

# FOOTBALL AT FLORIDA STATE IN 1970



**A**

year of controversy, change, disappointment, hope, comedy and disgruntlement. It

was a season that almost saw a bowl game and did see a coaching change and a 7-4 record.

It got off to an almost disastrous start on Sept. 19 when a not so vaunted Louisville team came to Tallahassee for the season opener. If it hadn't been for the heroics of the first black starter in the history of FSU football, sophomore James Thomas, the Seminoles would have never come out of that contest with their skins.

Thomas, on three separate occasions, broke through the Louisville offensive line to block field goal attempts that would eventually have won the game. The final block came with nine seconds left in the game and preserved a 10-9 win for the Tribe.

The following week, FSU traveled to Atlanta to meet Georgia Tech on regional television and the Yellow Jackets came out on top in

that one 23-13. It wasn't a very prestigious start for the Tribe and its coach, Bill Peterson, in his 11th year at the head post.

FSU did very little to help its image the next weekend when it returned to Tallahassee and eked out a 19-14 win. The game left state sportswriters and Seminole fans in a vacuum and the two straight losses that followed left little doubt in the minds of many that this team was going nowhere. Against Florida, the Seminoles rolled over and played dead until seven minutes before the end of the contest, when Peterson unveiled sophomore Gary Huff for the first time. Huff engineered three touchdown drives in those waning moments and made the score a respectable 38-27, Gators' favor.

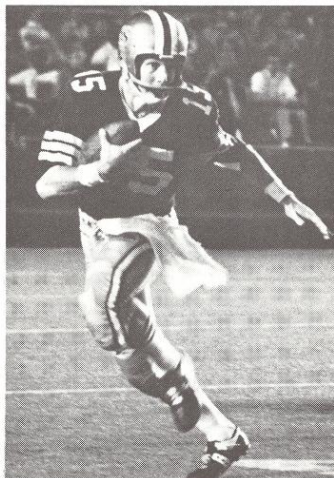
Hopes by Seminole fans that Huff would be the answer to the Tribe's problem went down the drain, however, when it blew the game with Memphis State in the final minute, 16-13. Peterson had decided to sit on a four point lead throughout the second half, setting

Memphis up for the winning score.

All seemed lost: a team with a 2-3 record and no spunk that was disgruntled with its coach; a coach that was disgruntled with his team; and fans that were spitting fire and swearing never to buy another ticket to an FSU football game. There was only one place to go and that was up.

The Seminoles got back on the track the following week against South Carolina when Tommy Warren, the quarterback who had started the season at No. 1, came off the bench to win the game in the second half. This win not only got the team's record back to .500, but also got some of the players thinking that a bowl game was still in the picture.

During the next two weeks the Seminoles played like champions. First they devoured Miami in a 27-3 contest and then they followed that triumph with another offensive show against Clemson, winning 38-13. With a 5-3 record and three-game winning streak the club was beginning to get some believers.







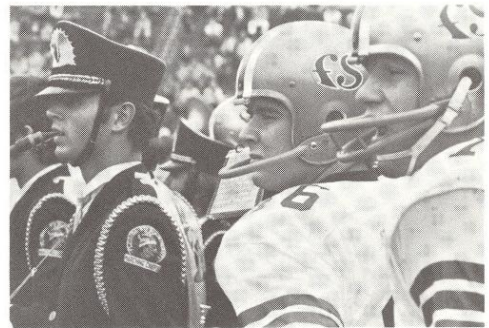




# At Homecoming...



At homecoming the following week the Seminoles won their fourth straight over Virginia Tech, 34-8 in a rather easy fashion.

