go. I'm just as happy tonight as I was a week ago.

"It's also easy to throw the ball with our defense. It has to be one of the best defenses in the country."

The Seminole defenders never gave Louisville a chance.

"That's the way we would like to have it the entire year," said linebacker Reggie Herring, "but we know it won't be that way. What we have to do is stay mentally tough and not let anybody slip up on us.

"I think we have a chance to have a big year. We play as a team. We want all the

players to know they are important, whether they're on the first team or fourth. We don't like to give up anything."

With the defense keeping the Cardinals pinned down, Stockstill's job was easy.


His second touchdown pass to Mowatt, a sophomore tight end, concluded a 45-yard scoring drive in seven plays with 10:42 remaining in the first half.

Keith Jones' partial block of a Louisville punt gave Stockstill possession at the Cardinal 28, and on the second play he threw 26 yards to Johnson with 8:11 to go in the second quarter.

FSU started at its 20 the next time and went 65 yards in 12 plays with Capece kicking a 31-yard field goal with two seconds remaining in the half.

"We felt good then," said McKinnon, "but we wanted to get a good start in the second half."

And they did, driving 86 yards in 12 plays with Stockstill throwing the final 19 yards to Williams with 8:32 left in the quarter.

Lowrey replaced Stockstill after Gary Henry recovered a Louisville fumble at the Cardinal 10. On the second play, he hit Johnson from the 11 for a touchdown with 6:28 left in the third quarter. 



# Seminoles bomb East Carolina

By **BRIAN SCHMITZ**  
*Orlando Sentinel Staff*

TALLAHASSEE—Florida State did an excellent imitation of Ohio State's legendary "Three Yards and a Cloud of Dust" offense in a 63-7 pasting of outmanned East Carolina Saturday night.

Gone are those fancy, pass-happy days of aerial circuses and show-boat catches.

Florida State rolled up 336 yards on the ground before opening up in the second half to total 224 more yards through the air—a total offense of 560 yards. East Carolina was limited to just 98 total yards.

But the bottom line is touchdowns and no matter how bored the 50,547 Seminole fans got with the run-oriented attack, they still left Doak Campbell Stadium satisfied.

And the No. 9-ranked Seminoles left with a 3-0 record and supreme confidence for upcoming clashes with Miami, Nebraska and Pittsburgh.

Sam Platt and Mike Whiting ran circles around the 1-2 Pirates. Platt, Whiting and Ken Burnett each scored twice as the Seminoles built a 35-7 lead after three periods.

It wasn't until late in the contest that the Seminoles cranked up their air game. It was already a mismatch by then.

Blair Williams, subbing for Rick Stockstill, hit Phil Williams for a 11-yard touchdown and then teamed with Dennis McKinnon on a 15-yard scoring play.

Honors of completing the scoring orgy went to reserve fullback Ernie Sims, who went over from the seven as the 'Noles broke 60.

FSU fans, used to the pass-happy antics of recent teams, got a methodical taste of grind-it-out, eat-up-the-clock football in the first half—Big Ten style. Platt left, Platt right. Whiting left, Whiting right.

The first 22 sideline calls from Bowden—who believes in building around quarterbacks—were running plays. FSU's intimidating offensive line mowed the young Pirates down, opening huge holes for Platt and Whiting, who took turns beefing up their statistics as FSU raced to a 28-7 halftime lead.

The Seminoles were too quick, too strong, too deep.

Platt and Whiting piled up 158 of the Seminoles' 243 rushing yards in the first half. And 45 of the 51 plays for FSU were rushes.

Platt capped FSU's opening 16-play, 87-yard drive by scooting in from the nine-yard line with 5:03 left in period one.

The Seminoles got the ball back quickly and finally threw their first pass with 1:07 left in the quarter. As late as last season, fans would have seen FSU putting the ball in the air right after the coin toss.



Stockstill, who has made handing off an art, hit senior Kurt Unglaub for 16 yards to the Pirate 12 to register FSU's first non-rushing play.

Stockstill, hitting on 6-of-6 in the first half, completed two more short passes to set up Whiting's one-yard dive. Bill Capece's PAT made it 14-0.

Just when the 'Noles were on their way to their third straight shutout, along came Anthony Collins. The elusive senior who helped East Carolina lead the nation in rushing last year, returned the ensuing kickoff 100 yards to cut FSU's lead to 14-7. Collins broke free down the sideline and cut across the grain for his highlight film run.

The Pirates, who confused FSU early with their wishbone and triple-option attack, had a chance to get back into the game when Whiting fumbled on the Seminoles' next series. But Whiting recovered and FSU, on the march, got another break when the Pirates were found guilty of pass interference.

Stockstill's pass to Hardis Johnson was overthrown, but Pirate defensive back Smokey Norris interfered in the end zone. From the one, Whiting took it in again and FSU was ahead 21-7 with 7:55 to play in the half.

Then fullback Ken Burnett went over from the two-yard line five minutes later to give FSU a commanding 28-7 margin.

By using their ground-hogging running game, the Seminoles left little time for the Pirates to do anything. Three touchdown

drives in the first half took more than 15 minutes alone.

At intermission, Platt, converted from wide receiver to running back in the spring, had already carried 21 times for 82 yards and Whiting was 12-for-66. Sophomore Ricky Williams showed flashes, gaining 54 yards on just four carries.

Although Florida State's shutout was gone, the defense shut down the Pirates, holding them to three first downs and 50 yards rushing. Collins, who rushed for 1,330 yards last season, was bottled up. The Pirates were also 0-for-5 in passing.

The Seminoles did not detour from their game plan in the third quarter, but Stockstill made the few passes he threw count. He teamed with Whiting on a 43-yard flare pass that led to Burnett's four-yard touchdown run.

It was 35-7 now and the rout was on.

With 1:32 remaining in the third period, East Carolina recovered a Platt fumble at the 39. But the hard-hitting Seminole defense made Pirate quarterback Carlton Nelson cough it up on the first play of the next series.

Things were getting sloppy.

With 12:30 remaining in the game, Stockstill reminded East Carolina he could still throw. He teamed with sophomore Dennis McKinnon for a 23-yard gain to the Pirate three.

Two plays later, Larry Harris became the fourth Seminole to score when he went over from the two. It was 42-7.



# Unbelievable! UM Edges FSU, 10-9

By JIM MARTZ

Miami Herald Sports Writer

With 39 seconds left, there stood the University of Miami football team clinging to the top of a ledge.

Hurricane teams this past decade would have let go and fallen to death. But this year's pulled itself to the top and upset ninth-ranked Florida State, 10-9, Saturday before 50,008 frazzled fans in the Orange Bowl.

"It's a real tribute to this team to come through like that," said Coach Howard Schnellenberger after the Hurricanes improved their record to 4-0 and snapped the Seminoles' 18-game regular-season winning streak. "Other Miami teams in the past might not have done it."

A Hurricane defense that limited FSU to only 25 yards rushing came through with the crucial play as middle guard Jim Burt batted away Rick Stockstill's two-point conversion pass after a well-executed touchdown march. The Seminoles, who didn't get a first down until their seventh possession late in the second quarter, finally cranked up when they had to and drove 55 yards for the TD on Stockstill's 11-yard pass to wide-open tight end Sam Childers.

That set up the win, lose or draw situation. "They're not losers, they're winners, so I knew they wouldn't go for a tie," said Burt. "I just went flying on that last play. I shed the center and looked for the guard who had been coming after me all day and jumped over him, came up the middle and was just lucky to hit the ball."

UM defensive coordinator Rick Lantz said he had been talking to his players about stopping a two-point conversion ever since Danny Miller kicked a 22-yard field goal to give the Hurricanes a 10-3 lead with 2:08 left in the third quarter. "We had one plan with pressure on them and one without. We went with the four-man rush. The kids have got a lot more courage than I do. I was scared to death at the end."

A subdued Seminole Coach Bobby Bowden said, "We lost on one play." But he meant two plays, because on the next sentence he said, "We didn't get a two-point conversion and they got a pass interference call."

The pass interference call set up Miami's only touchdown, a one-yard run by quarterback Jim Kelly with 41 seconds left in the second quarter. Miller kicked the extra point for a 7-0 lead. Interference was called on FSU safety Gary Henry at the goal line as he and flanker Larry Brodsky banged into each other on a pass from Kelly at the 50-yard line. The ball was clearly overthrown.

Seven plays earlier, Hurricane fans, players and coaches thought Brodsky was interfered with by safety Monk Bonasorte on another long pass, but no flag was thrown.

"On the first one, I think he did interfere," said Brodsky. "He hit me on the back before the ball had come to me. On the second one, the ball had gone over my head and we kind of ran into each other. We were fortunate on that call."

"That was the turning point and got us going. The call could have gone either way. It's hard to remember. I just banged into him and I didn't think he ran into me. But I'm not going to feel sorry after what happened on the first call."

"I think it [the second interference call] was a late flag. It surprised me as well as everybody else. It's great something would go our way after so many other things haven't."

The Hurricanes dominated the statistics and had numerous chances to build a big enough lead that would have made the harried finish unnecessary. Miami enjoyed a 291-207 advantage in total yardage, 109-25 in rushing and the teams had 182 yards each passing.

Twice in the first half and twice in the second Miami failed to score after either driving to the FSU 30 or closer, or after forcing a turnover. On three of those, Miller was wide left on field-goal tries of 47, 45 and 36 yards. On the other, sophomore fullback Greg Anderson fumbled at the 15.

"There must be a problem," understated Miller, a junior who connected on 14 of 17 tries last year but has hit on just three of nine this year. "I'll just have to go back to basics and work on it."

The field goal he did hit was partially blocked by cornerback Bobby Butler.

"We should have beaten them a lot worse," said flanker Jim Joiner. "But we stopped ourselves like we have all season. Those things do come back to haunt you, but we got away with them earlier and I thought we could again. I think we just had more breaks with us than usually go against us."

The first missed opportunity came on Miami's second possession of the game. A 15-yard holding penalty at the FSU 35 stalled the drive, then after Kelly passed 19 yards to split end Pat Walker at the 30, Miller missed his first field-goal try.

Early in the second quarter, Seminole fullback Mike Whiting fumbled after catch-

ing a 10-yard pass and Miami cornerback John Swain recovered at the FSU 37. Six plays later Anderson, who hadn't carried all season, fumbled on a pitchout and Jarvis Coursey recovered for the Seminoles.

"We didn't run that play from the right formation," said Schnellenberger. "We had been running it from the 'I' but were in the split back."

Stockstill threw only six passes in the first half, completing three. But he connected on 16 of 24 attempts in the second half.

Playing with a bruised shoulder he suffered in practice Monday, Stockstill passed 18 yards to wide receiver Dennis McKinnon and 16 to the other wideout, Hardis Johnson, to set up Bill Capece's 26-yard field goal that chopped Miami's lead to 7-3 with 7:20 left in the third quarter.

Miami countered with a 75-yard drive culminated by Miller's only field goal. Kelley, who hit 13 of 22 passes for 172 yards, completed four straight in the drive. He hit Joiner for 22, halfback Mark Rush for two, Walker for 15 and Rush for 11 more.

Right after Miller's field goal for a 10-3 lead, the Hurricanes had golden opportunities to blow the game open but failed to convert. Linebacker Scott Nicolas intercepted a Stockstill pass at the FSU 31 on the first play after the kickoff. Fullback Chris Hobbs ran three yards, two passes failed, then Miller missed from 45 yards.

On the next play, end Mike Goedeker nailed Stockstill and forced a fumble that tackle Charles Cook recovered at the 19. Three running plays later the Hurricanes were still on the 19 and Miller missed again.

"If we had run the ball better, our offense would have been more consistent," said Schnellenberger. It should be noted, though, that the Hurricanes were facing a defense that ranked No. 1 in the nation, having allowed its first three opponents an average of 132 yards per game.

Assessing the game, Schnellenberger added, "Our offense was a lot better than the 10 points showed. But on the other hand we kissed away a lot of great opportunities."

The crowd was the largest for a UM game in the Orange Bowl since 66,039 showed up for Notre Dame in 1971.

"It's a great feeling to know that spirit that has been dormant so long is alive and well," said Schnellenberger.



# Seminoles sprout spectacular win

By HUBERT MIZELL  
*St. Petersburg Times*

LINCOLN, Neb.—On a Saturday as sunny as a cornfield, Florida State University hugged and kissed its mightiest football victory ever. FSU had an 11-1 record last season, but none among them was as skyscraping as this.

Beating undefeated, third-ranked, 44-point-a-game Nebraska in Lincoln is higher, wider and handsomer than any Seminole success since 1947 when boy students were first allowed to coeducate with the girls on the Tallahassee campus.

"Considering the opponent and the site," said FSU coach Bobby Bowden, "I would think this one is the all-time Seminole win. Playing on their turf, we beat a Nebraska team that was driving for the national championship."

There was certainly no Saturday like this one in the Seventies when FSU football sunk lower than a snake's belly. Or in the Sixties when the Seminoles had a pass catcher named Fred Biletnikoff. Or in the Fifties when Burt Reynolds was a Seminole halfback they called "Buddy."

It was the *Miracle in the Blood Bowl*.

At Nebraska football games, everybody but the cops wears red clothes. From up high, Memorial Stadium appears as a great bucket of blood, or maybe a family-sized vat of cherry Kool Aid. But, with 10 seconds on Saturday's clock, that stadium seemed to turn white. Pale. Unbelieving. All 76,152 of them who sold out the joint for the 108th straight time.

Just as the Huskers seemed about to thrust into the end zone in an 11th-hour rescue of the game, heroic FSU line-backer Paul Piurowski of Sarasota bulldogged quarterback Jeff Quinn into making the fumble that lit up FSU hearts everywhere.

Memorial Stadium went limp. Turned into a crimson morgue. This was the Nebraska team those people thought would go all the way, a 12-0 record and the school's first national championship since 1971.

At halftime, FSU seemed a terribly weak bet. No matter what the odds, Nebraska's defense had constantly plowed over quarterback Rick Stockstill. The Huskers led 14-3, but it seemed more like 28-3.

Then, something happened.

Bowden must've fed them courage pills at halftime. FSU has gotten some rotten treatment from game officials. The Seminoles needed a break or two and Nebraska suddenly gave them three. The Huskers upchucked the ball three times in eight minutes on two fumbles and an interception.

Once the Huskers opened the door, Florida State crashed their party. The Seminoles began playing defense like men of stone. Nebraska was to never get a point in the last 30 minutes. The tide not only turned, it drowned the Cornhuskers.

"Our quarterback was getting murdered," Bowden said, "so we went to a rollout play we call '544.' Nebraska couldn't handle Stockstill on that play. As for me, my heart began to beat again."

Bowden has charming honesty. Unlike so many athletic men, he doesn't rope up his emotions and hide them from the public. FSU's coach thought "Nebraska got overconfident at halftime," and he said it.

