

CHAPTER IV

THE LEAN YEARS: 1966-1968

1966

The 1966 squad had talented performers, but a lack of overall depth hindered the Seminoles in dual meet competition. Key injuries exposed this fatal flaw before the season was half completed.

The graduation of Jerry McDaniel, Al Cato, and Bob Sable left the sprints in a vulnerable condition. Ken White was the only veteran performer in the 100-, 220-, and 440-yard dashes. In 1965, White had run a :09.5 100-yard dash, but if back-up help could not be found, the sprint events might pose problems.

The 440-yard dash chores were in the hands of Wayne Currie, Steve Landis, and Curtiss Long. One of these three had to develop if the Tribe was to avoid being hurt in the quarter-mile. The half-mile was the strongest event for the Seminoles as returning school record holder John Brogle joined with the talented Ross Winter to form a competitive entry.

A key for the Tribe was the performances of Dave Braggins and Tom Gardner in the weight events. School record holders Sidney Gainey and Don Casteel gave the Seminoles a strong entry in the horizontal jumping events. However, the javelin, high jump, and pole vault appeared weak. Hopefully, young talented performers could change the outlook in those events.

Florida State University had 13 lettermen on the 29-man varsity roster (FSU Track Brochure File, Track and Field 1966). Many of the lettermen were marginal performers. Their improvement, along with a favorable adjustment of last year's freshmen to varsity competition, was critical to the success of the team in dual meet encounters. The outcome of the 1966 season depended on the output of the available personnel. Injuries or the failure to perform up to expectation would be devastating to the Seminoles' chances for success.

At a time of growing inflation, the track budget received a healthy boost. The operating budget gained almost \$2,500, while the scholarship fund was increased \$5,500 (Athletic Office Budget File, 1965-1966). These monies were well received as the consumer price index had risen two and seven-tenths points over the previous year. This CPI increase was the highest single year raise in over six years (U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, 1975).

The Tribe turned their attentions to competition with a selected entry in the Senior Bowl Track Meet on December 28 in Mobile. FSU's Sidney Gainey won the broad jump at 23' 7-3/4" for the only Seminole place in the prestigious invitational meet (Mobile Register, 29 December 1965).

Once again, a triumph by Sidney Gainey was the only Seminole representative on the victory stand in the Orange Bowl Track and Field Championship in Miami on January 8. His leap of 23' 11" topped a field of the best jumpers in the South (Miami Herald, 9 January 1966).

The Seminoles swept into Montgomery on February 11 seeking to defend their Coliseum Relays title. Paced by victories in the two-mile

relay, broad jump, and 60-yard dash, the Seminoles squeezed out a three-point win over runner-up Furman University (FSU Track Office Files, 11-12 February 1966).

School records were tallied by the two-mile relay team and broad jumper Sidney Gainey. The relay team of Bob Hohnadel, John Brogle, Ross Winter, and Bill Nelson burned to victory in 8:01.8. Sidney Gainey established himself as a national calibre broad jumper with his victory leap of 24' 5".

The remaining Seminole triumph occurred in the 60-yard dash. Ken White did the honors with a quick :06.4 clocking. The Tribe collected three seconds and two third places to raise their final point total to 33 markers.

Florida State visited Chattanooga on February 19 for the Southeastern USTFF Indoor Championships. For the third meet of the season, Sidney Gainey was the lone Seminole to go to the victory stand. The lean broad jumper copped his specialty with a fine leap of 23' 7-1/4" (Chattanooga Daily-Times, 12 February 1966).

Florida State University opened the outdoor season with the Jesuit Invitational Track and Field Championships in Tampa on February 26. With the state title on the line, the Seminoles walked away with an 88 to 70 victory over runner-up Florida (FSU Track Office Files, 26 February 1966).

The Seminoles were led by a classic display of speed by sprinter Kenny White. White's :09.6 and :21.4 performances in the 100- and 220-yard dashes were most impressive considering the early date.

Moving into a tie for second place on the all-time Seminole list of high hurdlers, Charles Vickers clipped over the high hurdles to a second place finish with a time of :14.8. Battling an old nemesis, Steve Landis topped an intermediate hurdle field that included Florida's Scott Hager with a quick time of :53.6.

Sidney Gainey and Don Casteel began the outdoor season with victories in the long and triple jumps, respectively. Gainey's winning jump was measured at 23' 10-1/4". The triple jump was won with Casteel's bound of 46' 5". He was followed by Sid Gainey's 45' 3/4" effort.

Jack Flandeau sailed over 14' 4" to win the pole vault. It was the best vault of his career, only two and one-half inches shy of Don Pharis's school record.

The mile relay team composed of Wayne Currie, Curtiss Long, Ross Winter, and John Brogle dashed to victory in the meet finale with the fast time of 3:16.8. It was the second fastest relay ever run by FSU in scored meet competition.

Florida State returned home to host the Hurricanes of Miami on March 5. Ignoring a gusty wind (Tallahassee Democrat, 6 March 1966), the Seminoles turned in sweeps of first and second places in seven events as they ran to an easy 99 to 46 win (FSU Track Office Files 5 March 1966).

Both Ken White and Bud Manning won two events, while Curtiss Long copped the 440-yard dash and ran on two winning relays. White's times were :09.8 in the century dash and :22.6 in the furlong. Manning

copped the high jump at 6' 2" and hurled the javelin 192' 1/2". He became the fourth Seminole to throw over 190 feet in the javelin.

The quarter-mile was won by Long with a time of :49.8. The 440-yard relay team composed of Bill Campbell, Curtiss Long, Don Cas-teel, and Ken White sped to an easy victory in :43.7. Wayne Currie, Curtiss Long, Ross Winter, and John Brogle closed out the meet with a winning time of 3:20.7 in the mile relay.

The powerful Southern Illinois University track team came into Tallahassee on the first stop of their southern tour on March 19. One of the Saluki station wagons transporting the team was involved in a minor traffic accident. No one was seriously hurt, but as a pre-caution, Coach Lew Hartzog held several of his runners out of competi-tion (Hartzog, 1976).

With the meet tied at 61 all, the Salukis ran-off victories in the two-mile run, triple jump, and the mile relay to seal FSU's doom 80 to 65 (FSU Track Office Files, 19 March 1966). The loss was the first Seminole defeat in dual meet competition since March 16, 1963.

Ken White blasted to his second :09.6 clocking in three meets to register a Seminole win in the 100-yard dash. He returned for a second win of the day in the 220-yard dash as he keyed a Seminole sweep with a :22.4 clocking.