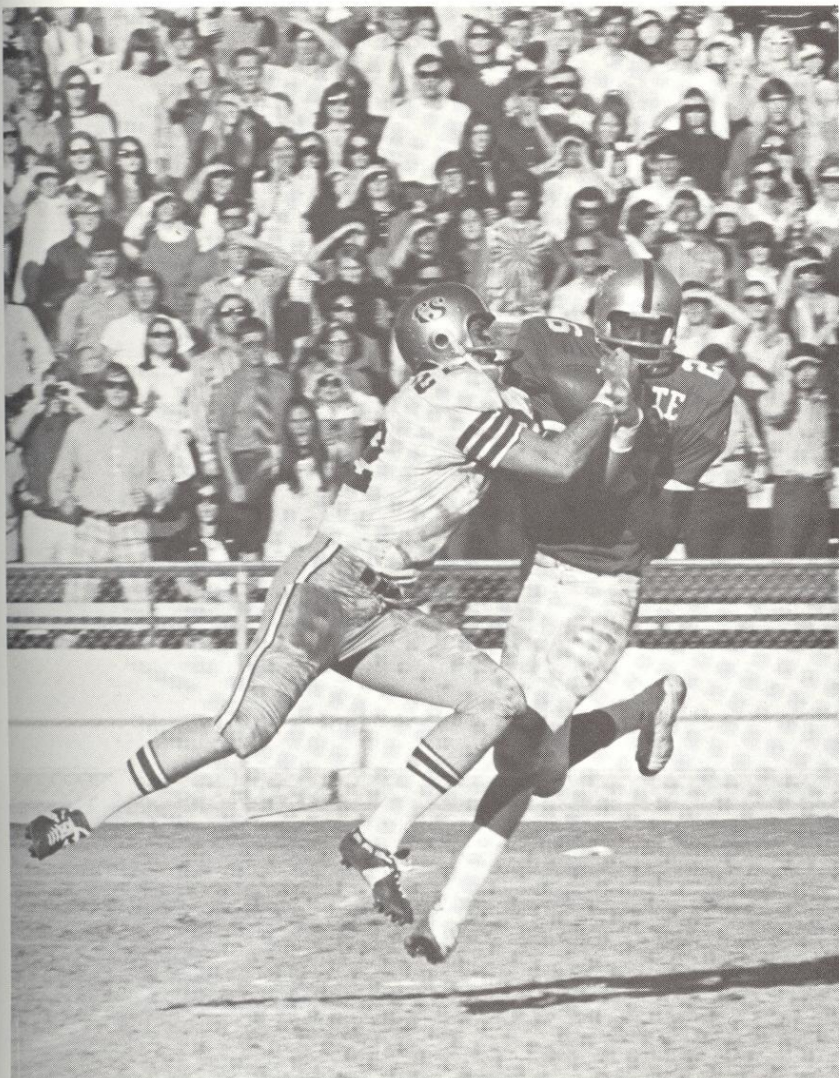


# 34-8