He also has a candid review on Husker runner Jarvis Redwine, who made 145 yards Saturday and now has an eye-popping 672 in just four games. I suggested that Redwine was good, but not in the class with George Rogers of South Carolina.

"No comparison," Bowden said.

"Redwine is a senior isn't he? He won't be here to haunt us next year, will he? Okay, well, I told our team that Redwine was not nearly as good as Rogers, a runner we handled fairly well last year."

Redwine had his 145 yards, but was stopped when the chips turned blue. As Nebraska drove in the last minute, he was battered by the FSU defense and limped away with a damaged shoulder.

Nebraska is strong. It wouldn't be terribly shocking to see the Cornhuskers win the Big Eight and go to the Orange Bowl. To have a 10-1 record and, at year's end, again be ranked No. 3 by AP and UPI.

But this Saturday was FSU's.

Nebraska's fans took it with colossal class. As FSU's players hopped gleefully off the field, red-shirted and red-trousered customers gave healthy applause. Showing honorable appreciation for a team that had whipped their beloved Huskers.

"I couldn't believe it," Stockstill said. "In most road games, you run for your life. People here are so classy. They were over by our bench, shaking our hands and saying how well we played, especially our defense."

Thanks to some brutal scheduling, FSU returns to Lincoln in 1981 and 1985 and 1986. The Huskers are ticketed for no trips to Tallahassee. "That makes it so difficult," Bowden said, "but we've got one nobody can take away. For awhile, I thought they had us. All these circumstances make this such a big, big win."

Although FSU plays its next game on the friendlier grass of Doak Campbell Stadium in Florida's capital town, the enemy gets no softer. Next up is unbeaten, high-

ly-ranked Pittsburgh. Another outfit talking national championship.

"How can we top this?" said quarterback Stockstill, mirroring a reporter's question, "by beating Pittsburgh at home." Bowden said, "We knocked ourselves out of the nation's Top Ten by losing to Miami. Now we can knock ourselves back in by beating Nebraska and Pitt back-to-back. At least we've got it half-done."

Miami beat the Seminoles 10-9 a week ago, ending FSU's 18-game regular season win streak. With Nebraska and Pitt following the Hurricanes, it was a time when the Seminoles had to search their minds and decide if this was to be an outstanding FSU season or a so-so year when they lost to some rough teams.

Saturday, we got the answer.

Even so, Bowden almost swallowed his uppers and lowers with 4:01 left in the game. FSU had bounced into a 15-14 lead and, with dazzling defense, had forced Nebraska to punt.

Victory was creeping closer.

Kick returner Gary Henry from Orlando held his hand high to signal a fair catch. It would give FSU possession at the Husker 42. But, Henry got a case of frozen fingers. He dropped the football and Nebraska wound up with it.


Bowden is a religious fellow, not prone to loud cursing. "I said some very unreligious things," he later admitted, "we dropped that dad-blamed punt and let Nebraska back in the game. I'll have to have forgiveness for what I said."

Saturday was a sign of maturing for FSU. Something of a football Bar Mitzvah. Seminole people now know there can be victories sweeter even than beating in-state rival Florida. There is something beyond the Georgia-Florida border. On a national scale, this one blows a heavy trumpet for Florida State football.

Opponents don't often come to Lincoln, before that blood-red crowd, and whip one of the vintage Cornhusker teams. I mean, except for an occasional Oklahoma. This is news that reaches far.

Joe Marshall, one of Sports Illustrated's writers, was here for the game. The idea was to do a big story about Nebraska and how the Huskers seemed a legit national championship bet for the first time since Bob Devaney retired as coach.

Joe's story got changed. By late Saturday, he had throw away his notes on Nebraska coach Tom Osborne and all those people in red. He was doing some fast scratching, getting stuff on Bobby Bowden and Rick Stockstill and Paul Piurowski and the Florida State Seminoles.

A worthy tale. 

# FSU staggers Nebraska, 18-14

By MIKE TIERNEY

St. Petersburg Times Staff Writer

LINCOLN, Neb.—Four is for the key second-half turnovers that Nebraska did commit.

Three is for the points that field-goal kicker Bill Capece kept scoring.

Two is for the times that Florida State tacklers made a critical hit.

And won is what FSU did in a game that was anything but boring.

The Seminoles (4-1) had Nebraska's number on a marvelous Midwestern Saturday, and it was poetic justice that they came away with an 18-14 victory over the third-ranked Cornhuskers before 76,152 stunned, scarlet-garbed spectators.

A zero-hour crunch of Husker quarterback Jeff Quinn by FSU linebacker Paul Piurowski forced a fumble with about 10 seconds to go and salted away the most significant win in Seminole annals. Nebraska had driven to the Florida State 3.

"I thought I was gonna see another Miami finish," gasped Seminole head coach Bobby Bowden, referring to his team's last-minute 10-9 loss to the Hurricanes a week ago.

In a way, Bowden did witness a rerun. FSU failed on a two-point conversion in Miami. And the Huskers had about the same distance—3 yards—to travel for a touchdown that would blunt a hardy second-half comeback by the deeply underdogged visitors.

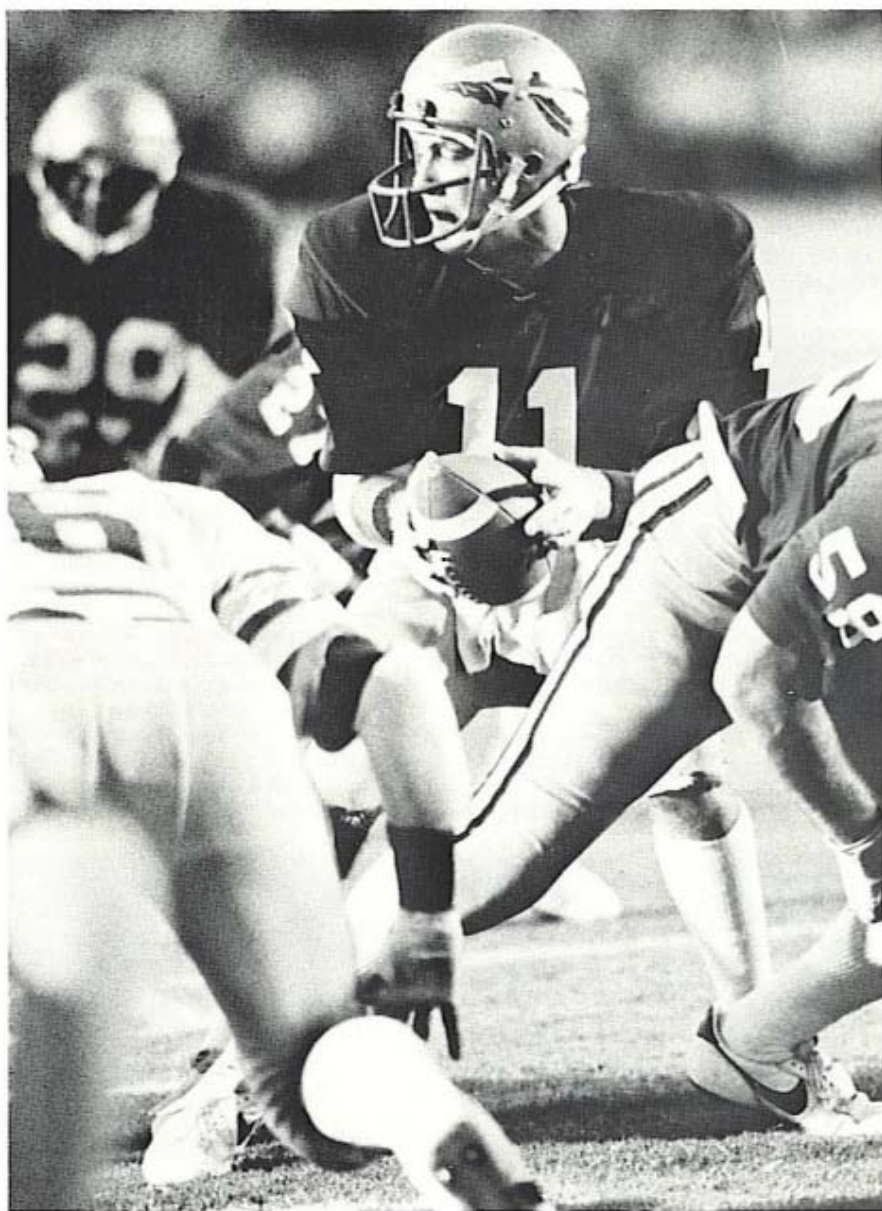
But Piurowski infiltrated the backfield as Quinn was rolling out and wrapped his arms around the quarterback, which caused Nebraska's fourth giveaway of the half. FSU's Garry Futch fell on the ball to seal Nebraska's first set-back in four games.

"That darling Piurowski and that sweet Futch," beamed Bowden. "They are my buddies for this week."

The other meaningful hit occurred earlier in the near game-winning Nebraska march when Heisman Trophy nominee Jarvis Redwine crumpled in a heap after being tackled at the Seminole 29. The blow, apparently delivered by Reggie Herring, rendered Redwine weak with injured ribs that will probably cost him at least one game. From then on, the Huskers were without their main man, the nation's foremost rusher entering the game. He limped off with 151 yards in 25 carries.

"I hate to see anybody get hurt," said Piurowski, who had two hands in on the tackle. "But, to be honest, I was glad to see him go."

"He's so dangerous," Bowden said of Redwine. "I imagine he had half his yards when we had the angle on him and he'd go right to the outside."



FSU appeared to have only an outside chance of winning—if that much—when it ducked into the locker room with a 14-3 deficit. Nebraska had scored on twin drives of 80 yards in eight plays, both concluded with touchdown passes to Todd Brown. All FSU could manage was Capece's first field goal.

"We should have been even with them starting the second half except their pass rush was better than ours," said Bowden, who had scribbled PASS RUSH on a blackboard at the half. "They protected their quarterback and we couldn't protect ours."

Quinn was 8-for-13 at intermission. FSU thrower Rick Stockstill, meanwhile,

had been sacked four times.

One series typified the offense's frustration: Monk Bonasorte pirated a Quinn pass—setting a school career record with 13 interceptions—and was upended at the Nebraska 33. A piling-on penalty advanced the Seminoles 15 more yards. Three plays later, it was fourth down, 38 yards to go. Stockstill had been dumped twice, and a reverse play went 10 yards in reverse.

Stockstill, given enforced protection, connected on eight of his 12 passes in the second half and was sacked just once. The Seminole defense blitzed Quinn more frequently, resulting in 7-for-17 accuracy and two behind-the-line tackles, including

the immense one by Piurowski.

Piurowski later admitted that he made a judgmental error on the play, for which he will surely be forgiven many times over by Bowden.

"We were in a man-to-man coverage, and I was supposed to be covering the fullback," said the Sarasota, who was involved in 17 tackles Saturday. "I hadn't been playing man-to-man too well. I just wasn't caught up in the game."

Piurowski said he saw the Husker fullback charge forward to block. That left an inviting gap to Quinn, and Piurowski couldn't resist. "Coach Bowden always says that if we make a mistake, go full speed and try to make something happen."

The FSU dressing quarters were stocked with lesser heroes:

✓ Rohn Stark's cloud-scraping punts kept Nebraska at bay when the Seminole offense was a clunker at times. His average was 48.4 yards.

✓ Center Jerry Coleman, a walk-on who pays his own tuition, snapped impeccably in his first college game ever. Against Miami, FSU had 10 faulty hikes.

✓ Ron Simmons, the All-American nose guard, went nearly three quarters of the game on a sprained right ankle. "I must have sprained it three or four more times in the game," he said. "Trying to run full-speed on a sprained ankle, believe me, is not easy."

✓ Running back Sam Platt, dropped from the first string after a desultory performance last weekend, stormed off the bench in the second quarter and pitched

in with his running and receiving. He scored the Seminole touchdown. "It (the demotion) got me pumped up for this game," he said. "I'm glad I got a chance to redeem myself."

Platt entered when FSU trailed 14-0. The Huskers had been halted on their first possession at the Seminole 30. Next time up, they went the distance as Quinn completed passes of 25 and 22 yards before nailing Brown with an 8-yarder for the touchdown.

In the second quarter, a boo-boo by the officials took Nebraska out of a hole. A Stark punt had sailed out of bounds clearly inside the Cornhusker 5, but the ball was brought out to the 20. Given elbow room, the Husker offense took care of the remaining 80 yards itself, with Redwine running 30 and 23 yards on two plays and Quinn tossing 12 yards to Brown for the score.

FSU, which had resorted to halfback passes and double reverses, then pulled Platt out of the hat. He launched FSU's only first-half march with the kickoff return, then proceeded to catch three passes for 25 yards and run for 21 more yards. Capece swatted a 32-yard field goal to get his squad on the board just before halftime.

Capece chopped it to 14-6 with a 27-yarder early in the third quarter after Bobby Butler recovered a bobbled snap by Nebraska punter Scott Gumar.

The next Nebraska turnover was the handiwork of Keith Jones. The Florida State defensive back intercepted and returned to the Husker 46. On the seventh

play, Platt juked 6 yards for the touchdown and a 14-12 count. A two-point try went awry as Stockstill, pressured, threw wildly to receiver Phil Williams in the end zone.

FSU seized the lead by the end of the third quarter on a 40-yard strike by Capece. Again, the defense was responsible. Mark Macek instigated a Redwine fumble at the Nebraska 34 and freshman Alphonso Carreker recovered.

Nebraska was pinned back in its half of the field until Gary Henry fumbled an attempted fair catch on a punt and the Huskers pounced on it in Seminole ground. That tilted the field position away from the Seminoles, but they hurdled out of this territorial disadvantage when Stockstill heaved to Williams for 40 yards to the Nebraska 32 on a third-and-13 play. Capece came on for his longest yet, a 41-yarder, that had Nebraska defenders motioning "wide left" with their arms. However, the referees disagreed, and FSU was up 18-14 with 2:37 left.

"It was good by a yard," said Capece.

The yard loomed large because Nebraska now needed a touchdown, rather than a field goal, to rescue this one. Two major penalties smoothed the drive along, and a 23-yard completion on fourth down by Quinn hustled the Huskers to the FSU 21. Two runs moved them to the 3-yard line.

Nebraska lacked two essentials: (1.) timeouts, and (2.) Redwine. With 17 seconds left, they had no choice but to pass. Quinn did let go of the ball but, with Piurowski draped around him, it turned into a fumble that was claimed by Futch.





# Tribe claws Panthers before 52,894

By MARK JOHNSON

Fort Lauderdale News Staff Writer

TALLAHASSEE—The Florida State Seminoles slayed another giant last night, kicking and clawing their way to a 36-22 upset victory over Pittsburgh before a record crowd of 52,894 at Doak Campbell Stadium.

Bill Capece set a school record with five field goals and Rick Stockstill threw three touchdown passes off the second-rated defense in the nation, giving the 11th-ranked Seminoles their second straight win over an undefeated team ranked in the top five. But while it was defense that saved the day last week against Nebraska, last night it was offense—290 yards worth without a turnover. The Panthers (4-1) gained 386 but turned the ball over seven times.