Sidney Gainey and Steve Landis were the only other individual Seminole winners. Gainey gained his victory with a jump of 23' 5-1/2" in the long jump. The grueling 440-yard intermediate hurdles event was captured by Landis with a track record time of :53.8 (Tallahassee Democrat, 20 March 1966).

The outcome of the meet hinged on three events in which the Salukis managed to edge the Seminoles in hotly contested competition. With a toss of 200' 5", Bud Manning joined a very select group of Seminoles to break the 200-foot mark in the javelin. However, Manning finished second by a shade over two feet. It was a frustrating day for the muscular utility man as he jumped a personal record 6' 4" in the high jump and finished third, over three inches behind second place.

SIU's Jeff Duxbury trailed John Brogle in two races before striking him down in the homestretch in both the half-mile and mile relay. Charles Vickers suffered a heart-breaking fall as he hit the last hurdle in the 440-yard intermediate hurdles, while battling hard for second place (Tallahassee Democrat, 20 March 1966).

The 23rd Annual Florida Relays was a good meet for the Seminoles. The Tribe captured two individual events, established a school record in one relay, and turned in fast times in two other relays (FSU Track Office Files, 26 March 1966).

Ken White ran his third :09.6 of the season, beating a quality field in the 100-yard dash that included Webster of Tennessee, the 1966 SEC sprint champion. Repeating his 1965 victory in the long jump, Sidney Gainey bested the Florida Relays broad jump field with a leap of 23' 9".

The two-mile relay team composed of Bill Nelson, Don Hohnadel, Ross Winter, and John Brogle fought Princeton all the way to the wire, finishing in second place. The Seminoles lopped a whopping nine and nine-tenths seconds off of the old school mark with a time of 7:32.2.

The quarter-mile relay team of Wayne Currie, Curtiss Long, Sidney Gainey, and Kenny White whipped to a :41.9 clocking that earned the Tribe third place. The time ranked fourth among 440-yard relays run by Florida State University.

The final event of the day was the mile relay. The relay team of Wayne Currie, Curtiss Long, Ross Winter, and John Brogle ran the third fastest mile relay by a Seminole quartet with a time of 3:15.7. Their collective efforts earned them fifth.

After the meet, the Seminoles boarded the bus with Charles Durbin behind the wheel (Long, C. M., 1976). The Tribe had to be ready for their dual meet with the University of Tennessee on the following Monday. The Volunteers of Tennessee were third in the 1965 NCAA Cross-country Championship (Tallahassee Democrat, 29 March 1966). Using their distance running advantage, the University of Tennessee managed to eke out a 79 to 66 triumph (FSU Track Office Files, 28 March 1966). The Volunteers swept the mile and two-mile runs. In the two-mile run, FSU's Tom Graham ran a personal and school record time of 9:29.1 and only finished fourth. He had bettered his old personal mark by over 20 seconds.

The 100-yard dash provided exciting action as Tennessee's Webster was out fast and barely managed to hold off FSU's fast closing Kenny White. The time of :09.6 was awarded to both men. White gained a measure of revenge with a :22.0 victory in the 220-yard dash with Wayne Currie finishing a surprise second at :22.3.

In the homestretch of the half-mile, Ross Winter and John Brogle swept by the faltering Rose of Tennessee with Brogle taking the tape in 1:54.4. Winter finished in the second spot with a time of 1:54.7.

Steve Landis was the remaining Seminole runner to find the victory circle. He stepped off a fast :53.5 in the 440-yard intermediate hurdles. His time was only one-tenth of a second off his own school record.

In the field events, Sidney Gainey copped both the long and triple jumps with marks of 23' 3-3/4" and 46' 8", respectively. Continuing to throw well, Bud Manning hurled the spear 192' 2" to place second in the javelin.

Although mathematically eliminated from the meet, the mile relay team of Wayne Currie, Curtiss Long, Ross Winter, and John Brogle ran on pride and was just edged at the tape by the Tennessee quartet which had bested them in the Florida Relays, by one and two-tenths seconds.

Florida State's overall record had fallen to 1 and 2 with two narrow losses to Southern Illinois University and the University of Tennessee. The Seminoles expected to even their record when the Tigers of Auburn came to town on April 2. Instead, the Tigers ran to a narrow 75 to 70 upset of the Tribe (FSU Track Office Files, 2 April 1966).

The Seminoles dropped the opening 440-yard relay by only one-tenth of a second and then scored only one point in the mile run to fall behind 13 to one after two events.

Ken White copped the 100-yard dash in :09.7, but managed only a shocking third in the 220-yard dash with a time of :22.5. Steve Landis won the 440-yard intermediate hurdles with a new meet record :54.1 (Tallahassee Democrat, 3 April 1966).

Sidney Gainey lifted to a school record in the long jump. He covered a prodigious 24' 11" on his record jump. Gainey also finished second in the triple jump at 46' 4". The mile relay team of Wayne Currie, Curt Long, John Brogle, and Ross Winter won in meet record time of 3:18.0 (Tallahassee Democrat, 3 April 1966).

The Seminoles limped into their renewal of the annual shoot out with the Gators of Florida. Florida State entered the Gator lair on April 6 missing the services of their brilliant long jumper, Sidney Gainey. He had torn the medial meniscus cartilage in his left knee trying to throw the discus earlier that week in a track and field theory class (Long, L. S., 1976).

The Florida Gators used an unexpected sweep of the long jump and a narrow victory in the 440-yard relay to register a 76 to 69 triumph (FSU Track Office Files, 6 April 1966). In the opening running event, Florida had a substantial lead after three legs of the 440-yard relay. FSU's anchor man, stellar sprinter Ken White, closed hard, but, unfortunately for the Seminoles, ran out of ground as Florida held on for this all-important victory. Following this set-back, however, a spectator watching the running events was subjected to a parade of Seminole victories. Ken White copped the hundred-yard dash in :09.8 and led teammate Curtiss Long to a sweep of first and second places in

the furlong. White's winning time was :21.8, while a :22.4 clocking was given to Long.

Curtiss Long and Wayne Currie captured the top two positions in the quarter-mile. Long turned in a personal best of :49.2, while Curry was only one-tenth of a second off his best with a :49.5 clocking.

John Brogle, Ross Winter, and Bill Nelson emerged victorious in the 880-yard run. Brogle and Winter turned in spectacular times of 1:53.2 and 1:53.8, respectively. The 1:55.6 clocking by Bill Nelson gains stature when one realizes that it came after his 4:19.3 second place run in the mile.

The Seminoles needed a victory in the 440-yard intermediate hurdles to retain a chance to win the meet. The race was a dog fight in which Scott Hager of Florida just eased by Steve Landis to win in :52.8. Landis's :52.9 was his second best time ever.