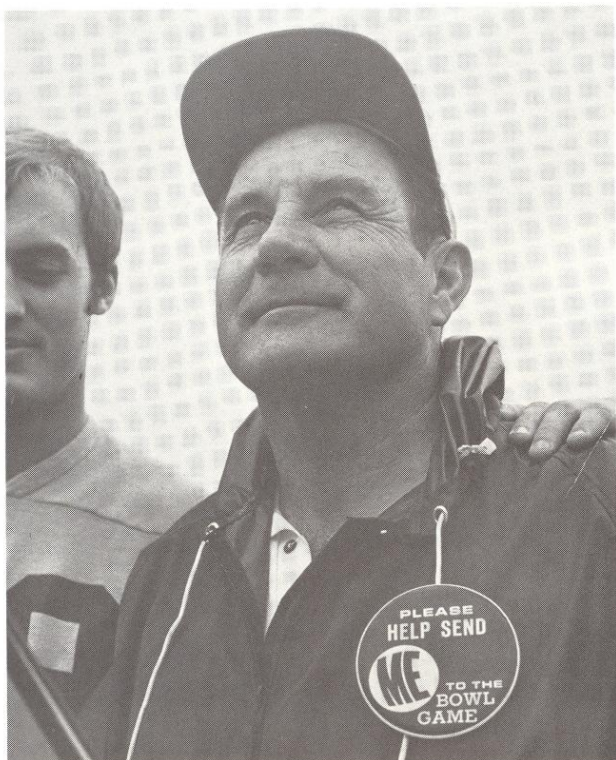






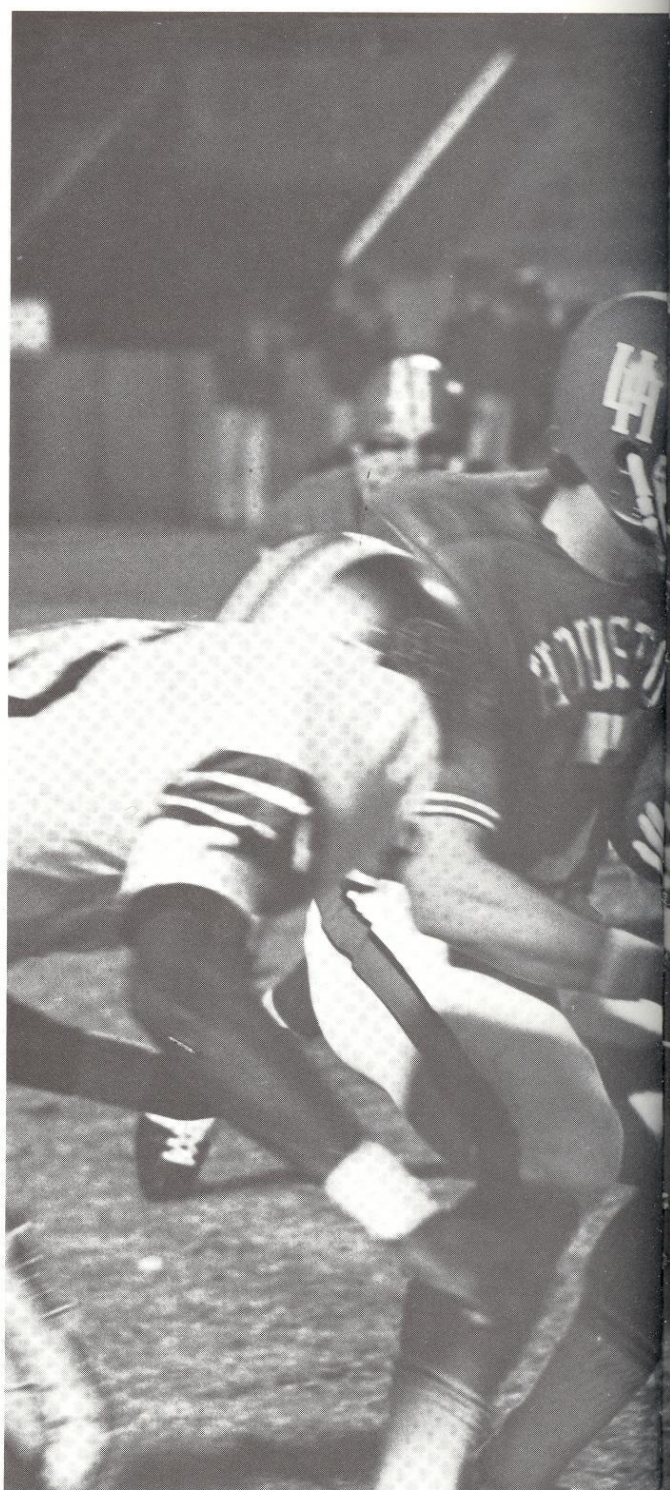
