

## FSU net coach aims to build a champion

By ROBERT MASHBURN

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Randy Jobson hopes to bring about a renaissance of sorts, returning Florida State's tennis program to the level it had achieved when he resigned as head coach in 1975.

This time around, however, he doesn't plan to stop there.

"There's no reason why Florida State can't contend for the national title," he said. "But it takes a lot of time and a lot of work.

"It's hard to pin down a timetable for a goal like that, but our first step is to be able to win decisively within the state. We hope to be able to do that within two or three years.

"When we're able to take on any school in the state and do a job on them, then we'll be ready to move on

and go after national recognition."

Friday afternoon, the Seminoles appeared well on their way toward achieving that first goal, edging a tough South Florida squad 5-4 in the first match of the 1980 season.

Playing in brisk but sunshiny 40-degree weather at the Tully Gym courts, Florida State took a 4-2 lead in the singles competition, then easily picked up the one necessary doubles victory.

"It's a good win," Jobson said. "South Florida was the best team in the state last season, and they had their top two players back. It's the first time we've beaten them in four years."

Marco Abilhoa, the Seminoles' No. 1 player, easily handled South Flori-

da's Mike Minot 6-2, 6-3. Other singles winners for Florida State were Peter Prinos, Jon Dwight and Kevin Green.

FSU's John McLean, who lost a three-set thriller in the No. 2 singles, teamed with Steve Layton for the clinching doubles victory.

Even though step No. 1 in Jobson's scheme apparently is within reach, he says the ultimate goal is still some time away.

"I would like to see us start moving up nationally within three or four years," Jobson said. "There's really no reason we can't do it."

But why hasn't Florida State, with a climate conducive to the spring sports of tennis, baseball and golf, done it before? The Seminoles always have fielded highly successful baseball and golf teams.

"I don't really know for sure," Jobson said. "Part of it has been a lack of continuity in coaching. I was here for three seasons before, and that's a long time compared to how long other tennis coaches have stayed.

"The program was on the move then, but every time you change coaches you're going to lose some ground. And the main reason you lose so many coaches is that it's a part-time position as far as pay goes, but it involves full-time work."

That's the reason Jobson left Flori-

da State in '75. At the time, he also was head pro at Capital City Country Club, and on his own at both places.

"Without an assistant, it was just too much work," he said. "I didn't want to leave Florida State, but I really had no choice.

"Both programs were growing, and I couldn't do justice to both. And since the job at Capital City was a full-time position, I had to stay there."

Jobson left Capital City in July of '78 to become head pro at Killearn.

Now he's back to splitting himself between two positions, but this time he has the aid of Florida State senior Tommy Williams, who serves as Jobson's assistant at both FSU and Killearn.

"Tommy's one of the main reasons I was able to come back," Jobson said. "Now, we're able to have someone at both places whenever we need to."

But, he says, there are a lot more changes to be made before Florida State can achieve national recognition.

"For one thing, the coach's job needs to become a full-time position. For another, we need to beef up the budget for recruiting and scholarships."

During the '74 season, the NCAA reduced the maximum number of tennis scholarships from seven to

five. And by the time Jobson left in '75, FSU's financially-strapped program was limited to only two full-time scholarships.

"We had to raise the money to make up any other scholarships we gave out," Jobson said. "We're using 3½ this year, and next year hope to be up to five."

Another shortcoming is the recruiting budget. Jobson is allotted \$500 each season for his pursuit of a handful of top tennis players. Football, by comparison, has a budget of \$75,000 to land its maximum of 30 players each season.

"There's a lot more that can be done," Jobson said, "but as you can see, there are limitations. But we're optimistic."

"We've got the kind of players now that are more dedicated toward reaching our long-term goals. They're eager to work and practice, they spend more time on the courts."

"They work hard — and that's what it takes."

#### Florida State 5, South Florida 4

**Singles** — Marco Abilhoa (FSU) def. Mike Minot 6-2, 6-3; Robert Cramers (USF) d. John McLean 6-2, 2-6, 7-6 (5-4); Peter Prinos (FSU) d. Bill Sears 6-3, 3-6, 6-4; Jack Reader (USF) d. Steve Layton 6-2, 6-1; Jon Dwight (FSU) d. Gary Kaltbaum 6-1, 2-6, 6-3; Kevin Green (FSU) d. Neil Scannell 4-6, 6-1, 7-5.

**Doubles** — Minot-Cramers (USF) d. Abilhoa-Dwight 6-2, 7-5; McLean-Layton (FSU) d. Paul Couture-Kaltbaum 6-0, 6-3; Reader-Scannell (USF) d. Prinos-Robbie Golin 6-2, 6-7, 7-5.