The same fighting spirit was exhibited by Sidney Merchant and Richard Carrico in the two-mile run. Both men had labored hard throughout their running careers with little tangible return. Merchant ran an inspired race and won the event in 9:50.3. It was a personal best and marked the first time he had run under ten minutes for the two-mile. Richard Carrico battled hard for second and fell back only in the very late stages of the race to finish third in 10:02.8.

Regardless of the outcome of a meet, the mile relay is run on pride. The Seminoles had been mathematically defeated, yet were very determined to win this event (Long, C. M., 1976). Wayne Currie led off and gained a small advantage. The baton passed to Curtiss Long

who was running against Florida's Charles Mahoney for the third time in the meet:

I was competing in my fifth event of the day and was not sure that I could finish the quarter. I went out conservatively and heard Mahoney's footsteps following me around the first curve. Feeling stronger, I moved down the backstretch. His footsteps slowly receded and then disappeared. Coming in, my legs were wooden and I only wanted to hold on. Ross Winter and John Brogle put the race away. (Long, C. M., 1976)

The time of 3:16.8 was the second fastest dual meet mile relay ever run by a Seminole foursome. The fastest had been run against the Florida Gators in 1965.

The Seminoles competed in the Pennsylvania Relays on April 30 and May 1 in Philadelphia. The rainy weather and chilly temperatures put a damper on performances. The cinder track was quickly churned into mud (Long, C. M., 1976). The Tribe garnered a fifth in the long jump with Sidney Gainey's leap of 23' 1-1/2", a tie for fifth in the intermediate hurdles as Steve Landis spun-out a :53.6 clocking (New York Times, 30 April 1966), and a sixth in the two-mile relay with a time of 7:50.7 (New York Times, 1 May 1966).

Sidney Gainey, Ken White, and Steve Landis participated in the 45th Annual NCAA Championships in Bloomington on June 16-18. Although Gainey failed to make the final six, his leap of 23' 3-3/4" placed ninth overall (FSU Track Office Files, 16-18 June 1966).

Ken White failed to move out of the preliminaries in both the 100- and 220-yard dashes. His times were :09.8 and :22.0, respectively. Steve Landis was disqualified for dragging his trail leg around the hurdle in the 440-yard intermediate hurdle preliminary.

Summary. The 1966 season had started well with victories in the Coliseum Relays and the Jesuit Invitational. The Seminoles extended their winning streak to 14 with a triumph over the Hurricanes of Miami. At this point, inherent problems began to catch up with the Tribe. One problem had its origin in the gradual erosion of talented personnel. Only two men remained on the squad from the freshman class of 1962. In the winter of 1966, promising sophomore pole vaulter Hull Carr dropped out of school. Lack of depth became acute when sprinter Bill Campbell departed from the team of his own volition and a knee injury temporarily sidelined Sidney Gainey.

The handwriting had been on the wall for several years. Coach Mike Long had built a track dynasty on a financial shoestring. With the increasing emphasis on track and field in the South, Mike Long had prophesized the FSU demise in 1962:

In order to keep pace with other schools in track and field, we're going to have to make greater strides in our athletic scholarship program--especially in this area.
(Tallahassee Democrat, 8 May 1962)

With only \$14,000 in the scholarship budget, Florida State University had never in its 18-year history of track and field recruited a track man on a full scholarship (Long, L. S., 1976). The days of recruiting top quality track athletes on partial scholarships were rapidly coming to an end.

Despite setbacks, the 1966 Seminoles did have some bright moments. The Tribe rewrote entries in the school record book for the long jump, 440-yard intermediate hurdles, and the two-mile relay.

Upping both his indoor and outdoor long jump records, Sidney Gainey traversed 24' 5" indoors and 24' 11" outdoors, finishing ninth outdoors in the NCAA long jump.

Steve Landis placed in the Pennsylvania Relays in the 440-yard intermediates with a clocking of :53.6. He ultimately ran :52.2 for a new school record for the demanding hurdle race.

The foursome of Bob Hohnadel, John Brogle, Bill Nelson, and Ross Winter put it all together in the two-mile relay at the 23rd Annual Florida Relays. They lowered the existing school record by nine and nine-tenths second to 7:32.2.

Ken White did not equal his :09.5 clocking of 1965, but he did display outstanding consistency. While never running slower than :09.8, White registered :09.6 clockings on four different occasions and captured the sprint century at the Florida Relays.

1967

The Seminoles were faced with a massive rebuilding task in 1967. The squad numbered only 28 of which 16 were sophomores with no varsity experience. These underclassmen were soon to be tested in the crucible of competition. The murderous schedule included the following challenges: the University of Alabama, Auburn University, the University of Tennessee, and traditional foes, the University of Miami and the University of Florida. Outside of dual meets, FSU would also compete in the prestigious Florida and Pennsylvania Relays (FSU Track Brochure File, Track and Field 1967). During this rebuilding season, the schedule all but precluded a winning record.

The budget response to the losing season in 1966 was not encouraging for the highly competitive coach. The scholarship line item was frozen at the 1966 level and the operating budget was reduced by over \$6,500 (Athletic Office Budget File, 1966-1967).

The Tribe's hopes for the 1967 season were dimmed by the loss of 17 men from the 29 man squad from the previous year. The most notable losses occurred through the graduation of John Brogle, school record holder in the half-mile; fellow middle distance runner Ross Winter; Ken White, co-holder of the 100-yard dash school record; and distancemen Tom Graham and Bob Hohnadel.

The loss of prominent personnel did not stop with runners, as pole vaulters Jack Flandeau and Fletcher Sims both made personal decisions to leave school, leaving the Seminoles vulnerable in this event. A similar decision by Don Casteel, the school record holder in the triple jump, placed an added burden on Sidney Gainey.

The hurdles loomed as one of the stronger events for the Tribe with sophomore Mike Kelly joining Steve Landis, the school 440-yard intermediate hurdle standard bearer, and junior letterman, Charlie Vickers. The high jumping and javelin chores fell once again on the shoulders of Bud Manning. He had surpassed the 220-foot mark in the javelin the year before, but had to improve to be a consistent winner in 1967.

The Seminoles were without veteran performers in the sprints, the middle distances, the distance races, and the pole vault. The success of the 1967 season was dependent upon two major factors:

(1) staying injury free and (2) rapid development of key sophomore personnel.

Florida State's first venture into competition occurred on February 11 at the Southeastern USTFF Championship in Chattanooga. The Tribe scrapped for every available point before falling short of the eventual winners, the University of Tennessee Freshman team, by one and one-half points (Chattanooga Daily-Times, 12 February 1967).