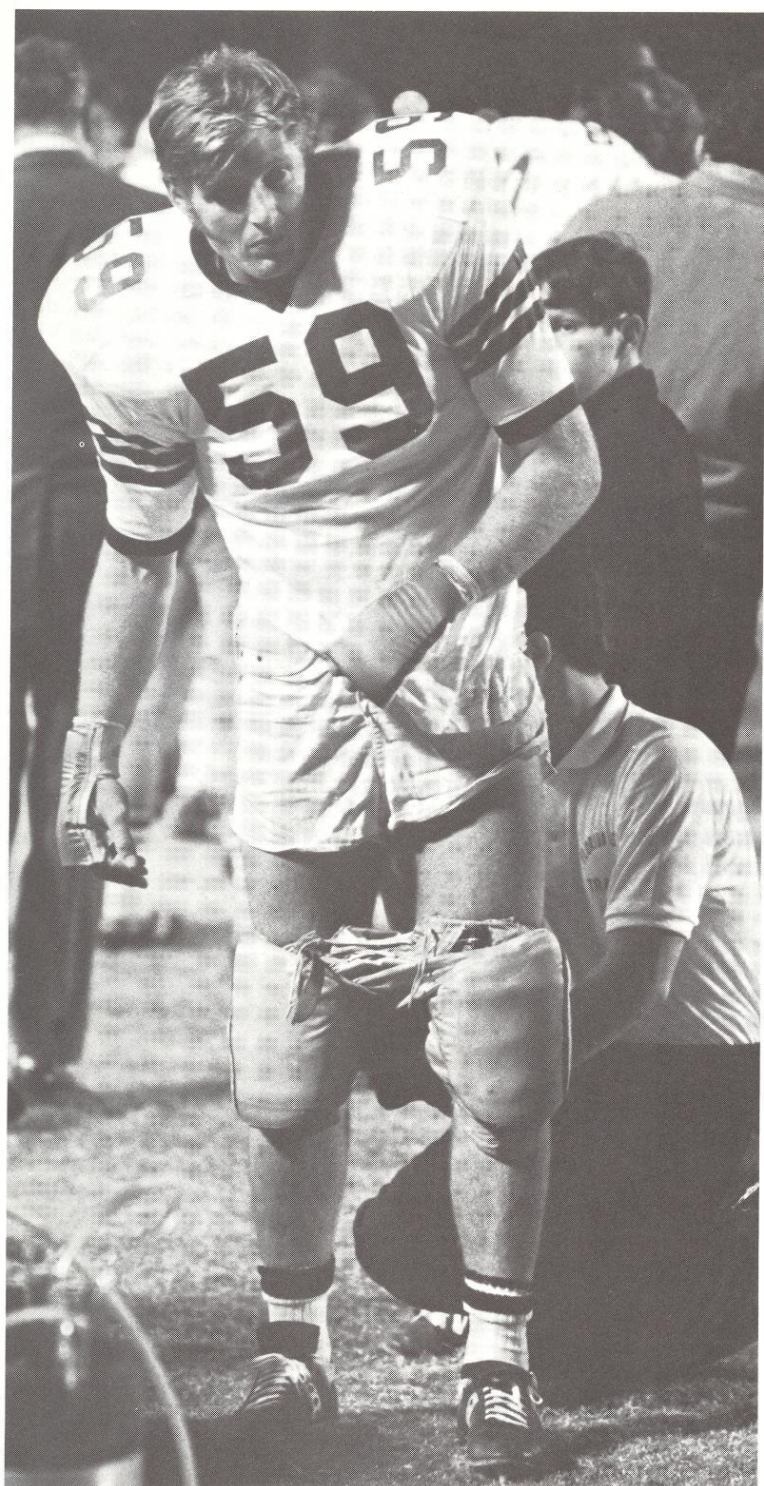


