

By BILL McGROTHA
Democrat Sports Editor

As though Florida State didn't have enough of Alachua County to do it for awhile, Valdosta State's misnamed Rebels rode into town last night with a radar-equipped kid named Bobby Ritch and almost did in the Seminoles' basketball team.

Ritch, who scored 37 points, hails from High Springs, up the highway a bit from Gainesville, where Florida State last Saturday lost a game of football to a school whose indicated aversion to girls is a matter of clinical interest to some.

Valdosta State, like Florida State, was once an all-girls college.

Ritch got well over half of Valdosta State's 68 points. Sixty-eight points were not quite enough to win as the Seminoles, somehow, managed 69. . . but 68 was more than enough to scare that best-ever team talk out of Florida State fans.

Ritch bordered on the fantastic, as Valdosta State did as a team. It was probably the best team effort ever witnessed in Tully Gym.

They call themselves Rebels. Forget it. Jackrabbits is the only name for this spined, quick, leaping bunch of Georgians.

Coached by Gary Colson, who once played the game in long white trousers for Dasher Bible School near Valdosta, the Jackrabbits had Florida State looking, much of the time, as though it were play-

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VALDOSTA STATE

	fg	ft	reb	pt	tp
McGowan	2-4	1-3	4	3	7
McCarty	7-11	1-1	3	1	3
Pham	6-13	2-3	3	2	14
Williamson	2-4	1-2	9	1	5
Ritch	17-25	3-5	2	3	37
Team			3		
TOTALS	30-51	6-14	27	12	68

FLORIDA STATE

	fg	ft	reb	pt	tp
Schell	7-11	5-7	7	1	19
Peacock	1-4	0-0	2	2	2
Phillips	3-7	0-0	2	1	4
Howard	7-11	1-1	4	4	23
Evitts	7-14	2-3	7	0	14
Murphy	0-1	0-0	0	0	0
Fairchild	1-2	2-2	2	2	4
Giggs	1-2	1-1	1	2	3
Daniels	1-1	0-0	1	0	2
Leakey	0-2	0-0	0	0	0
Gibson	0-0	0-0	0	1	0
Team			3		
TOTALS	28-51	8-14	27	12	49

Valdosta State 68-49
Florida State 49-68

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ing the game in long, baggy trousers.

Colson is used to long odds. When he was at Dasher all practice was on a dirt court, and the team that won a floor-

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Team	17-42	2-2	3	3	27
TOTALS	20-31	4-14	37	12	48
FLORIDA STATE					
	fg	ft	reb	pt	tp
Schull	7-11	5-7	7	1	19
Peacock	1-4	0-0	12	2	2
Phillips	2-7	0-0	2	1	4
Stewart	7-11	1-1	4	4	13
Little	7-14	2-3	1	0	18
Murphy	0-1	0-0	0	0	0
Fairchild	1-2	2-2	2	2	4
Riggs	1-2	1-1	1	2	3
Danford	1-1	0-0	1	0	2
Leakey	0-2	0-0	0	0	0
Glenn	0-2	0-0	0	1	0
Team			4		
TOTALS	20-31	4-14	27	12	48
Valdosta State			38	40-44	
Florida State			30	38-40	

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ing the game in long, baggy trousers.

Colson is used to long odds. When he was at Dasher all practice was on a dirt court, and the team that won a Georgia high school Class B state championship never played a home game. In his senior year Colson and the others built a gym with their own hands.

Plenty good in its own league, Valdosta State was 12-4 last year, stood unbeaten going into this one after three starts.

Coach Bud Kennedy of FSU started playing Valdosta State as a favor to nice-guy Colson. The Jackrabbits last night earned anybody's schedule consideration. They certainly earned another crack at the Seminoles.

Valdosta State actually led only once, at 46-45 with 12:43 to play, but the Jackrabbits were never down by more than eight. And in the last four minutes they tied it 62-62, 64-64, 66-66.

It was 66-66 in the final min-

ute. With the ball in their hands, the Seminoles played it cool, calling two timeouts in those last seconds.

Finally they got the ball to 6-7 Gary Schull, called 007 by some because of his appreciation of James Bond, and the Pompano Beach senior, standing under the basket, dumped it in for 68-66. Fouled on the action, he added a free throw for 69-66. And the clock showed 007 seconds.

Avoiding any possibility of a foul that might lead to a tie, the Seminoles stood back and let Mr. Hatch have his way to their goal for his 40th and 25th points.

Schull led the Tribe with 19 points. Guards Jim Lytle and Darrel Stewart — the latter playing with a charleyhorse during the last half — contributed 16 and 15.

At the start, Florida State jumped at from 8-0, and the blue fans started talking about their high utilities bills.

It was strictly trap strategy, Valdosta State, which
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Members of the Tipoff Club will conclude their week-long membership and funds-raising drive tonight with a gathering at the home of Dr. Ed Haskell, 621 Hillcrest. All members, plus any others interested in Florida State basketball, are invited to attend, says Club President Nat Polak.

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had been looking like Valdosta State was supposed to look, suddenly started fast - breaking, jumping higher than it could, potting shots from all over the court, stealing the ball, playing defense like pros - only three fouls in the first half.

The Jackrabbits pulled within 14-11, then 16-13 as Ritch started to work. Four minutes before halftime Ritch hit a quick pair from the field to pull Valdosta to 28-26 range, and soon after he added another to cut FSU's lead to one, 29-28.

But Stewart connected on a 30 - footer as the halftime horn sounded to send FSU to the dressing room in front 31-28.

Ritch poured in 13 of Valdosta's first 14 points in the last half, and abruptly the Seminoles decided to do something about that fellow.

Charles Fairchild, a cat-quick 6-3 forward, got the assignment. And he dogged Ritch so closely that he didn't hit another point for 10 playing minutes.

Heaven knows how many Ritch would have got but for Fairchild's close work in that span.

Meanwhile, six points by Schull in a short span had pulled FSU to 53-46 command just after Valdosta had gained its only lead.

A 3 - points play by Gwendell McSwain brought Valdosta to within two at 58-56.

Then Ritch suddenly got loose again, put in a lay-up that tied it 62-62 with 3:58 to go. After Fairchild notched two from the foul line in a 1-and-1 situation, Ritch came right back to knot it 64-64 with the clock showing 1:43.

Lyttle, on a vigorous drive followed by an over-the-shoulder shot, gave FSU a 66-64 lead. Of course, Ritch immediately got wide open and deadlocked things again 66-66.

Then Schull got the ball in those last seconds, and won it.

Now 2-0 in the young season, FSU next plays Tampa here Monday night.

"They deserved to win," said Coach Kennedy of the Valdosta effort, "I was disappointed, however, in our team's play. Before the season started I thought we were going to be pretty good. After this game I'm going to have to qualify my thinking."