The only Seminole victory came in the 60-yard high hurdles as Mike Kelly turned in a school record performance in his first varsity race. The yearling timber topper sped over the five barriers in :07.5. Charles Vickers finished third in the same race.

The remaining points were obtained through Bob Thomas's second place in the 1,000-yard run, a fourth by Bud Manning in the high jump, a second in the long jump by Sidney Gainey, and Joe Rooney's fourth in the 600-yard run.

Many of the major schools had passed up Chattanooga's red clay track or had entered only on a limited basis (Long, C. M., 1976). The Seminoles would receive a more accurate evaluation of their strength in the upcoming Coliseum Relays.

Florida State University entered Montgomery on February 18 bent on defending their 1966 Coliseum Relays crown. The best Seminole finish was a tie for first by Bud Manning in the high jump as the Tribe slipped to third place in the 1967 standings (Montgomery Advertiser, 19 February 1967).

Sidney Gainey suffered his second straight loss as Goff of Tulane jumped 24' 6-1/4" in the long jump. Gainey finished second at

23' 11-1/2". Having accrued only 19 points, the Tribe narrowly held off the University of South Carolina and Southeastern Louisiana State University for the show slot.

The Seminoles opened their outdoor season with the Second Annual Jesuit Invitational Championship on February 25 in Tampa. The Tribe had won the inaugural running of the meet which symbolized the state championship and had hoped to do well in 1967. These hopes were quickly dashed as the Seminoles finished a very discouraging third behind the University of Florida and Florida A & M University (FSU Track Office Files, 25 February 1967).

The Tribe's effort was headed by Sidney Gainey and Mike Kelly. A jump of 24' 1" by Gainey was one of the two Seminole victories. The other win came when Mike Kelly took the 120-yard high hurdles in :14.2. Finishing in the show slot, Charlie Vickers clocked a :14.6. The times by Kelly and Vickers were both under the existing school record of :14.7 set by Terry Long in 1962.

Florida State opened their dual meet season in the traditional fashion with a dual meet against the University of Miami in Coral Gables on March 4. The competition proved very uneven as only one-tenth of a second defeat in the mile relay kept the Seminoles from scoring over 100 points. The final score was 99 to 45 in favor of the Tribe (FSU Track Office Files, 4 March 1967).

Twin victories by Sidney Gainey, Andy Guy, and Marc Williamson were instrumental in the Seminole victory. A track record leap of 23' 11-7/8" (Tallahassee Democrat, 5 March 1967) in the broad jump by

Sidney Gainey earned him his first win of the day. The slender Cairo, Georgia senior also copped the triple jump at 46' 5".

Andy Guy added his name to the list of Seminole sprinters who had run under :10.0 in the 100-yard dash by winning the century sprint with a time of :09.8. He added the 220-yard dash with a :21.7 clocking.

Becoming the first Seminole sophomore to run under ten minutes in the two-mile, Marc Williamson took both the mile and two-mile runs with times of 4:19.8 and 9:43.0.

Despite throwing over 200 feet in the javelin, FSU's throwers David Thompson and Bud Manning had to settle for second and third places, respectively. Thompson's 201' 3" edged Manning by three inches. The event was captured by Wymond of Miami at 211' 9".

Dave Braggins won the shot put with a toss of 49' 11-3/4". Uncorking his career best in the discus, Braggins became the fourth best Seminole discus thrower with a toss of 151' 10-1/2"; however, he finished second.

Only one-tenth of a second off his school record, Mike Kelly bested the high hurdle field with his :14.3 clocking. FSU's leading 440-yard dashman from 1966, Curtiss Long, was lost for the majority of the season due to a torn left hamstring and never ran the quarter-mile again. This was only the beginning of a series of problems that were to plague the Seminoles throughout the season.

Florida State was faced with the toughest task in town when the surging Volunteers of Tennessee came to Seminole territory on March 18. Quality performances were the order of the day as three

track records were set. The defending Southeastern Conference Champions (Tallahassee Democrat, 19 March 1967) possessed too much overall strength and prevailed 85 to 55 over the Seminoles of Florida State (FSU Track Office Files, 18 March 1967).

Marc Williamson ran the third best mile time in Seminole track history only to finish second. His 4:13.5 clocking had been bettered only twice by Mike Conley in 1958. Tennessee's Storey established a new track record with a 4:10.9 clocking.

The Tribe was defeated in three running events by a margin of one-tenth of a second. The first came when Andy Guy ran :09.8 in the 100-yard dash and was edged by Wagner of Tennessee. Guy was clipped by two Tennessee runners by one click of the clock in the 220-yard dash.

Mike Kelly tied a school record in the 120-yard high hurdles and finished a blink of an eye behind nationally renown Richmond Flowers of Tennessee. Kelly had run :14.2 as Flowers was clocked in a new meet and track record :14.1.

The Seminoles swept the 440-yard intermediate hurdles with Steve Landis and Charley Vickers tying at :53.5 and Kelly finishing a stride back in :53.7. Sidney Gainey scored routine victories in the long and triple jumps with efforts of 23' 3" and 45' 1/2", respectively. Bud Manning became the second leading Seminole javelin thrower ever with his toss of 220' 8", only to finish second.

The Crimson Tide of Alabama rolled into Tallahassee on March 27. The difference in the two teams lay in the sprint events as Alabama outscored the Seminoles 33 to four in the 100-, 220-, and 440-yard

dashes, and the quarter-mile and mile relays (FSU Track Office Files, 27 March 1967). The breakdown in the Seminole sprinting corps paved the way to an 85 to 60 Alabama verdict.

Dave Braggins was forced to give up track and field at FSU when he signed a professional football contract with the Canadian Football League (Long, C. M., 1976). His presence was missed immediately as Charlie Fuchs was able to capture second place in the shot put, but Alabama swept the top two spots in the discus with a winning throw of 144' 6".

Marc Williamson continued his steady running by taking the mile in 4:14.3 and coming back in the two-mile to register the third fastest Seminole time with a clocking of 9:33.5. Turning in a career best performance, Bob Thomas won the 880-yard run in 1:53.5. Thomas's clocking was the second best half-mile time by a Seminole.

The Tribe's best finish occurred in the 120-yard high hurdles as Mike Kelly and Charlie Vickers captured the top two spots with Kelly's winning performance clocked at :14.5. Vickers came back to take the 440-yard intermediate hurdles for his first varsity victory in the fast time of :53.5.

Despite a very sore hamstring (Gainey, 1976), Sidney Gainey managed to win the long and triple jumps. Bud Manning was the only other Seminole to win a field event when he cleared 6' 3" in the high jump.