Then against a highly rated Kansas State team, the Seminoles did it again, 34-13. People were taking notice now. The Seminoles had won five straight contests and were . . .



## screaming for a bowl bid



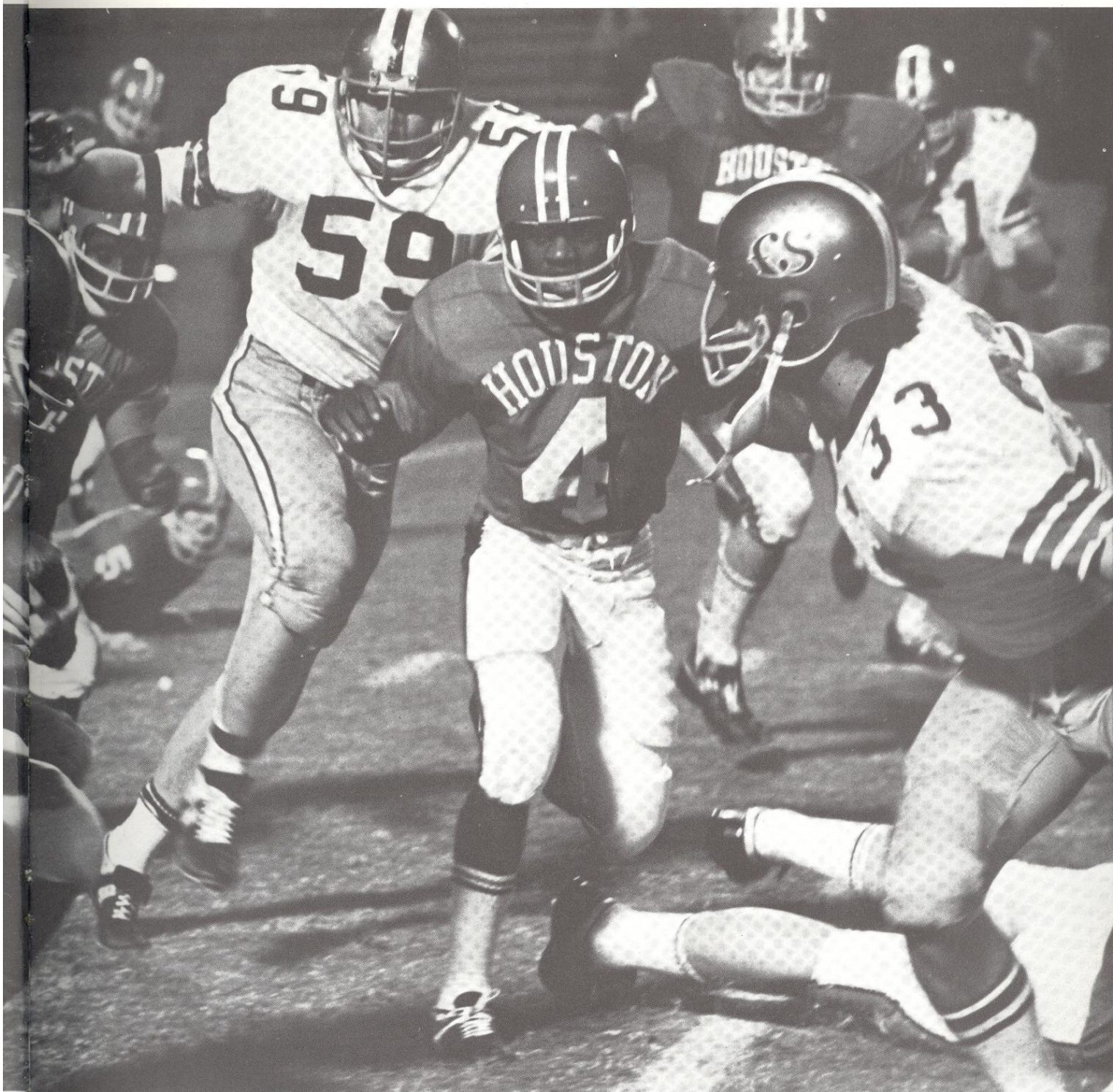


# It all went down to the final game

The Seminoles traveled to Tampa Stadium to take on a strong University of Houston team on Thanksgiving Eve. Riding on the passing arm of senior quarterback Tommy Warren, the fired up Tribe shocked the Cougars by soaring to a 21-12 first half lead. Seminole fans were exuberant and dreams of bowl bids danced in everyone's head.

Those dreams turned into nightmares during the second half. An early second half drive by the Tribesmen was blown apart when Houston defensive back Charles Ford intercepted a Warren pass, scrambled for



