

Seminoles Slog to 35-13 Victory

Over Sul Ross

Sellers Leads Way To Impressive Win

By FRED P. PETTIJOHN

Neither Sul Ross nor the slippery underfooting could stop Florida State University's Seminoles here last night as the re-vitalized Indians slogged to a 35-13 triumph over the Texans before a painfully scant, rain-coated crowd of 1,969 fans in Doak S. Campbell Stadium.

A three-touchdown explosion in the second period which saw Coach Don Veller's impressive Indians jam across three quickies in the space of six minutes and 22 seconds blew the ball game apart after the battling Lobos had clawed out a 13-7 margin in the first period.

RAINS TDS AND RAIN

Those three stunning scores and the rain which ranged from a drizzle to a downpour, put a definite damper on any upset hopes that Sul Ross may have had, for the Lobos were never in the ball game after that.

Florida State, which had punched over its first score in a minute and 11 seconds, wound up the scoring with an 88-yard march in the third period for the only score after the intermission.

The Seminoles one-two punch, Mike Sellers and Nelson Italiano, shifting back and forth between fullback and tailback, ran with some of their old time power and determination as they sparked a rumbling running attack that ground out 318 yards over the soggy turf.

Sellers slammed across for three of the TDS, getting the odd ones—numbers one, three and five—and piled up 152 yards in 12 carries.

Italiano was held scoreless, but contributed 12 yards in a dozen tries.

HUG GROUND

The Indians, hugging the wet turf like an earthworm, tried only six passes all night and completed half of them for 45 yards.

Sul Ross, with its wide-open passing game grounded by the weather, relied mainly on a trio of hard-running backs, Jim Mobley, Dwain Stacy and Charlie Lafoon and the trio all ran well, but the lack of Lafoon's passing threat enabled the Seminoles to flag the Lobos down after the first period, with a packed defense, and Tommy Brown's phenomenal 42-yard punting with a wet ball kept them backed up.

The Texans brought only 26 men here for the game, and the effect of traveling in the heavy footing was apparent in the closing periods.

FSU missed a few chances to cash in on breaks, getting one of its scores on an intercepted pass and 38-yard scoring dash by Curt Campbell, and collecting another when Jimmy Lee Taylor blocked a punt and Sellers scooped up the slippery leather and lunged 11 yards for a score.

One of the Lobos two tallies came via the same route as defensive halfback Duane Parsons plucked a jump pass by Nelson Italiano out of the air on the Indian 48 and rambled to the touchdown.

THIRD WIN

The win was FSU's third of the season against a single loss and gave them a record of 27 wins in 30 games under Veller.

Briefly the scoring went like this:

FSU went 70 yards in three plays in 1:11 with Sellers getting the last 39 around left end.

Sul Ross slammed 80 yards in 8 plays with Mobley going the last 23 at right guard.

Parson's intercepted Italiano's pass and ran 48 yards to score, and Sul Ross led 13-7 at the quarter with Shahan converting once out of two attempts and Huggett nailing the first of five straight.

FSU went 47 yards in three plays with Italiano going the last 40: Taylor blocked a punt and Sellers scooped it up and ran 11 yards to score and Campbell intercepted a Lafoon pass and went 30 yards to paydirt—all that in less than 6½ minutes of the second period.

In the third quarter the Indians slouched 88 yards in 18 plays with Sellers setting the last six at right tackle.

FIRST QUARTER

A misting rain and the soggy underfooting didn't affect the Seminoles an iota at the outset as they took the opening kickoff and drove right to a score. Italiano brought the kickoff back 15 yards to his 30, then slammed off right guard for 4. Bringer wheeled around left end on a reverse to the Sul Ross 39, and on the next play Sellers, running from left half, turned right end and bulled his way 39 yards to a score. Huggett converted and it was 7-0 with only 1:13 gone.

FSU stopped Sul Ross after the kickoff and immediately posed another threat after Brown had returned a Shahan punt 17 yards to his 37. Italiano knifed at right tackle, then lateraled out to Sellers, and Big Mike barreled 36 yards to the Lobo 27, but the Texans threw a lariat around the Indians there and took over on their own 20.

Lafoon speared Stacy with a six-yarder on the game's first pass, and the Lobos began to roll. Stacy bit off 26 to his 42 on a trap at guard, and Mobley sped to the Seminole 49.

After Bingham cracked for a vital first down on the 48, Mobley sliced to the 42. Stacy slipped over right guard to the 23 before Kirby caught him from behind, and on the next play Mobley burst over right guard, cutback and sneaked 23 yards to paydirt. Sha-

han's kick was wide and it was FSU-7-6 with 3:57 left.