The Seminoles hosted the Auburn Tigers on April 1. The afternoon was definitely an April Fool's Day for the Tribe (FSU Track Office Files, 1 April 1967). The lack of Seminole sprinting power once again

proved fatal. A hamstring injury suffered by Andy Guy depleted the Seminole sprint corps.

Auburn speedsters placed first and second in both the 100- and 440-yard dashes, while sweeping the furlong. Auburn also opened the meet with a swift :41.4 victory clocking in the quarter-mile relay.

Marc Williamson delivered personal best performances in the mile and two-mile runs, coming away with one win and one second. Williamson took the mile run in 4:12.5 and ran a school record setting 9:24.3 in the two-mile run. It was a great effort by Williamson as he was beaten by only nine-tenths of a second by Kelley of Auburn who was running the event fresh.

Registering his second career victory, Charlie Vickers led teammates Mike Kelly and Steve Landis to a sweep in the 440-yard intermediate hurdles with a time of :53.1. Earlier, Kelly had captured the 120-yard high hurdles in :14.4.

Sidney Gainey shook off the effects of a sore hamstring to record impressive victories in the long and triple jumps. Gainey leaped 24' 7-1/4" on his final jump to take the long jump (Long, C. M., 1976). His career best of 47' 9-1/2" won the triple jump.

Moving up to fourth position on the FSU all time high jump list, Bud Manning copped the vertical jumping event with a leap of 6' 5". David Thompson, a converted baseball catcher, took the top spot in the javelin with a throw of 201' 10".

Tallahassee was the site of the annual renewal of the Florida-Florida State dual meet rivalry. April 8 marked the worst Seminole

defeat in the history of the series. The Tribe managed to win only four events while dropping a 97 to 48 decision (FSU Track Office Files, 8 April 1967).

Two of the four Seminole victories were won by Sidney Gainey. He took the long jump with a leap of 23' 9" and triumphed in the triple jump at 45' 1/2". Charlie Fuchs became the fifth Seminole to throw over 50 feet in the shot put with his winning toss of 50' 10". The final Tribe victory came in the 120-yard high hurdles as Mike Kelly zipped to a :14.3 clocking.

A seven-foot jump by Frank Saier of the University of Florida overshadowed a new school record leap of 6' 7-1/2" by FSU's Bud Manning in the high jump. Bob Thomas ran the best half-mile race of his career and still finished third in 1:53.2.

With a :52.9 clocking, Mike Kelly ran the intermediate hurdles under 53 seconds for the first time and still finished third as Florida's Scott Hager established a new meet and track record of :52.2. Richard McLean became the 11th Seminole to break the 10-second barrier in the 100-yard dash by flashing to a :09.9 second place finish.

The Seminoles brought their team meet portion of their schedule to a conclusion with the Gulf Coast Five-Way Meet in Auburn, Alabama, on April 22. Hampered by the loss of Sidney Gainey to a hamstring pull, Florida State did not win an event and captured only three seconds, four thirds, and two fourth place finishes for a total of 20 points. The Tribe managed to beat only one team in a field of five (FSU Track Office Files, 22 April 1967).

The Tribe did produce a few quality performances. Charlie Fuchs hurled the iron ball a personal record 52' 9-1/4" for second place in the shot put. Bud Manning jumped 6' 6-1/2" in the high jump and tossed the javelin 210' 5-1/2" for third and fourth place, respectively.

The Gulf Coast Five-Way Meet was the worst performance by one of Mike Long's teams. Fortunately for the majority of the squad, the season was over. The Seminoles carried a limited number of athletes to the Pennsylvania Relays on April 28-29. The Seminoles were able to garner places in the long jump and intermediate hurdles (New York Times, 29 April 1967). Sidney Gainey grabbed fourth in the long jump with a leap of 23' 9". Charlie Vickers and Mike Kelly battled each other for third place in the 440-yard intermediate hurdles. Vickers bested his teammate by one one-tenth of a second in :52.3 as both men bettered the old school mark of :52.5 held by Steve Landis.

Mike Kelly performed at the NCAA Championships in Provo, Utah, on June 15-17. Kelly did not advance out of the preliminaries in either the high or intermediate hurdles. He ran :14.5 in the high hurdles and :53.5 in the intermediate hurdles (FSU Track Office Files, 15-17 June 1967).

Summary. The success of the season had depended on the rapid development of a large number of young athletes. Their progress had been good, but could not compensate for the loss of essential veterans.

Marc Williamson had an extraordinary year for a sophomore in the distance events. He set a new school record of 9:24.3 at two miles and ran the fastest mile in Seminole track history.

Fulfilling the promise he had exhibited in his freshman year, Mike Kelly grabbed the school record in the 120-yard high hurdles with a :41.2 clocking. Junior Charlie Vickers nudged Steve Landis out of his FSU record in the 440-yard intermediate hurdles with a :52.3 clocking in the Pennsylvania Relays. Bud Manning set a new standard in the high jump with a leap of 6' 7-1/2"; 9-1/2 inches over his standing height!

1968

The 1968 season looked brighter for the Seminoles. The encouraging picture was aided by the enactment of the freshman eligibility rule by the NCAA (Long, L. S., 1976). The ruling allowed FSU's talented freshmen to compete on the varsity squad. The smaller budget schools no longer had to support two separate track programs, freshman and varsity, which made it financially easier to field a dual meet team.

The Seminoles had the potential to become one of the better teams in Florida State's track history. Coach Mike Long explained the basis for this prediction:

We have one of the most promising teams I have seen at Florida State. The biggest problem lies in the fact that 35 percent of our team will be freshmen and although they are the best we have ever had at Florida State, I am not sure that they will be up to varsity competition this year.

If I could put this team on a scale ranging from bad to excellent I think it would fall somewhere between good and very good, but I am not sure we will be up to the level of our competition. The South has been undergoing a general upgrading in track and field in recent years, and although we have improved, I don't know if it has been enough. (FSU Track Brochure File, Track and Field 1968)

The Tribe was looking to school record holders Mike Kelly, Charlie Vickers, Bud Manning, and Marc Williamson for leadership. The hurdles looked to be the toughest entry for Florida State. In 1967, Charlie Vickers set the school record in the intermediate hurdles and ran under the old school record in the high hurdles only to finish behind teammate, Mike Kelly. The friendly rivalry between the two athletes provided the motivation necessary for continued improvement. Bud Manning was the top returning javelin thrower. Standing only 5' 10", he was also the school record holder in the high jump at 6' 7-1/2". The distance corps was led by Marc Williamson and supplemented by letterman Sidney Merchant and freshman Ken Misner.

The Seminoles' weak areas were the sprint races and the pole vault. Sprinter Andy Guy was injured in the 1967 indoor season and was hampered throughout most of the remaining season. Guy's return to top form was critical to FSU's drive for success in 1968.