"You can't win by making mistakes and tuning the ball over as many times as we did," said Jackie Sherrill, whose Panthers were ranked No. 3 in UPI's poll and No. 4 in AP's. "They (the Seminoles) showed they're a great team by taking advantage of our turnovers."

"This game makes me feel good," FSU coach Bobby Bowden said. "We deserve some national attention."

Never has Florida State had back-to-back victories like these. Never this season have the Seminoles gotten such offense when they've needed it most.

"We hadn't been doing our part," said Stockstill, who was 10-of-20 for 127 yards. "Against Miami (the lone blemish on FSU's 5-1 record) we didn't do a good job, and against Nebraska we didn't do a good enough job, either. We got together and said we've got to do something, take charge. And we did it tonight."

Tailback Sam Platt, who was removed from the starting lineup after the Miami loss, gained 123 yards last night on 26 carries. "I felt like this was my last year and I had to do it," Platt said. "When I got the chance, it was my last chance. I had to do it."

"We felt like our offense had to get rolling. Everybody was downgrading our offense—we ain't this, we ain't that. But we showed we can play with anyone tonight."

The sellout Florida State crowd had barely settled in for the evening when Pittsburgh turned a punt and a long pass into an early 7-0 lead.

The Seminoles, starting from their 12, found out first-hand about Pittsburgh's mean Hugh Green when he dropped quarterback Rick Stockstill for a 10-yard loss on the opening play. Rohn Stark punted to the FSU 44, and on second down Dan Marino heaved the ball toward the end zone. Pitt's Dwight Collins and



FSU defensive back Keith Jones waited for the ball behind the goal line, but Collins had position and made the catch for a 39-yard touchdown just 2:49 into the game.

The Florida State offense was stagnant throughout the first quarter, but still managed to get three points on a Pittsburgh fumble, with tight end Benjie Pryor doing the honors and FSU's Jarvis Coursey recovering at the Pitt 32.

Tailback Platt produced a nifty 16-yard run off right tackle on first down, but the Seminoles stalled there and were forced to bring on Capece for a 24-yard field goal with 5:47 to go, making it 7-3.

Pittsburgh dominated the first quarter in every department but punting. A 60-yard Stark punt set up the Seminoles' field goal, and his 67-yarder put the Panthers inside their 20 to start the second quarter.

They didn't stay there long. Rooster Jones picked up 14 yards on the first play of the period and Marino hit Collins on a 44-yard pass on the next play to the Seminoles' 31. But Marino fumbled the snap on second down, and FSU's Arthur Scott recovered to begin the Seminoles' first touchdown drive.

Again a Stark punt got FSU going, only this time the Panthers dug their own grave. First Pitt's Rich Kraynak roughed Stark, but the penalty was never marked off because Troy Hill fumbled the kick and Ron Hester—the replacement for in-

jured Ron Piurowski—recovered for FSU at the Panthers' 24.

Following a 15-yard penalty, Platt picked up 18 yards and Stockstill on third down threw 23 yards to Hardis Johnson for the touchdown. With 10:33 left in the half it was 10-7 Seminoles.

The Panthers were reeling. Artrell Hawkins fumbled the kickoff and was nailed at his six, and an illegal procedure penalty moved them back three more yards on first down. Dave Helper ended up punting 34 yards, setting up the Seminoles at Pitt's 45. From there Platt went to work, running 5, 7, 2 and 30 yards on successive plays and setting up a four-yard pass from Stockstill to tight end Sam Childers with 5:31 remaining, giving the Seminoles a 17-7 cushion.

Again, Pittsburgh was forced to punt four plays after the ensuing kickoff, and FSU quickly drove to the Pitt 25 thanks mainly to an 11-yard run by Platt on third-and-10 and a 17-yard pass from Stockstill to Zeke Mowatt with 1:28 to go. But Green kept FSU out of the end zone by nailing Williams for a yard loss and batting away a Stockstill pass, setting up a 43-yard field goal by Capece with 37 seconds left.

The Seminoles weren't through yet. Jones picked off a long Marino pass and returned it 41 yards to the Panthers' 34 with just three seconds to go.

# FSU Flattens Boston College, 41-7

By LARRY DORMAN

*Miami Herald*

TALLAHASSEE—Florida State was set for the Big Letdown. Everybody said so. And after the seventh-ranked Seminoles had thrashed Boston College, 41-7, Saturday night before 52,396 Homecoming spectators at Doak Campbell Stadium, they were still saying so.

With straight faces, no less.

"It took a lot out of us playing the last two games against Pitt and Nebraska," said quarterback Rick Stockstill, who ran for one touchdown and helped set up four field goals by Bill Capece. "It was hard to get up after that. We were flat."

If FSU (6-1) was flat, what, you may ask, did that make Boston College (2-4)? Flattened, for one thing. The Eagles' only touchdown came on an 83-yard interception return by Rich Dyer in the second period.

The BC offense, meanwhile, was limited to a pitiful 105 yards. And when its offense was finished falling all over itself, the Boston College kicking game took over. Ron Hester scored on a 20-yard return of his own blocked punt, and FSU got two points when Eagle punter John Cooper stepped out of the end zone for a safety.

Florida State enjoyed good field position for most of the night. Fullback Mike Whiting scored on a 15-yard run and third-string quarterback Kelly Lowrey capped the scoring with a one-yard run in the fourth quarter.

All this from a "flat" team.

"I thought we were never going to score," FSU Coach Bobby Bowden said. "Our offense just didn't have the punch, didn't have the punch."

The punchless Seminole offense rolled up 338 net yards. The "flat" FSU defense recovered two fumbles, intercepted two passes and returned the blocked punt for a touchdown.

"Mentally, we were completely flat," said cornerback Bobby Butler. "I was bored. Boston College just wasn't real impressive on film, and even though everybody said they are a lot better than they looked on film, we just couldn't get a lot of enthusiasm."

"I think we might have been able to beat them a little worse," Hester said. "But I don't know how much. It was definitely a let-down. There wasn't as much enthusiasm as we're used to having."

Added Whiting: "We couldn't get our heads into it."

FSU players and coaches in the dressing room were having more success selling the "big letdown" to newsmen than they did selling it to Boston College.



In what is becoming a familiar refrain for coaches visiting Tallahassee, Boston College Coach Ed Chlebek said, "Florida State just went out and beat us in every phase of the game. We didn't play well at all. We couldn't do anything with them, and that just about sums it up."

But Bowden, who was smiling thinly, did not have the look of a coach whose team had just beaten an opponent in every phase of the game.

"Boston College came in here and battled us and fought us," Bowden said. "I'm not very happy at all with the offense. I don't know how many chances we had to score touchdowns and didn't."

Bowden's pre-game protests aside, most observers knew the only way Boston College could upset FSU was if the Seminoles came out and did a beached-whale impression. That didn't happen. It was, in fact, Boston College that was flopping around like a fish on the deck.

Before a minute was gone, Capece already had one of two first-half field goals—both of which came courtesy of Eagles' turnovers. To set the tone for Boston College's first-half performance, Cyril Keniry fumbled the opening kickoff and Mark Rodrigue recovered for the Seminoles at the BC 20.

The Seminoles moved to the Eagles' nine in two plays, but that was all they could manage and Capece, Mr. Automatic, kicked his 15th field goal of the season—a 27-yarder—to set an FSU single-season record.

Capece barely had time to sit down before he was on the field again to give FSU a 6-0 lead. BC quarterback John Loughery, soon to be lifted in favor of Doug Guyer, threw a pass directly to

Seminole linebacker Reggie Herring at the Eagles' 35. Herring ran the ball back to the 24, but once again the FSU offense went nowhere and Capece hit a 39-yarder.

It was tough for a team to look much worse than Boston College had until then, but the Eagles' found a way. On their next possession, the Eagles made their deepest penetration so far—to their own 33—before they were forced to punt. Alas, someone forgot to block Hester and he slammed the punt to the ground with both hands, scooped it up and ran 20 yards for the TD.

Guyer took a page from his predecessor's book shortly thereafter when he hit FSU defensive back Keith Jones, who was all alone over the middle, and Jones returned the ball from his 32 to the Eagles' 48.

This time, the offense managed to move the ball. Quarterback Rick Stockstill opened the touchdown drive with a 12-yard completion to Sam Platt. A halfback pass from Platt to tight end Barry Volpatti on third and two moved it to the BC 18, and two plays later, Whiting burst 15 yards up the middle for the score. Capece's kick made it 20-0.

FSU should have made it 27-0 on BC's next series when a beleaguered Cooper did a swan dive at his 29 in the face of a brutal FSU rush and the Seminoles took over.

The Keystone Kops Syndrome infected FSU, however, and Stockstill threw a pass right in Dyer's arms. The BC defensive back ran 83 yards for the touchdown.

Boston College failed to take advantage of a Seminole turnover on FSU's first possession of the second half—Sam Childers fumbled at the Seminole 35 and BC recovered and went backwards—and Florida State widened its lead to 23-7 by driving from its own 30 to the Eagle 20.

Childers' 16-yard reception and a 15-yard run by Platt were the big plays in the drive, and when it stalled Capece chipped through a 36-yarder.

Florida State added two points when Cooper was forced to step over the end line for a safety, and it got six more when Dennis McKinnon set up a one-yard TD plunge by Stockstill by returning the free kick 45 yards to the Boston College 25.

Precisely six plays after the Eagles had sought to minimize their losses by intentionally taking the safety, FSU was leading, 31-7, and going for two more. The try failed, but there was more to come.

Blair Williams relieved Stockstill and promptly moved the Seminoles into field-goal range to the BC 14. Capece made it 34-7 with the 31-yard field goal with 9:09 left.



# Platt, FSU maul Memphis State

By **DICK SCHNEIDER**

*Ledger sports writer*

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—When Bobby Bowden moved Sam Platt from wide receiver to tailback last spring, he expected Platt to put the fear of God into the defense.

Florida State heralded the switch by saying Platt had the speed to turn the corner and pound defenses into submission by tap-dancing around the cornerbacks. The strength to bust off-tackle then weave through the secondary. Simply, they thought Sam Platt would be the best back since the Larry Key Show played here a few years ago.

Here Saturday, it was Sam Platt as advertised.

With his line opening holes with ridiculous ease, Platt set a school record by rushing for 188 yards as the Seminoles ho-hummed their way to a 24-3 win over the Memphis State Tigers.

The old record was 170 yards, set by Key against Auburn in 1977. Platt broke that record early in the fourth quarter when he took a pitch from Rick Stockstill and executed a few ballet steps for an 8-yard pickup.

"I had no idea I was near the record," whispered the soft-spoken senior from Jacksonville. "At halftime, they told me I had gained just over 100 yards. I didn't even think I had gained that much."

But early in the fourth quarter, Platt had 131 yards, and it didn't appear he would set the record, until he took a pitch to the right—again—and raced 22 yards. Two carries later, he broke the record with a run around the end.

"I'm very happy to have the record, of course," said Platt, selected as the Chevrolet Player of the Game by ABC. It was Platt's second such honor in his career.

"I still didn't think I had that many yards, even at the end of the game," he continued.

"But the line blocked well. The holes were there all day."

Florida State did nothing fancy with its offense against Memphis State, it didn't have to. Its attack had the originality of a finger painting. A distinct Woody Hayes flavor. Pitch right, pitch left and hand off up the middle.

"There were very few times in this game," said Stockstill, "where we really had to throw the ball."

But even with the no-frills offense, FSU picked up 365 yards, rushing just 18 yards shy of another school record set back in 1957 when the Tribe rushed for 383 yards against Abilene Christian. Sophomore Ricky Williams had another excellent game, rushing for 60 yards in a reserve roll. And fullback Mike Whiting



rushed for 78.

While the game itself inspired nothing but yawns for the most part, there were some moments. For example:

- FSU place kicker Bill Capece could have broken a school record for points in a season, but proved he was indeed human after all and missed three attempts in four tries. Capece had six points on the afternoon and is now three points shy of the scoring record, held by Barry Smith at 86.

- Florida State's defense stopped Memphis State on three downs from the 1-yard line. Oddly, Memphis State elected to run two of those plays right at Ron Simmons, who stopped them cold. On fourth-and-goal from the 1, Memphis State went wide to its right and ran into Arthur Scott.

- A crowd of 28,778 attended the game despite a massive giveaway by Memphis State. To make a good showing for television, Memphis State reportedly gave away 40,000 tickets, leaving one to speculate what the crowd would have been if no freebies were offered.

- And in perhaps the strangest play of



the season, quarterback Rick Stockstill completed a pass—to himself.

On the Tribe's first possession of the game, Stockstill was faced with a third-and-four at his own 23. Stockstill dropped back and threw, but his pass hit the arms of Memphis State's Stanley Adams, a defensive end.

But the ball popped back into Stockstill's hands and the junior took off around right end for 31 yards.

"I had never seen a quarterback complete a pass to himself," said Bobby Bowden, "and I still haven't. I didn't see it. I was on the phones, talking to someone upstairs when the pass was deflected. I started yelling, 'Where's the ball, where's the ball?' Then I saw Rick racing down the sidelines past me."

"It was a play we put in Tuesday," quipped Stockstill.

The no-frills offense produced no-frills touchdowns.

FSU scored on its second possession, marching 66 yards in nine plays with Platt going over from 1. Capece was perfect and it was 7-0. On its next series the Tribe moved to the Memphis State 8, then called on Capece to kick a 25 yarder. The final touchdown of the half came with 1:40 left when Stockstill hit Dennis McKinnon at the MSU 1, and the receiver literally stumbled into the end zone, making it 17-0 at half.


It wouldn't have been a true Florida State win unless the defense at least set up one score, which it did early in the third quarter. Faced with fourth-and-seven at its own 30, Memphis State elected to punt but it was blocked by Bobby Butler and Ron Hester recovered for the Tribe at the 7. Two plays later Whiting powered over from the 3 and it was 24-0.

Memphis State managed a third-quarter field goal, but that's about all it managed. The Tigers did not penetrate Florida State territory in the first half and Memphis State's total offense finished behind Platt's rushing figures, 188-183.

"I would have liked to have scored more, but Memphis State wouldn't let us," said Bowden. "You've got to remember, they have seven returning starters on defense. They've just been making a lot of mistakes this year and when they made mistakes against us, we scored."

So Florida State slips out of town and avoids the upset, returning to Tallahassee with a 7-1 record. Memphis State continues to have its problems and falls to 1-6 and Coach Richard Williamson's job security looks weaker with each game.

And Sam Platt goes home with one for the record books.

Just as advertised. 

# Stockstill, Platt star in 45-2 romp

By **BILL BUCHALTER**

*Sentinel Star Associate Sports Editor*

TALLAHASSEE—All afternoon Florida State's coaching staff listened to the rash of upsets being reported around the country.

Coach Bobby Bowden, mindful of the Seminoles' No. 5 ranking, mentioned the demise of previous unbeaten Alabama, UCLA, North Carolina and Baylor to his squad before kickoff.