Thirty seconds later Sul Ross was leading. After Italiano returned the kickoff from his 21 to the 40, Parsons intercepted Italiano's jump pass and raced to a score with the aid of a key block on the 28th yard line. Shahan was good with his placement and it was 13-7 with 3:27 left.

FSU worked the kick off back near midfield despite being hit by two penalties, and Brown punted out beautifully on Sul Ross's eight as the period ended.

SECOND QUARTER

Shahan punted out, Brown returning from his 45 to the Lobo 47, and the Indians were touchdown bound. After Italiano and Thompson took turns at punching the tackles for a net of seven yards, Italiano broke over right tackle, shook off Parsons' tackle at the 15 and went over with only 1:11 gone in the period. Huggett converted.

Hackney returned Driver's kickoff 19 yards to his 23, but the Lobos couldn't get anywhere and Shahan went back to punt. The pass from center was low and on the wrong side, and Taylor broke through and blocked the punt, Sellers scooping up the ball on 11 and rumbling over to score. Huggett got two chances to convert when Sul Ross was offside, and made the second one good to give FSU a 21-13 lead with 9:44 remaining.

Sul Ross brought the kickoff back from its 26 to the 30, and after a fumble set the Lobos back to their 21. Laffoon tried to hit Bingham with a pass in the left flat, but Campbell speared the ball on the Texans' 30 and raced untouched to a score. Huggett split the middle again and it was 28-13 with 7:21 remaining.

Sul Ross went 41 yards on Laffoon's passing and running, but Stacey fumbled and Szczepanik recovered on his own 21 to halt the drive.

FSU moved to midfield on Sellers' 23-yard dash, but stalled and Brown punted dead to the Lobo 5.

THIRD PERIOD

FSU came out in dry gold jerseys for the second half.

Sul Ross picked up one first down after the kickoff, but stalled at their own 48 and Shahan punted out nicely on the FSU 12.

The Seminoles, starting slowly, crunched 88 yards to score in 18 plays and made up one 15-yard deficit along the way.

Italiano, Sellers and Bringger punched to their 43, and Bringger hit Whitmer on the Lobo 30 from there. After being rocked back 15 yards by a personal foul, the Seminoles hugged the ground with Sellers doing the heavy bombing, and blasted inside the tackles and around the ends to the six. Sellers bowled inside right tackle from there to score, and when Huggett converted it was 35-13 with 4:36 left in the period.

FSU came storming back after forcing Sul Ross to kick, and moved 53 yards to the Lobo 10 as the period ended.

FOURTH PERIOD

Three running plays netted only six yards and Folsom's pass into the end zone was incomplete as Sul Ross took over.

The Lobos punted out to their 39, and the ball changed hands as the Indians fumbled and then regained possession when Campbell intercepted a Laffoon pass on his 40.

With reserves in there the Indians could make no headway and Brown punted dead to the Lobo 23. The slippery pigskin was getting harder to hold, and the ball again changed hands as each team fumbled at the 23, leaving Sul Ross in possession there.

Laffoon's pass to Bingham and a four yard dash by the Lobo quarterback moved the ball to the 40 as the game ended.

STATISTICS

	Sul Ross	Fla. State
First downs	10	13
Carried rushing	42	45
Gained rushing	171	357
Lost rushing	18	39
Net gain rushing	153	318
Attempted passing	7	6
Completed	3	3
Had intercepted	2	1
Net gain passing	34	45
Punts	6	3
Punts blocked	1	0
Punting average	27.2	42.8
Fumbles lost	2	2
Yards penalized	55	80

SCORE BY PERIODS:

Sul Ross	13	0	0	0-13
Fla. State	7	21	7	0-35

Sul Ross scoring: Touchdowns—Mobley, Parsons. Conversions—Shanan 1.

Florida State scoring: Touchdowns—Sellers (3), Italiano (1), Campbell (1). Conversions—Huggett 5.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Sul Ross—Running: Mobley, 11 runs for 62 yards; Laffoon 6 runs for 29 yards; Stacy 18 runs for 51 yards.

Passing: Laffoon, 7 attempted, 3 completed for 34 yards; 2 intercepted.

Florida State—Running, Sellers, 12 runs for 152 yards; Italiano 12 runs for 74 yards; Fiveash, 3 runs for 18 yards; Bringger, 5 runs for 27 yards.

Passing—Bringger, attempted 1 for 1 for 26 yards; Thompson 1 for 1 for 10 yds; Woodham 1 for 1 for 9 yards.