The 440-yard dash strength remained a question mark as Mike Link and untested freshman Randy Stow were the leading candidates for the Tribe. The pole vault was questionable, yet promising, as it was manned by two freshmen. Phil Edmonds was the first high school vaulter in the State of Tennessee to vault over 14 feet. The Georgia class AA prep champion, Bill Jackson, was the second entry for Florida State (FSU Track Brochure File, Track and Field 1968).

Although the loss of Sidney Gainey in the long and triple jumps could not be ignored, the talent of junior college transfer Steve Lewis and freshman Phil Parker minimized the effect of his

graduation. The Seminole squad was a talented team, but whether they could match the abilities of their 1968 competition was a question soon answered.

The 1968 version of the fighting Seminoles enjoyed a productive, yet brief indoor season. Entered in only three meets, the Tribe broke existing school standards 12 times in nine different events.

The Seminoles opened their season in Knoxville on February 17. The Tennessee Relays was not a scored meet; therefore, no team champion was crowned. The Tribe captured three first places and finished second in three other events (FSU Track Office Files, 17 February 1968).

The two-mile relay team of George Griffin, Tom Rickards, Joe Law, and Bob Thomas sped to victory in 8:05.6. The fine team effort was sparked by outstanding individual performances by Joe Law and Bob Thomas. Law's third leg brought FSU from 12 yards back to take the lead and Thomas fought off a late challenge by Georgia Tech to win by five yards. A new indoor school record was set by Bob Thomas in the 1,000-yard run with a winning time of 2:15.4. The other Seminole victory was obtained when Joe Law controlled the 880-yard run from the opening gun to win in the school record time of 1:57.4.

Both Mike Kelly and Ken Misner bested FSU records only to fall a bit shy and finish second in the 60-yard high hurdles and the two-mile run, respectively. Kelly was edged by nationally renown Leon Coleman. Kelly was clocked in :07.2 while the winner broke the tape in :07.1. Misner scampered to a brilliant 9:27.5 time in the two-mile. He was just two and five-tenths seconds behind the winner.

The Seminoles unleashed their firepower in the 11th Annual Coliseum Relays in Montgomery on March 1-2. Florida State captured nine of 15 events as they amassed 65 1/2 points to overwhelm runner-up Georgia Tech who finished second with 33 1/2 markers. The Tribe track men set seven new FSU indoor records in their runaway victory (FSU Track Office Files, 1-2 March 1968).

Joe Law nipped teammate George Griffin for first place in the half-mile as both FSU runners dipped under the school standard. Law was timed at 1:55.8. His teammate was a click of the clock back at 1:55.9.

Lowering his school record in the 1,000-yard run, Bob Thomas zipped to victory in 2:15.1. Thomas had set the old record just two weeks earlier in the Tennessee Relays.

Freshman Phil Edmunds boomed over 14' 7" in the pole vault to become the highest flying Seminole in FSU indoor track history. His vault also established a new Coliseum Relays record. Fellow freshman Phillip Parker copped the triple jump with a school record performance of 45' 9-1/2".

Greg Kaufman set a school record in a nonwinning effort in the quarter-mile. Kaufman's :51.5 clocking earned him second place honors.

Both the mile and two-mile relays were victorious in school and Coliseum Relays record times. Joe Law, Bob Thomas, Mike Link, and George Griffin outstripped their competition with a swift time of 7:48.9. The two-mile relay foursome bettered the old standard, also set in the Coliseum Relays in 1966, by 12.9 seconds.

The mile relay quartet of Greg Kaufman, Charlie Vickers, Andy Guy, and Mike Link cruised to a 3:23.8 clocking. The new school record bettered the existing mark, set in the 1957 Coliseum Relays by four full seconds.

Mike Link sandwiched a 600-yard dash in between two legs on record setting relays. His time of 1:13.4 was the second fastest 600-yard run in Seminole track history. Link tied with Rogers of Tulane, running in another heat, for first place.

A second place finishing jump of 23' 1" made Steve Lewis the second Seminole to long jump over 23 feet indoors. Teammate Phil Parker followed in third with a jump of 22' 10". Mike Kelly flashed over five hurdles in :07.4 to win the 60-yard high hurdles in meet record time.

The Seminoles had returned to the winner's circle in the independent division of the Coliseum Relays with a spectacular display of power. The Tribe's attentions were quickly focused on the impending outdoor season.

The first Seminole outdoor endeavor was at Furman University on March 23. The Tribe performed well in the 11th Annual News-Piedmont Relays (FSU Track Office Files, 23 March 1968).

Bud Manning came away with the top spot in the javelin by hurling the spear 203' 0". Mike Kelly set a new Seminole record in the high hurdles with a time of :14.0 while running second behind the :13.7 of Duke's Jeff Howser.

A strong effort by Ken Misner in the two-mile run fell just short of victory. Misner had to settle for the runner-up spot with a

time of 9:28.8. Doug Brown became the fourteenth FSU sprinter to crack the 10-second barrier in the 100-yard dash. Brown's time of :09.9 placed him in fourth.

Florida State University entered the Jesuit Invitational on March in Tampa. The Seminole pride suffered as the powerful Florida Gators chalked up 83 points. The Tribe barely edged Florida A & M 51 to 46 for second place (Tampa Tribune, 10 March 1968).

Displaying fine early season form, Andy Guy garnered the only footrace win of the day for the Seminoles with a :21.6 effort in the 220-yard dash. FSU fared only slightly better in the field events when Bud Manning topped the javelin field with a toss of 210' 8", and Steve Lewis outleaped the long jumpers with a 22' 7-3/4" mark.

The Tribe managed to finish second in the mile relay behind Florida to hold off the FAMU Rattlers by a meager five points for the second position.

Florida State did not find many answers in the twenty-fifth running of the Florida Relays. Although FSU did not produce any winners, the Tribe did have a scattering of good performances (FSU Track Office Files, 30 March 1968).

The shuttle hurdle quartet of Charlie Vickers, Charlie Galloway, John Fuss, and Mike Kelly finished fifth with a very respectable time of :59.2. It was the first shuttle hurdle race for a Tribe foursome, thereby setting a new FSU record.

Greg Kaufman, Doug Brown, Steve Lewis, and Andy Guy burned to a :41.4 clocking in the 440-yard relay. The relay's time was only

two-tenths of a second off the school record. Their fine time only earned them fourth as two teams ran under :41.0.

The two-mile relay received four steady performances from Bob Thomas, Mike Link, Joe Law, and George Griffin. The total elapsed time of 7:33.4 was the second fastest by a FSU team and fast enough for fifth place.