The Seminoles got the message.

With Rick Stockstill throwing two touchdown passes and Sam Platt rushing to his fifth 100-yard game, the Seminoles hammered out an impressive 45-2 victory over outmanned Tulsa.

This was the same Tulsa bunch that fought Arkansas to the buzzer before falling 13-10 at Fayetteville, the same Tulsa that brought a 5-2 record to Doak Campbell Stadium, the same Tulsa that had Bowden "scared to death, especially after the rash of upsets. I was concerned we would be marked for that, too."

Stockstill, declaring early that he was ready to play, completed 13-of-18 passes for 171 yards and touchdowns to Hardis Johnson and Kurt Unglaub.

Platt, tying Larry Key's mark of five 100-yard games, rushed for 113 and a touchdown.

Mike Whiting added 74 yards plus two touchdowns while Ricky Williams got the sixth score. Billy Capece added nine points to his record collection and FSU was sitting pretty at 8-1 and waiting for the bowl folks and the poll folks to do their things.

Stockstill predicted the offense would be ready to play. "I know I am," he said in the locker room before the game.

He was right.

Stockstill directed the offense on first-quarter drives of 53, 73 and 57 yards. He completed 9-of-10 passes for 106 yards. The result was a missed Capece field goal and two touchdowns.

The miss was from 41 yards and seemed to prod the offense.

Especially Stockstill.

A 17-yard Stockstill-to-Sam Childers pass started the first scoring drive. Then the junior mixed some runs by Platt and Mike Whiting to move the ball to Tulsa's 33.

Then Stockstill took over. He hit Whiting for eight yards and Johnson for eight on a diving catch at the 17. Then Johnson ran the same pattern, but streaked to the flag and caught Stockstill's perfect pass for the score. Capece kicked it to 7-0 with 6:13 left in the period.

A Ron Simmons' sack and a strong rush forced a short punt setting up FSU at its own 43. Eleven plays later, Whiting

burst up the middle for the final three yards.

Stockstill had three completions on the drive, including one to Childers on the three preceding the touchdown. Platt added an 11-yard run as he moved into the No. 5 spot on the Seminole single season rushing list.

But it was the FSU defense which really brought the smallest Doak Campbell Stadium crowd of the year to its feet.

The quick feet of Tulsa quarterback Kenny Jackson had keyed a picture-perfect drive from the Hurricane 29 to the FSU one midway in the second quarter.

But four cracks at the Seminole goal got absolutely nothing except frustration. Simmons, Keith Jones, Scott McLean, Mark Macek, James Gilbert and Reggie Herring simply closed the door.

Tulsa did get a pair of points moments later. Stockstill had apparently got out of trouble with a first down at the 11. But a holding penalty put the ball inside the one. So FSU went for the bomb, but blitzing Jim Maxwell sacked Stockstill in the end zone for a safety. That cut the margin to 14-2.

It looked like the half would end that way except for a critical Hurricane mistake, one of the few they have made this season.

But with time winding down and the expensive scoreboard clock not functioning properly, Tulsa roughed FSU punter Rohn Stark.

This breathed new life into the FSU offense in the final minute of the half. Stockstill teamed with Platt for an 11-yard pass to the Tulsa 33. Then he drilled one down the middle to Johnson to the 10.

After two incompletions, Stockstill looped a perfect pitch to the flag and Unglaub made a diving catch in the end zone with 13 seconds left.

Capece kicked it to 21-2 for his 29th consecutive PAT.

The now surging Seminoles made it look easy after intermission.

First Macek and Herring sacked the elusive Jackson on third down to force a punt. Then Cook, under pressure, shanked a short punt which took an FSU bounce. The Seminoles started at their own 48.

Six plays later—all via the infantry route—Whiting burst into the end zone from the four. Capece booted his 30th straight PAT for a 28-2 lead. Whiting deserved the score. After Platt spurted for two and 15 yards, Whiting did the rest. The 200-pound junior ran for 18, 9, 4 and the final 4.

Capece's kick ran his point total to 87, breaking Barry Smith's season record

established in 1972.

Platt and Whiting weren't through. Starting from the FSU 34, Platt ripped off a 26-yard sprint to Tulsa's 40. It took the Seminoles 10 plays from there, the two big ones being a 12-yard Platt burst and a pass interference penalty at the goal.

Platt barreled into the end zone with 4:59 remaining and Capece booted it to 35-2.

Four minutes later, FSU kept the offensive pressure building. Starting from Tulsa's 46 and overcoming a holding penalty, it took only seven plays for Williams to scoot the final 18 yards against the tiring Hurricane defenders.

Capece kicked it to 42-2, running his personal point total to 89 as he moved closer to Matt Bahr's NCAA single season mark of 97 points.

A 15-yard punt return by Gary Henry put the Seminole subs on the move as the fourth and final period began.

The drive bogged down at the eight so Capece came on to drill a 24-yard field goal, running the score to 45-2 with 9:21 remaining. Capece had missed three in succession and Bowden wanted him to regain some confidence plus work with Stockstill as a holder since Unglaub was hurt on the interference play.



# Impressive FSU rolls over VPI

By GERRY FRALEY  
Clearwater Sun Staff Writer

TALLAHASSEE—Now they wait for the reviews. Florida State closed its off-Broadway act Saturday and can only hope the show was good enough to earn a booking on the Great White Way of college football—the New Year's Day bowls.

The Seminoles finished with another bravado performance. They trounced Virginia Tech 31-7 at Doak Campbell Stadium before 51,487 appreciative patrons. That pushes No. 3 FSU to 9-1 and, after No. 1 Notre Dame's shocking standoff with meek Georgia Tech, probably No. 2 in the land. With a day of rest scheduled for next Saturday's bowl-bid scramble, that is FSU's legacy, the last act completed the play.

"We knew the game was really secondary," FSU linebacker Paul Piurowski said. "We knew we had to win and win impressively for the bowl people."

Those impressarios from the Cotton, Sugar and Orange parties saw what has become a typical FSU performance. The Seminole defense permitted no shenanigans, and the offense engaged in a war of attrition it seemingly always wins.

The defense choked off VPI's pride and joy—tailback Cyrus Lawrence. Entering the game ranked eighth nationally with

1,024 yards and a 128.0 per-game average, Lawrence died in the deathlock of the Seminoles. He finished with just 83 yards on 29 carries.

Dulled by the daydreaming day, the Seminole offense also stalled early. FSU quarterback Rick Stockstill tossed an aimless pass that VPI linebacker Ashley Lee intercepted at the FSU 31. Three plays later, on a fourth-and-4 play, VPI quarterback Steve Casey defied logical thinking and threw a 25-yard touchdown pass to Rod Purdham. With 46 seconds left in the opening quarter, FSU was about to bomb.

That was the defense's last lapse, but the offense still lazed in the sun. The breakthrough came with the first half nearly finished.

Starting from their 10, the Seminoles finally grasped the seriousness of the situation. "We knew if we lost today, it was all over," Stockstill said. With that in mind, FSU moved to the VPI 45.

Inertia returned, and FSU looked at a fourth-and-2 question. Bowden answered with a gamble—the bomb. It worked when Hardis Johnson went past a flat-footed defender and caught Stockstill's best toss of the day.

"We went for it because we knew there wasn't enough time left for them to come back and drive for a score," Bowden said.

"I came up to the line, saw them in a safety blitz and knew the play would work," said Stockstill, who finished 8-for-16 for 121 yards. "All I had to do was throw the ball up and let Hardis run under it."

The scoring play came so easily, FSU couldn't resist trying it again. After a stunned VPI lost the ball when Lawrence bobbled a pitch at the Tech 11, and Ron Simmons belly-flopped on it, Johnson took the stage.

He needed only one play. Another exact throw from Stockstill. The score and Bill Capece's conversion put FSU ahead 14-7 and raised its rating among the boys from the bowls.

"They waited 27 minutes before they gave me a birthday present," said Bowden, who turned 51 Saturday. "We were playing impatient and sorry football at first. Then the defense set up something and the offense cashed in. That's the way we play football."

They continued the style in the second half. Bobby Butler swiped a Casey pass at the VPI 30 early in the third quarter and FSU added to its advantage after brutal runs by fullback Michael Whiting of Largo.

Two Whiting runs left two VPI defenders on the injured list and FSU at the one. Stockstill wedged over for a touchdown, and Whiting had his final hurrah of the game. On the next series, he twisted his left ankle while blocking and went on the injured list.

"Something happened on a block," he said. "I just know it hurts like hell now, but it'll be all right."

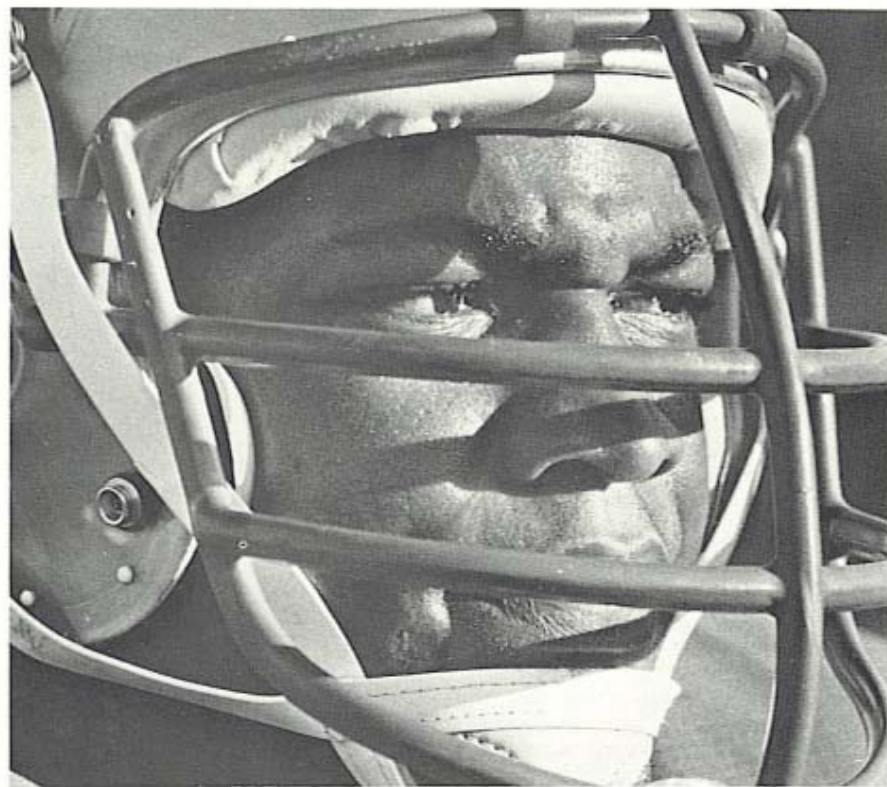
Without his blocking escort, Sam Platt still managed to find his way to a school record. The converted receiver picked up 108 yards, the sixth 100-plus yard game this season. And it came in fitting style on a 9-yard run with 8:02 left, a run that was no more trying than a jog through the park.

"The offensive line wanted me to get it," said Platt, a converted receiver, who now has 954 yards rushing this season. "If I had been a running back here all the time, there's no telling what would have happened."

"I want 1,000 bad, real bad."

Platt was not alone in setting standards of excellence. Placekicker Bill Capece ended a mild slump with a 42-yard field goal in the fourth quarter to give him 99 kicking points this season. That cracks the NCAA record of 97 set by Matt Bahr of Penn State in 1978.

Capece's final kick ended the last audition. "I just hope we can get a bowl on Jan. 1," Bowden said. "We've been shut out before."



# One more time, 17-13!

By **BILL McGROTHA**

Tallahassee Democrat sports editor

A yellow flag flew to the green, dyed-for-TV grass as Wayne Peace threw his 24th pass. The clock showed 1:03 left in the game.

Florida had an illegal receiver downfield on the fourth down play.

The dominant Seminoles among the biggest crowd (53,772) ever to see a football game in Tallahassee rocked with whoops that maybe could have been heard in Sopchoppy.

For the first time all Saturday, it seemed, they could breathe.

Florida State quarterback Rick Stockstill retreated and twice fell on the ball for losses—and it was over.

The Seminoles had won one of the hairiest—one of the best—of all games in the 23-year series, 17-13!

And now Coach Bobby Bowden will narrate the film for boosters at some future time, and when it comes to where Florida is leading 13-3 in the second quarter, he will say: "Now, we got 'em right where we want 'em." There will be roars of appreciative laughter, as his knowing listeners reflect upon all of the many times Bowden teams have pulled ones out of the fire after trailing early.

There is also the possibility of more such playful jokes after the Orange Bowl, where on Jan. 1 the Seminoles face Oklahoma, with indeed a chance to emerge as the nation's No. 1 college team—swinging, perhaps, on whether Notre Dame upsets Georgia in the Sugar Bowl and Florida State tops the Sooners.

On this Saturday, however, it was anything but a laughing matter. Florida pushed the Seminoles around in that first half in this 10-1 season like none other, except Nebraska.

In the end, it was the Seminoles' fourth straight conquest of their rivals. "It is awesome—a great feeling," said FSU linebacker Paul Piurowski. "I don't know how it would feel to win the World Series in four games, but I think it must feel like this."

Piurowski, who led the Seminoles in tackles with 15, was one of several Seminole seniors Florida coach Charley Pell sought out in the dressing room afterward. Pell walked in and shook several hands, extending congratulations. "I've never been so happy to see a graduation take place," said Pell, of those senior's last stand against Florida. "We should come and cheer at the FSU graduation ceremony."

The Seminoles won it, the book will say, on a 20-yard pass from Stockstill to Hardis Johnson with 31 seconds gone in



the last quarter, putting the final 17-14 score on the board—but they won it on a whole lot more than that.

Twice in that last quarter Keith Jones, another one of those seniors, intercepted passes, the last time at the FSU eight with 3:59 left.

Like so many other opponents before it, Florida was shut out by superb FSU defense in that last half. The Seminoles finished the season unscored upon in the vital last quarter, a not inconsiderable feat. In the last half of this season FSU outscored foes 193 to 21, and in the closing quarter 96 to 0.

But Florida, on 226 yards in the first half, took away Florida State's chances of finishing as the nation's No. 1 statistical best on defense. After intermission, Florida netted only 31 yards but the 257 total was enough to award No. 1 to Pittsburgh.

Two wide receivers—FSU's Johnson and Florida's Tyrone Young—were acclaimed the game's outstanding players by ABC, which televised the game nationally. Johnson collared seven passes for 107 yards and both Seminole touchdowns. Young snared five for 109 and UF's lone TD.

"Florida State deserved to win," said Pell. "They came back after the half with excellent adjustments."

FSU, first time it got the ball, jumped out front 3-0 on Bill Capece's 44-yard field goal after a drive from the Seminole 31 sparked by the running of Sam Platt.

