

Oler Hits 22 Free Throws, 34 Points... And Then —

FSU Star Hears About Death Of His Grandfather
After 'Best' Night In 86-74 Victory Over Rollins

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Jimmy Oler really felt good yesterday morning. He remarked on it to a member of the Florida State athletic department. He said he did not know when he had felt so good, not this season.

One thing bothered him. The 10 free throws he missed in a Saturday night basketball game against Stetson. So, he went out to the gym alone and for 30 minutes worked on his shooting from the foul line.

Last night, the stocky (5-10) junior guard was a dribbling, driving demon as the Seminoles met and defeated Rollins, 86-74, in a rough battle.

The Tars tried to stop his basket-gunning thrusts. They could not.

Twenty-nine times he took cocky aim from the free-throw

line after fouls, and 22 times the ball swished through for a point.

It was a school record, breaking the FSU standard of 16 free throws set by Ham Wernke against Mississippi State in 1953.

WITH BAD HAND

Oler ended with 34 points, fattening his team-leading average to 21.6.

Some accomplishment for a youngster who broke a bone in his right hand during pre-season practice and who has been playing despite a doctor's warning that another hard blow to the hand will sideline him for the season.

Quite a night, all right.

Until . . .

Oler saw Coach Bud Kennedy walking his way after the final whistle.

Instead of congratulations, Kennedy brought him bad news.

NOT TO TELL

Oler's grandfather had died back home in Economy, Ind., and he was to rush home right away.

Kennedy had nursed the news since 7:30 that morning. The boy's parents had called. They explained that Jimmy's grandfather had encouraged him to play basketball all through high school and to accept the scholarship offer of Florida State. He and his grandfather were very close, they said.

And they told Kennedy if there was a game Monday night not to tell Jimmy until afterward. They said his grandfather would have wanted it that way.

Grandfather would have been mighty proud of the best night Jimmy ever had in basketball.

FOULS PLENTY

FSU's hard-earned victory, coming after 51 fouls—28 against Rollins, virtually locked up the first championship of the new Florida Intercollegiate Basketball Conference. It was the Seminoles' 13th victory in 15 starts

against collegiate competition this season, their 11th straight at home. They have won seven, lost none in the FIBC.

It was apparent from the start that Rollins came roughshod ready to win. FSU repeatedly spurted away and Rollins repeatedly narrowed the gap. But after FSU went ahead at 15-14, it was never headed. The Seminoles held a 19-point spread at one point but Rollins cut it to 45-34 by halftime.

With Dick Bezemer and Harry Weisenberg, two hard-playing freshmen, in the fore, Rollins moved within six-point range at 68-62 early in the last quarter. Each hit 20 points for the evening.

FSU's Rick Benson bagged 22 points and was a master scrapper under the boards.

DOUBLE DRIBBLES — When center Bob Williams fouled out with five minutes to play last night, Kennedy had to send to the "back room" for his replacement. Gary Wold, aware that Williams was about to go, was dribbling and passing by himself in a closed-off room from the main gym . . . Held to less than 20 points for the first time in six games, senior Ham Wernke still moved his career scoring record to 1,194 points in 62 games for a 19.3 average . . . Oler was tossed into the crowd during the late rough going when Rollins' Weisenberg threw what some football coaches would term a "perfect" crossbody block . . . FSU's 13 victories equals the number of games won last year (13-7) when the Seminoles claimed the mythical state championship . . . And if the 29 free throws Oler attempted last night were placed end to end, they would reach 435 feet, more than five times the length of a basketball court and almost two city blocks.

ROLLINS		fg	ft	pf	tp
Bezemer, f	.....	7	6	2	20
Costello, f	.....	0	0	4	0
Haber, f	.....	0	0	5	0
Weisenberg, f	.....	6	8	5	20
Feldman, c	.....	3	2	1	8
Lawler, c	.....	0	0	0	0
McHardy, g	.....	5	4	4	14
Cost, g	.....	1	0	3	2
Gaudette, g	.....	2	0	2	4
Fantuzzi, g	.....	3	0	2	6

Totals 27 20 28 74

FSU		fg	ft	pf	tp
Benson, f	.....	10	2	5	22
Artmeier, f	.....	4	2	3	10
Burst, f	.....	0	0	0	0
Wold, c	.....	1	0	4	2
Williams, c	.....	1	3	5	5
Oler, g	.....	6	22	2	34
Wernke, g	.....	5	3	4	13

Totals 27 32 23 86

Halftime score: Florida State 45,
Rollins 34.

Free throws missed: Florida State—
Benson 3, Wold, Oler 7, Wernke 4.
Rollins—Bezemer 4, Feldman 2, Gau-
dette 2, Weisenberg 3, Cost, Mac-
Hardy 4.