The Seminoles ran well in the 440-yard intermediate hurdles as both Mike Kelly and Charlie Vickers ran under 53 seconds. Kelly was second in the race at :52.6 and Vickers came in fourth with a time of :52.9.

Andy Guy placed third in the 100-yard dash with a time of :09.8. Uncorking his best long jump as a Seminole, Steve Lewis flew 23' 6" to finish third.

For the second year in a row, the Seminoles met a team from Alabama on April Fools' Day; however, in 1968, the joke was on the Crimson Tide of Alabama. The Tribe had remembered their 25-point licking at the hands of Alabama in 1967 and had been ready for the rematch.

Coach Mike Long characterized the Tribe's effort as its "best performance in two years" (Tallahassee Democrat, 2 April 1968). Florida State set eight meet, two school, and two track records on their way to an overwhelming 96 to 49 defeat of the University of Alabama (FSU Track Office Files, 1 April 1968).

The FSU 440-yard relay team of Greg Kaufman, Doug Brown, Steve Lewis, and Andy Guy started the day with a victory that established a

new school, track, and meet record. Their combined effort produced a :41.2 clocking.

The mile run produced another meet record shattering performance as Ken Misner turned in a personal best of 4:13.1. Mike Link continued the assault by copping the quarter-mile in a meet standard setting :48.6. The :48.6 marked the first time that Link had run under 49 seconds in the open quarter-mile. The next event, the 120-yard high hurdles, was won by Mike Kelly in another meet record time of :14.4. For the second consecutive meet, Andy Guy ran :09.8 in the 100-yard dash. The victory by Guy set still another meet mark.

Florida State University dominated the 880-yard run as all three Seminole half-milers ran under Bob Thomas's meet record. George Griffin fought to a new school record by winning in 1:51.9. Thomas and Joe Law finished second and third with the identical time of 1:52.8.

Mike Kelly beat Charlie Vickers and his meet record when he won the 440-yard intermediate hurdles in :52.4. Alabama's David Adkins, the 1968 Florida Relays most outstanding athlete award recipient, trailed Kelly in second place, while Vickers finished third with a fine time of :53.2. The versatile Mike Kelly won his third event of the day by taking the high jump at 6' 6".

Phil Edmonds won the pole vault with a jump of 14' 6" only to miss Don Pharis's school record by one-half inch. The cocky freshman narrowly missed clearing 15 feet (Tallahassee Democrat, 2 April 1968).

With a leap of 23' 1/2", Steve Lewis captured the long jump, and then watched teammate Phil Parker take the triple jump at 46'

3-1/2". Bud Manning hurled his spear 210' 0" only to have it fall seven inches short of the winning throw by Phillips of Alabama.

The Seminoles were fresh off one win over an Alabama school and were looking for another when the Tribe met the Auburn Tigers on April 6 in Auburn. The Seminoles could not generate as much fire as the week before; however, the Tribe competed hard and came away with an impressive 80 to 65 victory (FSU Track Office Files, 6 April 1968). The win broke Auburn's eleven home meet win streak that had stretched over three years. The last home loss was in 1965 and that, too, had been at the hands of the Seminoles (Tallahassee Democrat, 8 April 1968).

The Tribe managed to win only eight of 17 events, but used strong back-up performances and two three-place sweeps to overcome Auburn's front line strength. Mike Kelly whipped over the ten timbers to tie his own school high hurdle record of :14.2. Charlie Vickers made the hurdles an all Seminole affair when he copped the 440-yard intermediate hurdles in a meet record time of :52.5.

Running the three miles fresh, Ken Misner strode to a 14:45.6 victory. His time established a new school, track, and meet record. Bud Manning was the only Seminole double winner as he captured the javelin with a throw of 205' 11" and the high jump at 6' 4". Phil Parker was second in the triple jump, but his hop, step, and jump added up to a personal best of 46' 9-3/4".

The Seminoles hosted the Gulf Coast Five-Way Meet on April 20. Although the Seminoles finished second behind the University of Florida,

the Tribe captured four events, setting one school and track record and two meet marks (FSU Track Office Files, 20 April 1968).

Mike Link blazed through the one lap event in a school record tying time of :47.4. Although he finished second behind David Adkins's meet and track time of :46.6, it was apparent that FSU had found a stopper in the quarter-mile.

Mike Kelly and Charlie Vickers traded victories in the hurdle races. Kelly flowed over the timbers in the high hurdles to register a :14.35 victory. Vickers edged his teammate by five-hundredths of a second after 440 yards of hurdle racing to capture the top spot in this grueling event with a time of :52.4. Vickers and Kelly both ran under the former meet record.

With the first of his two wins of the day, Phillip Parker became the sixth Seminole long jumper to leap 23 feet as the tape measure read 23 feet even. Parker then completed the horizontal jumping double by defeating two Auburn jumpers in the triple jump with a fine effort of 46' 7". Ken Misner finished second in the three-mile run despite covering the distance in the school record setting time of 14:28.8.

Florida State concluded a good team performance with a very pleasing victory in the mile relay. The foursome of George Griffin, Randy Stow, Greg Kaufman, and Mike Link raced to the fastest mile relay ever run by a Seminole quartet in a scored meet. Their winning time of 3:14.8 was a meet and track record, yet they fell four-tenths of a second short of the Seminole school record.

After the completion of the first leg, Randy Stow received the baton five yards in back of the leaders. When his stint on the relay was over, the Seminoles were on top by five full yards (Tallahassee Democrat, 21 April 1968). The third and fourth runners, Greg Kaufman and Mike Link, were never headed.

The University of Florida used their strength in the field events to roll over the Seminoles at Percy Beard Field on May 4. The Gators did not lose a single field event while winning six of the 10 events on the track to handle the Seminoles 84 to 61 (FSU Track Office Files, 4 May 1968).

The Tribe was not without their superstars as Mike Kelly rose to the occasion and broke one school record and tied another in his two hurdle victories. Kelly flashed over the ten barriers in the high hurdles to tie his own school mark of :14.0. The strapping junior was invincible in the 440-yard intermediate hurdles as he smashed the field with a new FSU record of :51.5. Kelly became the first Seminole in the history of track and field at Florida State to run under 52 seconds in the intermediate hurdles.

The Tribe had several athletes record personal record performances in nonwinning efforts. Charlie Vickers finished second in the 120-yard high hurdles with his best clocking ever of :14.4. Phil Parker improved his personal record in the triple jump to 46' 9". Teammate Charley Galloway became the fourth Seminole to cover more than 46 feet in the triple jump with his personal record of 46' 2". Parker and Galloway finished second and third, respectively. Bud Manning

uncorked his second best throw ever in the javelin, yet as often had happened in his throwing career, his 216' 0" throw was topped by a heave of 230' 6" by Florida's Mike Burton.