But tailback Platt, with a busted shoulder, soon went down and out of the game for good after netting 29 yards on

six carries. Trainer Don Fauls thinks he has a fair chance of being able to play in the Orange Bowl.

Then Florida went against the grain with imaginative offensive work that placed the Seminoles squarely on the ropes. Essentially, the Gators shed their four-wide-receivers offense that they had used the last three games in favor of one that utilized two tight ends for blocking and got a running game going.

Meanwhile, freshman quarterback Peace was evading the rush—and nose guard Ron Simmons—with maneuvers



left and right, dropping straight back to pass only sparingly.

One net result was Florida punted only once in the opening half, on its opening series.

A bit later the Gators drove to midfield before Reggie Herring claimed a James Jones fumble.

Then, in a magnificent drive, Florida moved from its 12. On third down at his 47, Peace lofted a lovely pass that Young gathered in well behind defender James Harris, scoring on a 53-yard pass. FSU had checked off on its defensive signal to cover that play, but Harris had not heard the checkoff call.

Early in the second quarter, David Little intercepted a tipped pass thrown by Stockstill, setting up the Gators at FSU's 36. Brian Clark soon kicked a 38-yard field goal for 10-3.

On its next series, UF drove from its 23, mostly on the running of Johnnell Brown and Jones, but an 18-yard pass to Young was also a big key. Clark put through a 36-yard field goal, making it 13-3 with 1:48 left in the half.

Except for their opening series, the

Seminoles never threatened prior to intermission.

From the third-quarter kickoff, FSU moved in a splendid drive, 82 yards to a touchdown.

Ricky Williams, in for Platt, provided the spark. The first six times on that drive Stockstill handed the ball to Williams, who accumulated 39 yards to Florida's 43. (Williams finished with a game-high 75 for 21 carries).

Then Stockstill passed to Johnson at the 31, the 21 and—three plays later—nailed him with a 19-yard strike for a TD that narrowed the score to 13-10.

An aroused defense gave Florida only one first down in the third quarter—on an interference call. Mark Dickert got off two tremendous punts, one a 55-yarder, to keep the Seminole on their side of the field.

Late in the quarter, after the second Dickert punt (from the UF end zone), the Seminole moved from their 45. On third down, Johnson made an extraordinary diving catch of a Stockstill shot for a 29-yard pickup to UF's 32. Four plays later, on first down, Stockstill hit a wide-open



Johnson for the winning TD.

For the day, Stockstill completed 11 of 18 (eight of nine in the second half) for 137 of the Seminole's total 275 yards.

Moments later, Jones intercepted a Peace pass at the Florida 30. Four plays more, and Capece's try for a field goal from 48 yards out was wide left.

The Gators moved, on Peace passes, to FSU's 20. On third down, end Arthur Scott sacked Peace for minus 15. Bowden said later it might have been the game's biggest play. After that, Clark was way short on a 52-yard try for three points.

Once more Florida threatened, Peace passing the Gators to the FSU 40. Then Jones made an acrobatic, somersaulting interception at the Florida eight of a pass that teammate Monk Bonasorte had tipped.

FSU nursed the ball out to the 23 before Stark—who had a 61-yard punt earlier—booted on to UF's 44.

Then Peace, who hit on nine of 24 throws for 160 yards, threw four straight futile passes against a laidback, waiting defense.

Florida had four turnovers—three on interceptions—versus FSU's two. The Gators were penalized six times for 40 yards, the Seminole four for 47.

"The difference in the second half was we played with enthusiasm," said Stockstill. "We have to play better than this, though, to beat Oklahoma."

Florida goes into the Tangerine Bowl against Maryland with a 7-4 record.

It was Florida State's 16th straight victory in friendly Campbell Stadium.

"I was surprised by the type of game it was," said Bowden. "I thought they'd either beat us, or we'd beat them good."

"The key to this game was when we came out in the third quarter and stuck it to them."



# Sooners catch FSU at the pass

By **GARY LONG**  
*Herald Sports Writer*

Desperation forced Oklahoma quarterback J.C. Watts to take a relatively untested right arm out of mothballs Thursday night, and he passed the Sooners to a thrilling 18-17 victory over Florida State in the 47th annual Orange Bowl Classic.

He drilled an 11-yard touchdown pass to diving split end Steve Rhodes with just 1:27 remaining to cut into a 17-10 FSU lead. The points were the first scored against the Seminoles in the fourth quarter all season.

Watts, from a spread formation, then rolled to his right and found tight end Forest Valora with a two-point conversion pass. No defender was within five yards of Valora when he cradled the lob.

A 62-yard field-goal effort by FSU's Bill Capece on the final play appeared on target, but fell five yards short and wrote a bitter end to a bitter day for the Seminoles.

Six hours earlier, undefeated Georgia had held on for a 17-10 Sugar Bowl victory over Notre Dame to secure the No. 1 ranking and erase FSU's national championship aspirations.

The Seminole's only other loss this 10-2 season also was in the Orange Bowl stadium, 10-9 to the University of Miami, in their fourth game. Then, it was FSU's failure on a two-point conversion attempt in the waning seconds that doomed the Seminoles.

Big Eight champion Oklahoma, 9-3 in Orange Bowl classics, finished 10-2, winners of eight straight after early-season losses to Stanford and Texas.

"One play," Coach Bobby Bowden said. "One play. . . they made one more play than we did. That's one of the most disappointing losses I've ever had."

Gamet-and-gold-clad FSU fans in a crowd of 71,403 had begun celebrating as the Sooners took possession for the final time. Only three minutes and 19 seconds remained, and the Sooners needed to go 78 yards. The improbability was magnified by the fact Oklahoma's wishbone had been contained and Watts had thrown only 78 passes all year. The Sooners pounded for only 156 yards rushing after averaging 360 this season.

But on third down and nine from the 23, he fired deep up the right sideline to Rhodes, who outleaped safety Gary Henry and nearly escaped before being dragged down at the FSU 35.

After an incompletion, Watts flipped a swing pass to halfback Chet Winters for 14 yards and another first down at the 21.

On the next play, Watts was in the clutches of tackle James Gilbert when he



lofted an ill-advised pass into the flat. FSU tackle Gary Futch dropped what appeared to be a certain interception. "We intercepted the pass and ran with it and dropped it," the frustrated Bowden said. Watts scrambled for 10 yards on the next play.

End Jarvis Coursey got his hands on another Watts pass on first down from the 11, but he, too, bobbled it. That proved fatal, because Watts and Rhodes struck for six on the next play.

That was Watts' 12th pass and seventh completion of the game for 128 yards to only 51 for FSU's normally-potent aerial game. Not included in official stats is the

two-point pass, but it provided Oklahoma's second straight Orange Bowl triumph over FSU. Last year's, by a 24-7 count, wasn't nearly so eventful.

Florida State, the theory was, would need Oklahoma fumbles and a typically superior kicking game to win. And it was punter Mike Keeling's fumble of a high, hard center snap early in the fourth quarter that gave FSU its 17-10 lead and apparent control.

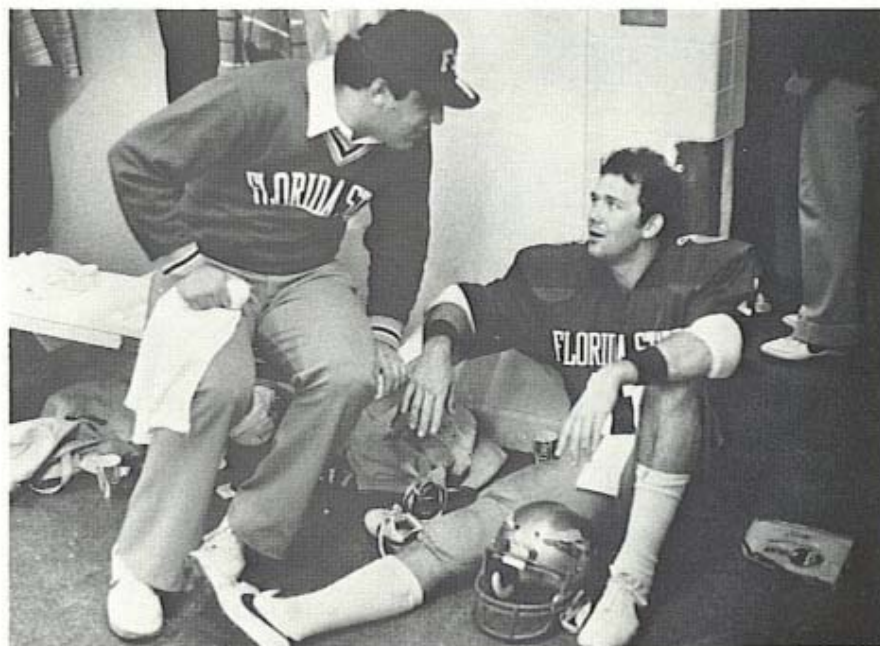
Center Mark Lucky's whistling snap came back helmet-high and sailed right between Keeling's hands. It bounced and rolled all the way back into the end zone as Keeling and a host of Seminoles took up the chase.

Keeling, linebackers Ron Hester and Reggie Herring and cornerback Bobby Butler got to the ball at about the same time, but Herring muscled Keeling aside while Butler recovered for the TD.

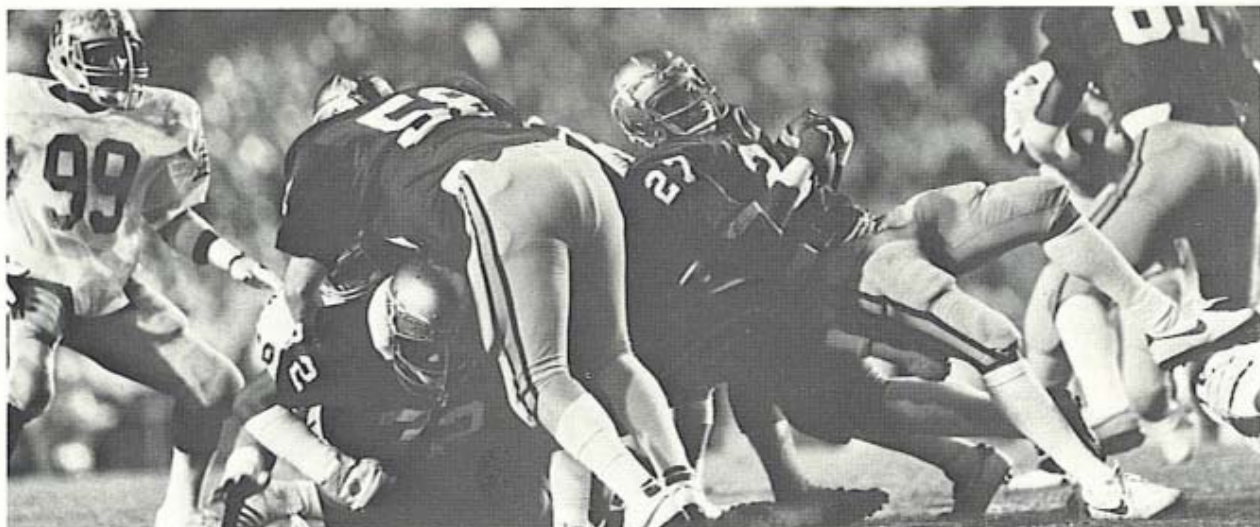
Capece, who also missed fieldgoal efforts of 49 and 44 yards, kicked the extra point that gave FSU a 17-10 lead that held up until Watts departed from Oklahoma's traditional game plan.

Practically disdaining the pass, FSU kept the Sooner defense on its heels in the first half with a conservative power game.

But Capece came up short on a 49-yard field-goal attempt late in the first quarter, and quarterback Rick Stockstill was repulsed on a fourth-and-a-foot sneak at the Oklahoma 32 midway through the second to thwart the Seminoles.







Finally, tailback Ricky Williams capped an 11-play, 70-yard drive by darting over left guard for 10 yards and a touchdown to break a scoreless tie with only 49 seconds left in the half.

On third down and one, Williams took Stockstill's handoff and found a gaping hole carved by tackle Ken Lanier and guard Greg Futch to increase his production in the march to 29 yards on three carries.

Stockstill, who netted only seven yards on three-for-three passing in the first quarter, did get the drive going with an eight-yard pass to Dennis McKinnon and a six-yard pass to tight end Sam Childers in the right flat.

But the mobile quarterback's major contribution came on third and four from the Sooners' 39. He faked a pitch and circled left on a naked bootleg for five critical yards before linebacker Mike Coast corralled him.

After a two-yard pass interference penalty, Williams took over. He sprinted 13 yards over the left side and then hit the same area for six more. Fullback Mike Whiting plunged three yards to the 10, and after Stockstill called timeout at the line of scrimmage, he came back from the sideline with the TD call.

Capece's extra point made it 7-0. Oklahoma got three points back on the final play of the half, though, as Keeling broke an Orange Bowl record with a 53-yard field goal.

The Sooners needed more than a little luck. Fullback Weldon Ledbetter swept around right end from the Sooners' 26 only to have the ball stripped from his hands after about a 10-yard pickup. Two or three Seminoles had a shot at the loose ball as it caromed crazily up the sideline toward midfield. But it rolled out of bounds, and Oklahoma had a 25-yard pickup.

Three more plays netted only two yards, but with only eight seconds left, Watts aimed a fourth-down pass at split end Jim Rockford and connected for 11

yards. Rockford struggled over the boundary to stop the clock with two seconds left.

Keeling, three for eight on field goals this season and wide right on a 34-yard attempt early in the second quarter, then came on to erase a 44-yard field goal by Penn State's Chris Bahr in 1974 from the record book.

The Sooners took the second-half kickoff and relentlessly consumed 78 yards in 12 plays, the last halfback David Overstreet's four-yard sprint around left end, to take the lead for the first time.

But again, Watts had to go to the air to keep the drive alive.

A fumbled center snap and a two-yard loss by halfback George (Buster) Rhymes placed the Sooners in a third-and-15 dilemma at their 33. But Watts found Valora two steps behind a linebacker and drilled a short pass that produced a 30-yard gain to FSU's 33.

Three plays and an FSU off-side penalty later, Oklahoma faced fourth down and two. With the Seminoles stacked inside, Watts ran down the line on the option and cut upfield for 21 yards to the FSU 8.

Watts kept off right tackle for four more before pitching to Overstreet going wide left for the TD. Keeling's extra point made it 10-7.

Eight odd minutes of FSU control later, after a successful fake field goal and an off-target 44-yard effort by Capece, the Seminoles got even, 10-10, on a 19-yard success by Capece.

An FSU drive appeared stalled at fourth and three at Oklahoma's 33, and the Seminoles lined up for an apparent 50-yard field-goal attempt. But holder Kurt Unglaub took the snap plowed over right tackle for four yards and a first down as Capece swung his right foot at an invisible ball.

The Seminoles notched only two yards on the next three plays, though, and Capece failed on the 44-yard try.

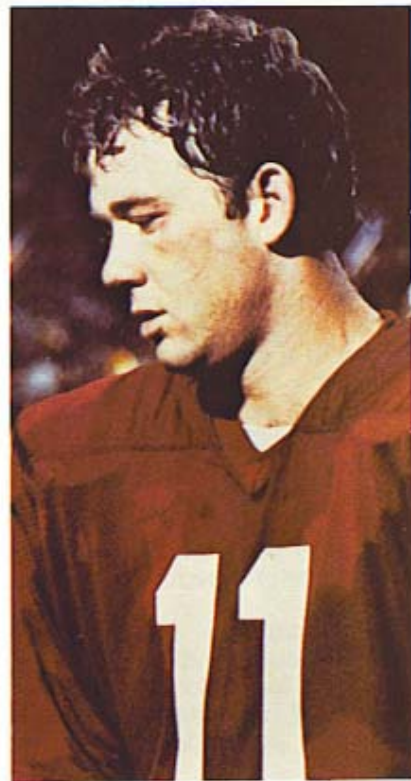
The riled-up FSU defense then gave him another opportunity, dropping

Rhymes for an eight-yard loss and Watts for a five-yard setback before Herring retrieved Watts' fumble of a third-down center snap at the Oklahoma 17.

An interference penalty against safety Ken Sitton on Stockstill's third-down pass from the 12 gave FSU a first down at the one.

But Stockstill got only half a yard on first down, and a procedure penalty nullified Whiting's scoring dive and set the Seminoles back to the six. From there, Stockstill gained four yards on a bootleg but then fired a third-down pass far off target.

Capece then forged the 10-10 tie with his 19-yarder.



# Stockstill Calling Tribe's Signals

By DAVE REEVES

*The Lakeland Ledger*

If Rick Stockstill didn't play quarterback for Florida State and were instead a fan, he'd be wondering why the Seminoles were stepping off a precipice and into the jaws of perhaps the toughest football schedule ever assembled.

But as a player and field leader for the Seminoles, who finished last year ranked fifth in the nation, Stockstill seems to be saying, "Bring on Notre Dame, Pittsburgh, Nebraska, Ohio State and LSU."

He didn't put it in those words, but Stockstill is confident and anxiously awaiting the road schedule that resembles a murderers row.

He saw a sea of fans dressed in red last year at Lincoln, where the Seminoles stunned the Cornhuskers, 18-14. Stockstill also called the signals for the FSU offense which rendered Pitt helpless in a 36-22 win.

Those were among the peaks of the 1980 season, but Stockstill also experienced the valleys. The most notable being the last-second 18-17 loss to Oklahoma in the Orange Bowl, which gave the Seminoles an 10-2 record for the season.

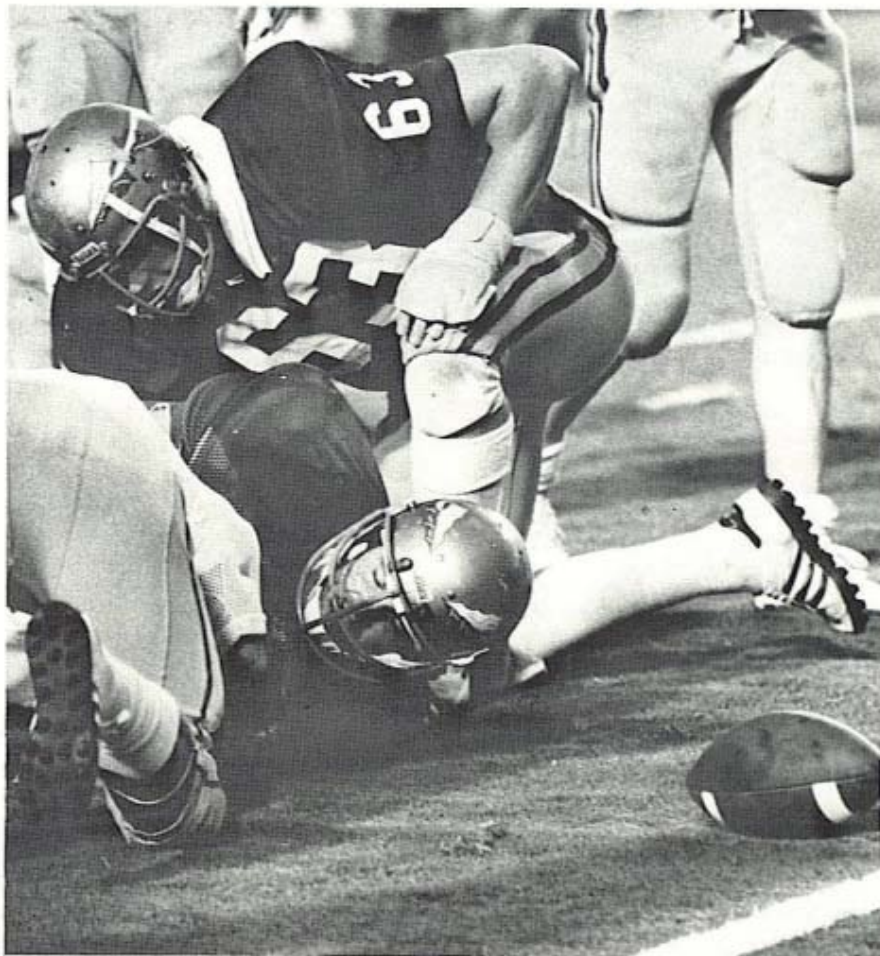
The fact is, however, that Stockstill and his teammates were conditioned by a taste of major college football last year. They had a degree of success and despite losing eight starters on defense and six on offense, Stockstill doesn't seem to be fazed by what lies ahead.

"If I wasn't a player and wasn't associated with this program, I'd probably say, 'Golly, how can you play and be successful with games like that five weeks in a row on the road,'" said Stockstill.

"But as a player and being part of this program and knowing the people and coaching staff, I have confidence that we'll do all right."

Despite his confidence, Stockstill realizes the problems the Seminoles face as they prepare for the rigorous season.

"We've lost eight starters on defense," he said, "and when you lose them, you lose a lot of experience and leadership. What we need now is for people to step forward and be leaders.



"We'll have all new people on defense and they're going to be making mistakes because some of the players have never played in those positions before.

"Right now, the offense has more confidence than the defense just because we have more people back."

But there are still rough edges on both teams and hopefully those kinks were worked out during last spring's drills.

"In the fall we don't have time to go over the basics like we did then," he said. "In the spring we stress fundamentals like blocking, tackling and pass routes.

"We also found out who'll replace who."

In that sense, Florida State's spring drills took on an added importance because for the first time in three years, wholesale changes had to be made in the lineup.

While Stockstill can't predict how the defense will adapt to change, he can make an educated guess at the prospects for the offense.

"I think we'll be as good, probably better than last year. I think we'll be



more unpredictable," he said. "Last year, we ran a lot on first down. This year I think we'll be throwing more because the teams we'll be playing can score, so we'll have to produce more points too.

"I like a wide open offense. We shouldn't throw all the time, but last year I thought we could have thrown at times when we ran."

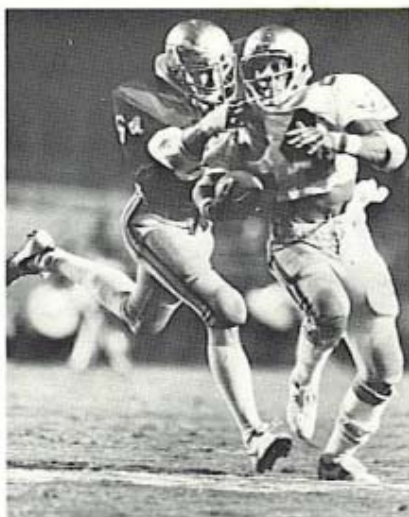
If the Seminoles do throw more, Coach Bobby Bowden should have confidence in Stockstill, who completed 60 percent of his passes for 1,377 yards and just eight interceptions last year.

The major graduation loss will be that of Sam Platt, who rushed for 983 yards. He'll be replaced by Ricky Williams, who averaged 5.2 yards a carry for 383 yards.

"Ricky (Williams) started some last year," Stockstill said, "and had some real good games, so we won't be losing a thing at tailback.

"Our major difference will be on the offensive line," he said. "Last year, we did a lot of checking off on the line and you can't do that if people aren't communicating."

He said the ability to change plays at the line comes with familiarity with each other, and that, he hopes, will



develop as the season progresses.

Stockstill is looking forward to this season, but has one particular foe in mind—Ohio State.

"I was born in Ohio," he said. "I used to go to the games with my father. When I signed here, I hoped I'd be red-shirted so that I could play against Ohio State."

That has happened and now Stockstill has the Buckeyes and a host of other top-notch teams to play.

"I'm looking forward to them all, but mostly to Ohio State," he said.

With foes such as Ohio State, Stockstill realizes that victories can send the Seminoles once again to the top of the country's rankings.

"People probably think I'm crazy, but I think we can win every game we play," he said.

His statements hardly reflect that. Rather, they indicate a desire by the Seminoles to stay atop the college rankings. They liked flirting with the possibility of winning a national championship and success against this year's opponents would give them another shot.

"I always dream about it," Stockstill said. "We came awful close to being national champs.

"Sometimes I go to bed and think that if we had done this or that we would have been.

"I'm not bitter about it because we gave everything we had in the Orange Bowl. And we didn't have an easy schedule last year. But when you come that close, it's hard to forget."

No one is asking him to forget, since it is precisely those recollections which may be an inspiration for this season.



# Stark Mixes Decathlon, Football

By **BILL MCGROTHA**

*Tallahassee Democrat*

Rohn Stark is a stereotype.

When he was born, his dad, with a hopeful eye toward the unique and distinctive, inserted that "h" in the traditional spelling of Ron.

Okay, Rohn Stark is a *unique* stereotype of the All-American boy.

Paint your word picture of what one of those is supposed to look like.

How about 6-foot-3, 195, well-tanned, hair a sun-burned blond—the overall striking appearance of what they used to call a matinee idol?

Paint on that mental canvas a person of broad interests and intelligence (a 3.3 average as a finance major at Florida State), and do not forget the fact he married the childhood sweetheart whom he had known since the fourth grade.

Last spring he became, in fact, an All-American in a second sport, track. Last fall he had earned that distinction in football.

If Stark does not live with the All-American dream, it is something close. Stark wants to run the decathlon in the 1984 Olympics.

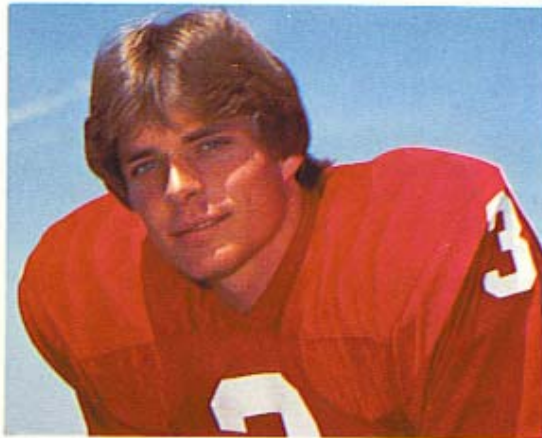
Fulfillment of the dream is going to be really tricky. Any crystal ball would conjure up a pro-football future for Stark, and there is a conflict there. If he turns professional, he cannot compete in the Olympics as an amateur, right?

"There are loopholes," said Stark. "It may not be really kosher, but I think it can be done."

One loophole may be through Stark's eventual affiliation with Athletic Attic, a group that among other things sponsors and assists amateur athletes in their careers. Stark thinks his pro football income could be signed over to the Athletic Attic, and then that organization would dispense to him regular money for expenses that could run pretty high.

Stark also speaks of the possibility of legal action to permit his Olympic competition.

The realistic prospect is that some NFL team is going to come after him hard following his senior season at Florida State. There are those that say he is the college game's best punter since Ray Guy.



"If for some reason I was picked late in the pro draft and seemed not to have a whole lot to look forward to there, I would certainly vigorously pursue the decathlon," said Stark. "Still, if I don't score at a world-class level, I would soon give up my quest for the decathlon as far as the Olympics are concerned."

Progress in the multiple-event decathlon is tedious. In earning All-America acclaim, Stark registered 7,612 points while finishing eighth in the NCAA decathlon.

"World class is like over 8,000 points," said Stark. "I'm competing against guys who train the year-round in this event. I can't do that because of football."

While Stark leaves no question about his greater identity with track, he enjoys both sports immensely.

"Football is such a team thing—it's exciting," he said. "But you don't fill

your own destiny as much. I spend a lot more time practicing track, and I love to practice it."

At night, Stark often goes alone to the FSU track and turns on the lights—he has a set of keys to do this. Then he runs. His wife Ann, a legal secretary, is sometimes with him. "She is so supportive," said Stark. "For the decathlon, she comes out and sits two days—which is about as hard as doing it."

His father, Don, has been a TWA pilot for 26 years. Rohn aspired to a similar career, and by age 17 was a licensed pilot back home in Fifty Lakes, Minn.

He received an appointment, out of high school, to the Air Force Academy, but a year of prep school was first required at Colorado Springs. After nine months, Stark returned home.

"I decided I didn't like the program that well," said Stark. "Another thing,

when I took my physical they said I could never be an Air Force pilot because I had this slight curvature in my spine—something about the risk involved if I had to use an ejection seat. I didn't know about the curvature until I got there. Never had the slightest problem with it."

Another factor, perhaps the biggest: He wanted to go back home and marry Ann, which he did.

Florida State heard about Stark through John Crowe, an Air Force officer who taught Stark trigonometry at the prep school. When Stark dropped out, Crowe sent films to FSU assistant Bob Harbison. FSU soon had Stark down for a visit, and offered him a scholarship. "I had never heard of Florida State," said Stark. "But I really liked the school."

Though he is a pilot, Stark has not flown a plane since he's been here. "Neither the resources nor the time," he said. "Football runs into track, and track runs into football."

He has not been home in three years. "I would have gone around Christmas, but we were in the Orange Bowl two years in a row," he explained.

Right-handed, Stark punts left-footed.

"I'm convinced that's the best combination for sports," he said. "Any time you do any activity right-handed, you have to lead with your left leg."

That left leg is inordinately strong. It explodes into a football.

The left-footed spin is a distinct plus. Return men find Stark punts hard to return. One reason is that he almost invariably kicks them high, but another is they're accustomed to the differing spins of right-footed kickers. Stark punts are more apt to be fumbled if a runner tries to handle them.

"I don't think they pay any attention to my being left-footed," he said. "I know I sit in on our own meetings, and I never hear them say 'this guy we're facing is a left-footed punter and we're gonna change our rush.'"

The rush that Stark faces is designed for right-footed punters. It gives Stark extra time. He's kicking from the other side.

"A tenth of a second is a lot of time when you're talking about punting," said Stark.

He has never had one blocked, except in the last spring game when he was working with a second-string snapper and also with the false im-



pression that no attempts would be made to block punts in that game.