The 220-yard dash was a great race as only one-tenth of a second separated first and third place. Bill Carson of Florida won the event in :21.8. FSU's Andy Guy and Denson Pepper finished second and third, respectively, with the identical time of :21.9.

Florida State University concluded their head-to-head competition in a triangular meet with the University of Tennessee and the Quantico Marines on May 11 in Knoxville. The powerful Volunteers, 1968 Southeastern Conference Indoor Champions, won the meet easily with 95 points (FSU Track Office Files, 11 May 1968). FSU squeaked out a narrow decision over Quantico for second place. The Seminoles' tally of 44 markers gave the Tribe a five-point advantage over the Marines. Tennessee won 12 of 16 events dropping only the 440-yard intermediate hurdles, 880-yard run, mile and two-mile runs. The three distance events were scooped up by the Marines.

Mike Kelly grabbed the only Seminole victory with his second sub-52-second intermediate hurdle performance in as many meets. The watches snapped to a stop at :51.7. Kelly was followed by Charlie Vickers in second at :53.0 and John Fuss finished in fourth with a personal best of :54.9. Mike Kelly also finished second in the high hurdles to the NCAA indoor champion, Richard Flowers of Tennessee. Kelly's time was recorded as :14.2.

For the second time during the 1968 season, George Griffin slipped under 1:52.0 in the half-mile with his fifth place clocking of 1:51.5. It was ironic to break the school record and still finish fifth.

A freshman Tribe weightman picked this stormy day to exhibit the talent that was to carry him to the top of the Seminole list for weight men. However, let George Frank describe his performances:

These were my best freshman marks and were accomplished at the same meet against the University of Tennessee-Quantico Marines in Knoxville. To this day, I consider this to be the most competitive effort I ever made. The meet took place in a terrible downpour and yet I set PR's in both events-- finishing second in the shot and fourth in the discus. The amazing thing was that the shot mark (48' 1") exceeded my previous best by about three and one-half feet. (Frank, 1975)

Team competition for the season ended with the Tennessee-Quantico Marines triangular meet. On a selective basis, the Tribe entered the Southeastern Track and Field Championships at Jefferson, Georgia. The May 25th date made it a perfect tune up meet for the upcoming national events.

Mike Kelly demonstrated top form in winning both hurdle races (FSU Track Office Files, 25 May 1968). Kelly scampered to a :14.2 clocking in the 120-yard high hurdles and then blew to a :51.7 in the intermediate hurdles.

The 440-yard relay team placed third with an FSU record setting time of :41.2. Greg Kaufman, Doug Brown, Denson Pepper, and Andy Guy were the men responsible for the record.

The scoring for the Tribe was completed when the mile relay team composed of George Griffin, Greg Kaufman, Randy Stow, and Mike

Link came in fourth with the relatively slow time of 3:18.2. The 15 points garnered by the Seminoles lodged them in third place behind the Florida Track Club and the University of Florida.

Mike Kelly was the lone Florida State University entry in the Sixth Annual United States Track and Field Federation Outdoor Championships held in Houston on June 7-8. Kelly recorded twin sixth place finishes, matching his all time best in the high hurdles with a swift :14.0 clocking. Kelly was only an eyelash away from his school record in the intermediate hurdles with a time of :51.6 (FSU Track Office File, 7-8 June 1968).

Two weeks later, Mike Kelly entered the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Berkeley on June 18-20. Mike Kelly describes how the meet unfolded:

In 1968 my most competitive event was the 440-yard intermediate hurdles while my 120-yard high hurdle times had been disappointing. Because of this I came into the meet planning to do well in the intermediates and only wishing to do well in the highs. This was an Olympic year and all distances were in meters.

Surprisingly in the 110-meter high hurdle trials, I qualified for the semifinals in the same heat as Earl McCullough, world record holder at that time. That same day, I also qualified in the 400-meter intermediate hurdles.

The semi-finals and finals of the highs, as well as the semifinals of the intermediates were on the second day. I again ran in McCullough's heat and amazingly qualified for the finals. I didn't know what I was doing in the finals, but I was emotionally charged. The gun sounded for the finals and I just ran. Four runners were ahead of me, and I remember seeing another runner to my side who later faded. I actually placed fifth in :13.8 seconds (school record) and qualified for the Olympic trials. Unfortunately for me, an ROTC summer camp commitment kept me from attending the 1968 Olympic trials. (Kelly, 1976)

Summary. The rebuilding program of Coach Mike Long had proceeded steadily. The sophomore and freshmen laden Seminoles had

experienced surprising success during the 1968 campaign. FSU had run up an impressive 32-point victory margin over Georgia Tech in the independent division of the Coliseum Relays. Team efforts found the Tribe finishing second in the Gulf Coast Five-Way Meet and the Jesuit Invitational meet. The Seminoles established a three and two dual meet records against the best track powers in the South with wins over the University of Alabama (96 to 49), Auburn University (80 to 65), and the Quantico Marines (44 to 39). The losses occurred at the hands of the University of Tennessee, who were the SEC indoor and outdoor champions, and the University of Florida.

Mike Kelly led the parade of impressive individual Seminole performers. His prolific record setting year was highlighted by sixth place finishes in both hurdle races at the Sixth Annual USTFF Championships. Kelly ran faster than his old record of :14.2, in the high hurdles, on four separate occasions and tied the record in two additional meets.

The old school standard in the 440-yard intermediate hurdles, formerly held by Charlie Vickers, also fell to the flying feet of the strong junior. Kelly lowered the FSU record to a spectacular :51.5.

A walk-on with no scholarship (Long, L. S., 1976), George Griffin snapped John Brogle's half-mile mark by covering the two laps in 1:51.5. Griffin's record setting performance occurred in the Tennessee-Quantico Marines triangular meet, in which, he finished fifth.

Mike Link began to tap his tremendous potential for running the quarter-mile. Link sped to a school record tying performance of :47.4

in the Gulf Coast Five-Way Meet 440-yard dash. Link's time was only fast enough for second place.

Freshman Ken Misner finished between two marines in the Tennessee-Quantico Marines three-mile run. His time of 14:06.8 bettered his own school record by 21.7 seconds. Misner added the two-mile run to his school record collection by popping out a 9:09.1 effort.

The 440-yard relay team of Greg Kaufman, Doug Brown, Denson Pepper, and Andy Guy set their school record of :41.2 with a third place finish in the Southeastern Championships.

The dual meet record run up by the Tribe was their best in two years. The predominance of youth on their squad foreshadowed continued improvement.