Just standing there on the field, Stark will kick eight of 10 balls about 75 yards from the point he's standing. There is the theory that punters are born, not made, and Stark tends to agree. He said he never received many tips until last year—when his average soared above 45 per and he attracted tremendous attention. "Then I started getting a lot of coaching pointers," he said, laughing.

A gifted athlete, Stark could have been an All-America wide receiver, coach Bobby Bowden said recently. He might have been a success in al-

most any sports, so easy does it come for him. Stark has played only one round of golf in his life; he shot a 94. In high school he was an outstanding basketball player.

Last season, after the Pitt game, when he averaged 48.1 on seven punts, United Press International named him its *defensive* player of the week in the Southeast.

That was unprecedented, unique, absolutely distinctive.

And his father, wherever he was flying that day, must have been exceptionally proud. They even spelled Rohn right.

# Coaching Was Third Choice

By GREG LARSON

Times-Union Sports Writer

TALLAHASSEE—Coaching was Bobby Bowden's third choice.

He wrote his seventh grade term paper on why he wanted to be a boxer.

The next year, he wrote about his desire to be a military officer.

It was not until he reached the ninth grade that he started pursuing the idea of becoming a big-time college football coach.

The rest is well-documented history: a sterling tenure at South Georgia Junior College; a 31-6 record at Samford; 42-26 at West Virginia, including two Peach Bowl appearances; and 44-14 (21-3 over the last two seasons) at Florida State with four bowl appearances.

Bowden, 51, still retains his childhood passions for boxing and military science. He was markedly saddened by the recent death of Joe Louis, his boyhood hero.

"One of my biggest regrets in life is not getting to meet Ol' Joe," he said. "I've met Muhammad Ali, Joe Frazier and Billy Conn, but I never crossed paths with Ol' Joe.

"I listened to many of his fights on the radio and as clear as if it were yesterday, I can remember listening to the fight in which he knocked out Max Schmeling. The radio was in the living room and we sat on the porch listening through the screen door. I can even remember by mother saying, 'Joe got that ol' German.'"

Bowden rarely misses a closed circuit championship fight or ESPN's Thursday Night Boxing telecasts. He's also into kick



boxing.

"Don't ask me why, but I guess I just like to watch people hit each other," he said. "As long as I can remember, I've loved boxing."

Although he never served in the military, Bowden is somewhat of an Armed Forces expert. He watches every war movie available and reads every war book he can find.

"I've always been fascinated by the strategy of when to attack, when to lay back and how to defend," he said. "It's a lot like football. I think generals like Patton, Eisenhower, Bradley and MacArthur would have been great football coaches.

"Hitler, according what I've read, wouldn't have lasted as a football coach. He always outguessed himself. He guessed right a lot at first and was hot for a while, but then he got to thinking he couldn't guess wrong and went against the advice of his generals. He would have received the same fate in football that he did in war.

"Studying Hitler taught me something, though. If my assistants can't come to a decision or I sense they aren't sure, I'll go with what I think. But if they are in agreement on something, I'll go along with it even if I don't completely agree."

Bowden did some maneuvering of which Patton would have been proud and took some Louis-type blows this year, his fifth

and most stormy at FSU.

Tired of signing players and losing some of them to northern schools on the national signing date, Bowden found a loophole in the NCAA 30 per year and 95 total scholarship rule. He signed six extra players and enrolled them in school early so they would count on last year's list of 30.

Opposing schools protested, but soon realized they had been outmaneuvered. Auburn's Pat Dye, however, wouldn't go down without a fight and got into a sticky



word war with Bowden.

"We play them in a year or two," is all Bowden will say now about Auburn. "Basically, I had had enough of losing players and was determined to sign over the limit."

Then the Maas Brothers incident hit with a full-punch force. Six FSU players were charged with dealing in property stolen from the Tallahassee department store. One player pleaded guilty, three pleaded no contest and two pleaded not guilty and will be tried within the next two months. Obviously, the incident drew massive publicity.

"It was all blown out of proportion and, when the real truth comes out, you'll see what I mean," he said. "I can't say anything now because it's still in the courts, but those boys didn't break in and steal anything. They didn't know they were doing anything wrong."

"Things had been going so good around here that I expected something to happen. I kept asking myself, 'When is somebody going to step out of line?' But I've always found that something good happens after something bad."

While Bowden is not superstitious, he



remains a creature of habit. He rises at 6:30 each day (no alarm clock needed), takes the same self-designed route from his five bedroom home on the seventh fairway at the Killeam Country Club and arrives at his office at 8. He retires each night immediately after the 11 p.m. newscast and only a war movie is enough of an incentive to make an alteration.

He is not a drinker and chews on an occasional cigar. His only vice is chocolate. He is a nervous eater, constantly searching

his pantries and refrigerator for cookies, pies and cakes.

"When the kids are home, my wife (Ann) stocks up, but the rat always finds 'em, he said. "My weight jumps up during the season because I'm nervous and eat a lot. I get sloppy fat, but take the weight off during the off-season. One thing I can't figure out, though, is why I always take a diet drink with those sweets."

Three more Bowden loves are gold helmets, catnaps and big band music. When he went to West Virginia, one of the first things he did was change the helmets from white to gold. When he came to FSU, there was talk of a new look—garnet helmets, garnet pants and white jerseys. Bowden wouldn't hear of it.

"Ever since I first saw Georgia Tech and Notre Dame wear 'em, I've loved that metallic gold color," he said. "The naps? Well, I take them in my office sometimes. My secretary holds all calls and I climb on the couch. Sometimes I go to sleep wrestling with a problem and some good thoughts will come to me when I wake up. Some days I could hardly keep my eyes open without the naps."

And the music? "I love Glenn Miller and have all his records. I also like Benny Goodman and Tommy Dorsey. There's a Tallahassee radio station that plays nothing but that music and that's where my car radio dial stays."

Bowden says his life can be divided into four priorities: family, religion, football and golf.

1. Family—He and Ann have raised six children, three of whom have played insignificant roles on Bowden's teams at West Virginia or FSU. The latest to play is wide receiver Jeff, who will undergo knee surgery tomorrow.

"I'm not a good money man," Bowden said. "With six kids, it's taken most of our money to raise them. Only during the past few years have we been able to save any money. I really haven't bought anything

like a lot of coaches do. Oh, I've got my name on a couple of real estate things, but that's all."

2. Religion—Bowden is a born-again Christian who often gives his testimony to church groups. Football, he says, often collides with Christianity.

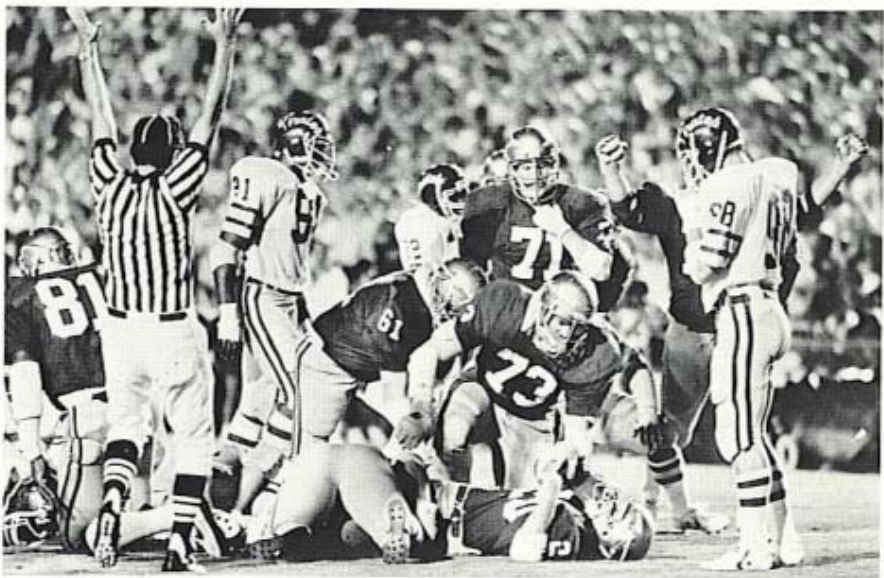
"I would hope religion would take precedence," he said, "but sometimes, no matter how hard I try, I slip. Christians aren't perfect, but a lot of people don't understand that."

3. Football—"I want to keep coaching as long as I'm healthy. I have no interest in being an athletic director because I don't like book work. All these things now like Title IX would drive me crazy."

Bowden's biggest accomplishment, according to Bowden, is the 10-2 season the Seminoles put together in his second season. His immediate goals are a national championship and major bowl victory.

4. Golf—Bowden does not hunt, fish, jog, putter in the yard or play tennis, although he played an acceptable game when he taught tennis and handball at South Georgia and Samford.

Golf is his only recreation. He picked it up



when he was coaching at South Georgia and worked in the summer as a lifeguard at the Douglas Country Club.

He attacked the game with a fervor and was soon in the low 90s. He currently plays in the high 70s/low 80s and can be found almost daily on the course during the off-season.

Once he starts playing on a particular day, he might continue to play until dark. He often persuades trainer Don Fauls, assistant coach Bob Harbison or athletic director Hootie Ingram to play along and they always prepare for a full day.

"Golf has really helped my football," Bowden said. "It's taught me patience and that you're never out of it. I've seen the pressure you can put on somebody by playing well, and that works in football, too."

Bowden's career low round is a 74 at



Killlearn. He often tells of the day he was 2-under-par through nine holes and an all-day rain washed out his chance for a new low.

"Golf is a game I love to practice," he said. "I can really lose myself in a big bag of practice balls."

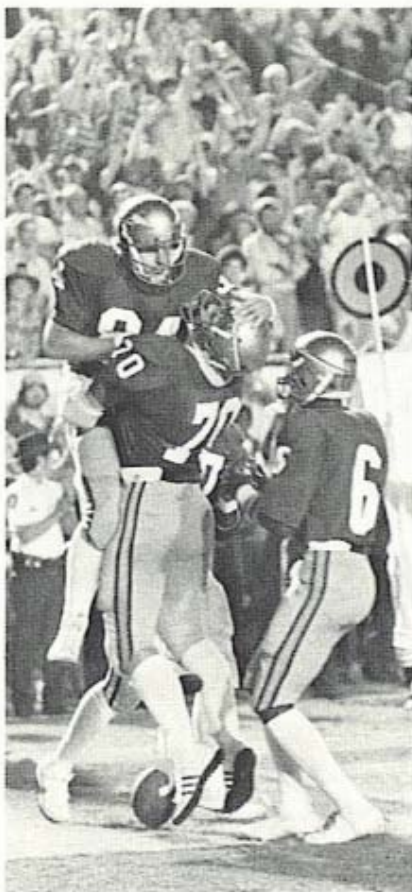
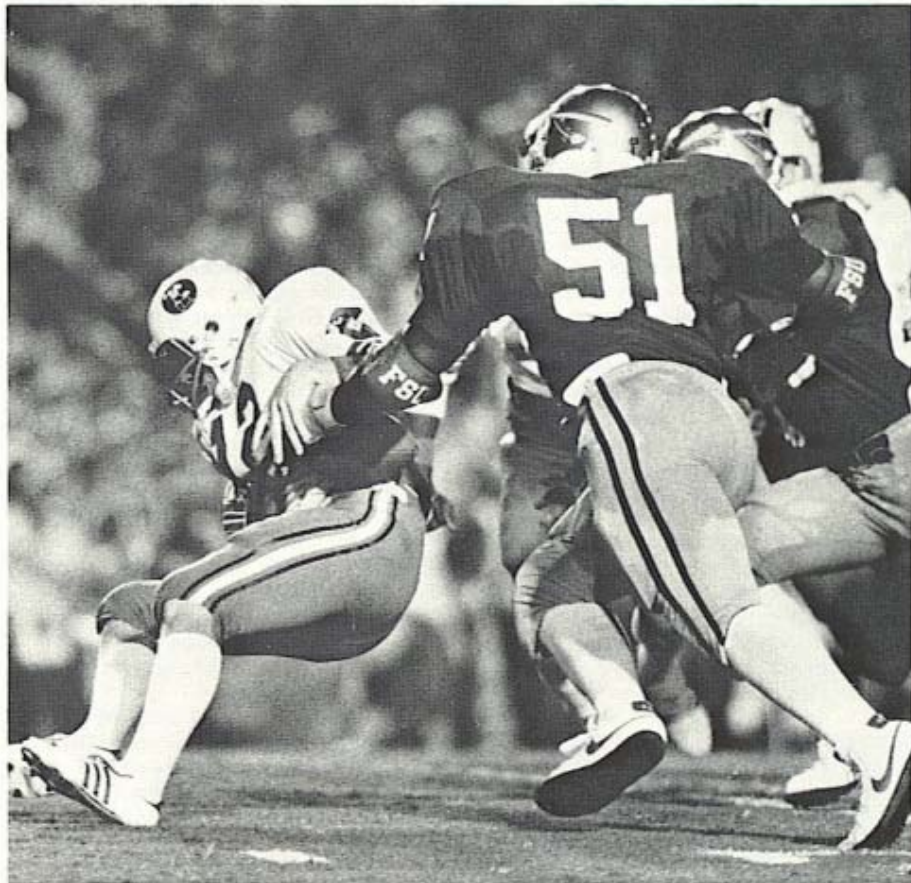
The attention brought to the Seminoles under Bowden has been national in scope, but he knows his chief rival is the close-to-home Florida Gators.

"I don't think we're going to dominate them and they aren't going to dominate us during the next few years," said Bowden, who owns four straight victories over the Gators. "There are a lot of football players in the state and, if we don't get our share, we can go to Georgia and get them or we can go up north. This past recruiting year, though, was the first time we haven't had to go north for players, so we must not be losing the recruiting war in the South."

A native of Birmingham, Ala., Bowden has always dreamed of coaching in the Southeastern Conference. While at West Virginia, he applied for the Vanderbilt and Mississippi jobs, but didn't get them.

"I always thought I'd coach at Alabama or Auburn," he said. "Auburn, of course had an opening this past year and I didn't take it. Alabama, well, I think I'm too old for the guy they'll want to succeed Bear Bryant, and that would be too tough an act to follow."

Louisiana State appealed to Bowden's interest a few years ago. He was mentioned



as a strong candidate to replace Charlie McLendon and he reveals how close he came to taking the job.

"We were 2-0 and going over there to play in Charlie McLendon's last year," he said. "They didn't have a great team, but I thought if they beat us, maybe that's where I should be. They have all those facilities and all. Well, we went over there and beat them and that settled a lot of things in my mind."

"Then this last year we beat Nebraska and Pitt and that about convinced me this might be the best job in the country and that we could get it done over here."

Bowden would dearly love to see FSU get into the SEC, but sees it happening only if travel costs force the conference to add two teams and split into two divisions.

Meanwhile, Bowden goes about his pursuit of those immediate goals.

"We're not on automatic pilot yet like Alabama or Oklahoma," he said. "We don't get the players they do. We've still got to have teamwork."

When he arrived on the FSU scene five years ago, Bowden said he expected—*not hoped*—to turn the downtrodden Seminoles around.

"Only I didn't expect it to happen this fast," he said. "I knew we could recruit because we recruited at West Virginia and if you can get players there, you can certainly get them to Florida State."

If you read between the lines, you'll see that Bobby Bowden has found a home.



# Sliger Involved With Tribe Sports

By PHIL ROGERS

Times-Union Sports Writer

TALLAHASSEE—At first the words came cautiously, like they do when any guardian of a public trust speaks to someone taking notes.

But after a cup of weak coffee and the obligatory hour of getting comfortable, the man stopped acting the role and began being himself. The conversation turned from lobbying the Legislature to the run of his life.

"We got to the county meet an hour late," he began, "We crossed a time zone going, and I don't guess anybody knew there was different time.

"Anyway, when we got there they were about to run the last heat of the 100. I managed to pull on some spikes, but I was wearing corduroy jeans and a long sleeve shirt. I set the county record (10.4 seconds). Then I was all set for the final, wearing my track stuff. . . I thought I was quite a runner. I ran a tenth of a second higher. Geez."

This is a college president talking?

Sort of.

Behind the closed doors of the state's third largest university, Dr. Bernard Francis Sliger, a 56-year-old economist, is known as President Sliger. But his friends call him Bernie, and at the Ouzts' bait shop and oyster bar in nearby Newport—where he is something of a regular—they call him B.J. Not B.F., mind you. B.J.

By any name, many people call him the behind-the-scenes saviour of Florida State University's athletic program; the guy at the top of the Seminoles' three-step secret to success.

He keeps Bobby Bowden wound up . . . that keeps the dollars coming in . . . and that keeps the school's students, faculty and athletic staff happy.

Simple.

Like Sliger's philosophy on the attitude a college president should have toward athletics. "Every president that's involved in a public institution has to be interested in athletics, or he shouldn't take the job," he said.

Sliger has more than a passing interest in athletics, and has more than a few numbers to back up that interest.

For an opener, there's the \$3 million FSU has profited from television and bowl games in football over the past two years. For another, there's one from the opposite end of the spectrum—minus \$500,000.

That's how indebted FSU's athletic program was when Sliger, hired as an executive vice president in 1972, took over as president in the fall of 1976.

The school was subsidizing the program, which is sure to get the rest of the academic community up in arms. And usually, if such a trend continues, it means the end of a



university's athletics as they are known, beginning with the elimination—at least de-emphasis—of the football program.

In fact, FSU did go through low-level discussions about the possibility of putting its football program—1-21 in 1973 and '74—out of its misery as recently as 1975.

"In addition to having a deficit," said Sliger, "it looked like we were going to draw 20,000 a game and we were going to have a continuation of this."

But this year, the big question at FSU was, "What's wrong with the basketball team?"

Joe Williams' Seminoles, NCAA tournament participants the previous two years, were 17-10.

Unforgivable.

After all, Bowden led his Saturday night warriors to their second consecutive Orange Bowl appearance, adding a 10-2 record and a No. 5 ranking onto 1979's 11-1 and 6.

And the Seminoles' women's softball team (slow-pitch) won the Association of

Intercollegiate Athletics for Women national title. The baseball team finished 56-23, advancing as far as the NCAA Regionals for the fourth consecutive year. The men's track team is expected to add another national top 10 finish onto last year's No. 3 at this weekend's NCAA meet. The women's track team already finished third nationally.

FSU has won five straight Metro Conference championships in men's golf and track, with its golfers finishing 15th for the second consecutive year at the NCAA tournament. Its male swimmers won the Metro four straight times before the meet was discontinued this year. The FSU female golfers are ranked fourth nationally heading into the AIAW meet, and their respective counterparts in swimming and cross country finished 14th and 21st nationally.

Oh yeah, both Seminole tennis teams won first-ever Metro titles at last month's tournament in Tallahassee.

Did you get all of that?

Sliger does, and he finds it funny that so

many people have a hard time understanding why the Seminoles' have been that successful.

"I think they overcomplicate things," said the president sitting behind his desk outfitted in a springtime uniform of golf shirt, khaki pants and Hush Puppies.

Sliger finds only two concrete reasons for the Seminoles' new-found athletic prowess:

Bowden has turned around the football program, the prime under-writer of any school's athletic fate.

The Florida Legislature has granted the state's universities money to fund a yeoman's share—\$842,579 of a total budget of \$1,287,625 at FSU in 1980-81—of the upgraded, Title IX women's sporting teams, which now number the same as the school's men's teams, eight.

Those happenings, plus what Sliger calls the "cyclical nature of sports," have been enough to bring about a role reversal at FSU. Now, rather than being a beneficiary, the athletic program is a benefactor of the university.

From the top of each of FSU's Orange Bowl checks—\$1.3 million in '79, \$1.5 million last year—Sliger has diverted \$100,000 for a self-styled series of endowments. The money is spread around the university, helping to add staff and other resources for the top faculty. Also, about \$25,000 has been steered from athletics to the school's National Merit Scholar Fund.

"We're trying to indicate there is a relationship between athletics and academics, even for academics through athletics," said the FSU president. "It seems when athletics are doing well we ought to move (the proceeds) in the other direction."

Sliger finds evidence of the relationship between a successful athletic program and a successful university in FSU's rising rate of enrollment applications.

Six years ago, FSU did not have enough applicants to fill the 2,500 student freshman class which is allowed by the Legislature. This year, more than 8,000 applications had been received when Florida State decided to stop taking them.

"By attracting more students, we're able to raise the test score, grade point average which we let in," said Sliger. "I think the increase (in applicants) has been pushed along by our athletics."

Sliger frequently stresses his pride in FSU's academic standards, and points to two examples where the school's academics have played a big role in recruiting athletes.

"Take Nicklaus' boy (Steve, a football signee this year)," said Sliger. "Jack sat in this office for 30 minutes, and I know the boy wasn't going to come here until Jack was darn sure we had a business program to train and educate that person.

"And look at Herschel Walker. He kept looking at us because of our criminology program. That was the one chance we had. I think he gave us more of a chance for that than our football program. There's prob-

ably 20 schools where he could have gotten in the same kind of football program, but very few could compete in criminology."

Sliger is the final authority in matters involving FSU's athletic program—a claim backed up by the presence of Phil Fordyce in the inner sanctum of athletics for 13 months. When John Bridgers resigned as AD in December, 1979, Sliger appointed his top assistant, Fordyce, as interim AD. He filled that post until Hootie Ingram was hired in January.

Sliger doesn't hesitate to assert his role as a leader.

"I let a department alone, but I want a department to know I'm watching the program," he said. "If we get charged with a recruiting violation, I'm the person that has to go wherever. It's always the president.

"The final authority for athletic matters rests in the hands of the president."

It didn't take Sliger long to figure that one out. Something about crises seems to speed up the discovery of reality.

"I'd look up, and John Bridgers would be in the doorway saying, 'What are going to do about this or that?'" Sliger said of his early days as president. "One time, it even was about meeting our payroll. Even when I was lying in the sun, if there ever was time for it, that was what I was thinking about. How are we going to get out of the hole? It took a lot of nervous energy, as well as time.

"There's only so much an athletic director can do before he has to come to the president," continued Sliger. "If I have to get involved with bailing out (a program), I'm going to be in charge of the program."

As such, Sliger's main contribution to FSU has been the continued employment of Bowden, the pied piper of profits.

After turning Darrell Mudra's 3-8 team of '75 into one which won 23 games in three years, Bowden was a hot commodity in 1979. All but the most wild-eyed Seminole said he was too hot a commodity for unheralded, independent Florida State to retain. Especially when Louisiana State came calling, looking for Bowden to replace Charlie McClendon.

What Sliger did was orchestrate a package involving a minimum of \$585,000 spread over five years, and get Bowden's name on the line the week FSU was set to play in Baton Rouge, La. Since then, no one's come near taking Bowden away.

"We made a great move to keep Bobby," said Sliger. "We put together a good package. I even had one of the people on the committee ask me what about the football coach making more than the president. That's a silly attitude to have."

Sliger points with pride to the recent hiring of Pat Dye at Auburn, especially since published reports said the Southeastern Conference school was interested with Bowden but felt he could not be had. "They didn't even make a play," said Sliger. "That's half the battle. Of course, LSU made a run at him. I think that was important for our people to see that places like LSU or Auburn couldn't take away our

coach."

Once, Sliger admits, he would have loved to have been in Bowden's shoes.

"My first ambition was to be a coach," said Sliger, who grew up in the logging town of Trout Creek, Mich., (pop. 700).

As a high school student there, Sliger skated, skied, played football and basketball and ran track. He also wrote sports for the school paper, as well as the *Cloverland Press*, a local weekly.

Trout Creek wasn't much of a town while Sliger was in high school—18 students turned out for football one year; the program was dropped the next—but it was less when he returned after a three-year tour of duty with the Army during World War II. The town and the school were both so small that Sliger was hired as a high school teacher and coach despite having attended only two years of college. "The superintendent said he didn't have anybody else," said Sliger.

Armed with the school's only piece of track equipment, a shot put, and an annual salary of \$2,100, there went Sliger. It beat working in the sawmill.

The next year, however, Sliger refused a \$400 raise and returned to Michigan State. Said Sliger, "That was the end of my athletic career . . . until I became president."

Sliger attends nearly all Seminoles sports events in Tallahassee and rarely misses a football game, home or road. All in all, though, he'd rather be watching baseball.

"If Miami and Arizona State were playing in Valdosta (Ga.), I'd be at the game," said Sliger, "because I want to see it."

"I like athletics for its sheer entertainment value."

Which leads to a problem. Many people feel that the FSU president must neglect other areas of the university if he is to be so actively involved with its sports program.

"It concerns me," said Sliger. "When they have that idea they have an incorrect picture. It's a lot easier to go out and root for the baseball team than a Nobel Prize winner in physics, although I'm more concerned with academics. I'd be faking it if I went to one of his lectures, because I wouldn't know what was going on."

Sometimes, Sliger pondered, such critical attitudes are only a sign of the times.

"If a program is doing poorly, very few people say you're overemphasizing it," he said. "But if you're doing well a lot of people say you are spending too much time on it. I can unequivocally say I'm spending a hell of a lot less time on athletics now that I was in '76 or '77."

# And the search continues. . .

By **BILL BUCHALTER**  
*Orlando Sentinel-Star*

The crystal ball predicting Florida State's football future indicates the Seminoles should give anybody a run for their money.

If there's one thing the incoming freshman class does best, it's run.

And Bobby Bowden doesn't seem to mind that one bit. He reasons that foot-speed usually provides the winning edge.

And this nationally-ranked recruiting class may be the fastest in FSU history.

Recruiting analyst Joe Terranova picked the Seminoles sixth in the nation, citing the newly acquired speed and explosive offensive potential.

And all this was done before Billy Allen walked into Bowden's life at spring practice and proved that 22-year-old Air Force freshmen walk-ons can help coaches find happiness.

Allen was originally recruited in high school as a trackman.

And no less than nine future Seminoles were high school track standouts which adds to the mystique of this coveted recruiting roster.

Greg Allen was a state long jump champion as a junior for Milton, Jessie Hester anchored the state record-equalling 440 relay for Belle Glade Glades Central. Rocky Kinsey ran a 9.5 100-yard dash for Madison Central. Cedric Jones was a region 100-yard dash champ for Valdosta, Ga., Lowndes High as a junior.

Scott Merson was a shot putter and dashman for Seminole High, Quinton Reed led off one of the state's fastest relays for Panama City Mosley. Tony Smith was a region long jump and dash champion as a junior for Miami Southridge and Pat Woolfork was a state meet scorer in the shot put for Vero Beach.

But this future football squad is not composed of trackmen alone. This is a squad of basketballers, baseballers, weightlifters, boxers, a younger brother, bloodlines and scholars.

The younger brother is linebacker-fullback Merson (brother Bob is a center). The bloodlines belong to receiver-defensive back Steve Nicklaus, son of golf great Jack Nicklaus, and halfback Ron Moore, son of a former Seminole footballer.

The scholars include J.D. Dowell, an offensive lineman from Tampa Plant, a school which has produced a Rhodes Scholar.

Basketballers include Orson Mobley from Miami Palmetto, a 6-foot-6 tight end prospect who has only played one year of high school football, but weighs around 230 and runs the 40 in 4.6. Mobley is also an outstanding baseball player and may be the best all-around athlete recruited. And like Steve Player of Valdosta Lowndes runs the disciplined pass routes one might expect of a team-oriented basketballer on the give-and-go.

Weightlifters include state weightclass champions like John Bruce Shoemaker, a defensive back from Ft. Lauderdale Strananhan, and Lennie Chavers from DeLand, a noseguard/linebacker who benches over 400 pounds. The boxer is defensive back Brian McCrary, a Tennessee State Golden Gloves champion from Germantown whose dad once played for Bowden.

The group includes 15 first team all-stars, seven all-Southerns and two All-Americans, swift running back Jones and kicking specialist Mike Rendina of Pompano Beach. The all-South selections range from McCrary in Tennessee to Jones, Player and Eric Thomas—all from Valdosta Lowndes—in Georgia to Allen, Hester, Smith and Roosevelt Snipes of Sarasota among the Floridians.

There is a preponderance of talent among backfield candidates which prompts Bowden to say, "we are now starting to get the blue-chip athletes to compete for positions. This is an indication of how our program is progressing."

Thomas was the lone quarterback, but running backs and defensive backs joined the fold to help fill a void. Included were defenders like Tallahassee Leon all-stater John Feagin and Georgian Tracy Ashley.

The Seminoles also sought linebackers and corralled Georgian Henry Taylor, Venice all-stater Peter Pantan and Lake Wales' second team all-stater Darryl Gray.

Numbers are down on linemen but Vero's Woolfork—the school's best lineman since Pittsburgh Steeler Tyrone McGriff—joins a sturdy cast in-

cluding the 235-pound Dowell, 245-pound Danny Morris of Lake Brantley, 6-foot-6 Tim Flasher of South Broward, 225-pound all-stater Mike Hutto of Marianna and center Dave Roberts, a second team all-stater and technique blocker at 225 pounds.

Two dozen of the newcomers are Floridians, six are from Georgia and one from Tennessee.

The recruiting class ranges in size from 5-9 (Kinsey, Smith, Snipes and Rendina) to 6-6 in weight from 170 (Kinsey and Rendina) to 240 (Chavers and Mobly). Nine athletes are 6-2 or taller. Some 24 have run 4.8 or faster.

Ah, that speed again.

And six of them proved during the spring that they belong. Billy Allen, Smith and Jones sparkled as running backs. Thomas excited the coaching staff with his potential at quarterback. Player proved he could run the routes and catch the ball in traffic and Merson oozed with potential.

That's what Bowden likes so much about this incoming class. The potential, the explosiveness, the speed of "Those Runuvaguns." It's got the alumni whetting their football appetite enough to run to purchase season tickets.