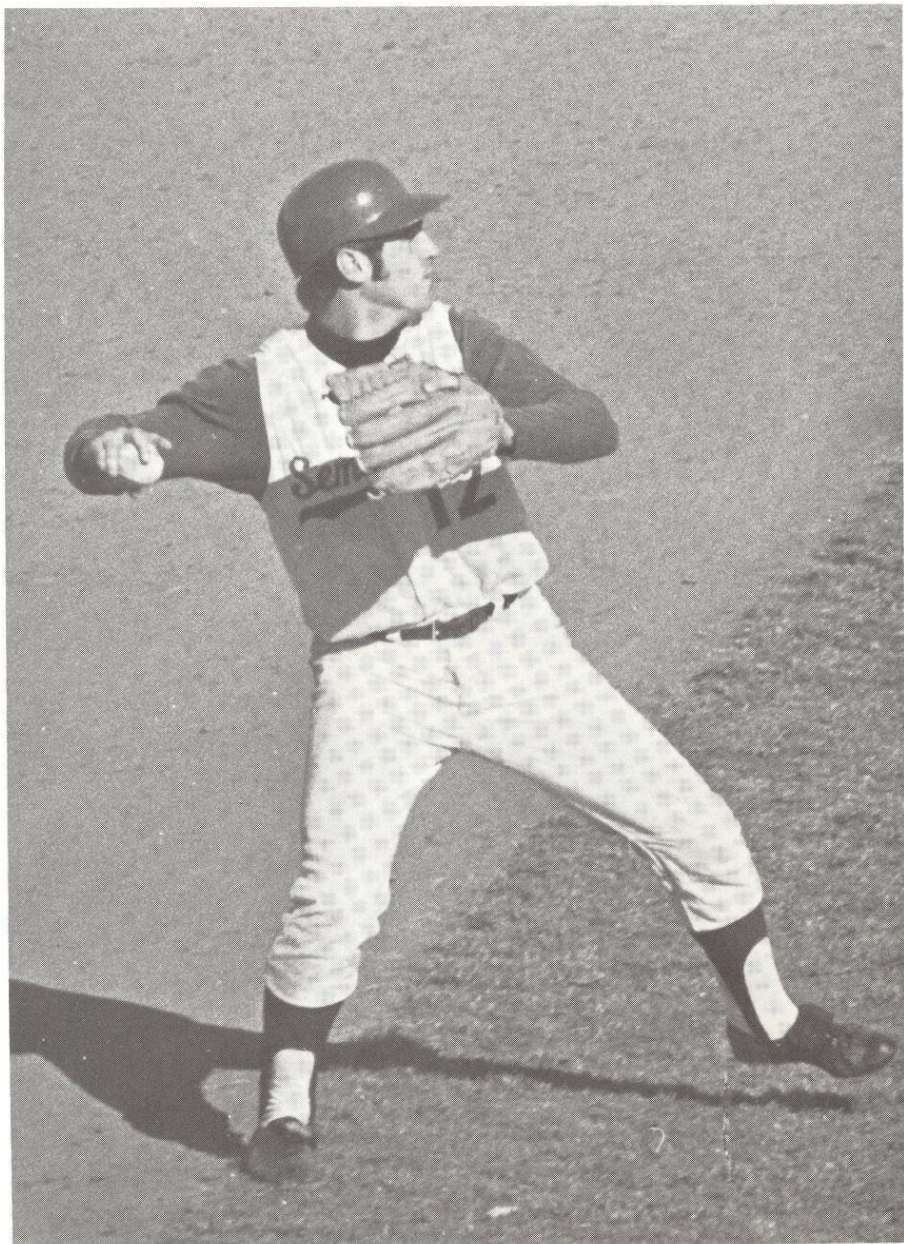


30 yards, then lateralled to linebacker Frank Ditta who went 40 yards more for the score. The Cougars put together five straight touchdown drives as the stunned Seminoles stood by and watched the cancellation of their bowl trip. The only trip made by Florida State was by linebacker Dan Whitehurst. He came off the bench to knock down a Houston runner who had broken into the open and was threatening to score. His action summed up the frustration suffered by the Seminoles during the 1970 season. The 53-21 loss was Coach Bill Peterson's last game for Florida State.





# Smallball: We Was Robbed



It started out great—nine wins in nine games and the Seminole baseball team was off and running with sights set on the national championship.

The season began with high hopes—FSU President Stanley Marshall presented Coach Jack Stallings with a sign urging the team to finish one place higher than the previous year, when FSU had placed second in the College World Series, losing that final game in the tournament 2-1 in 15 innings.

The task of repeating the performance of the previous season was not an easy one. Graduation and professional baseball had stripped the FSU team of five top hurlers and Dick Nichols, All-America second baseman. Stallings voiced concern about his pitching staff, and warned that pitching could make the difference between a great and a fair season.

After 14 games, it looked like the Seminoles might do what all the Seminole fans were hoping they would do. In those first 14 games, FSU handed defeats to Valdosta State, Union, St. Leo, Lafayette and Michigan State while losing to Ohio State and splitting a two-game series with Miami. That gave the team a 12-2 record as they prepared to host the Florida State Invitational Tournament during the spring break.

Western Michigan, Florida A&M and FSU were the only three teams in the tournament, but the competition was keen as each played the other two teams three times each. The Seminoles' 4-2 tournament record was good for second place as they dropped two to the Western Michigan nine, who won the championship.

It had taken hot bats to make up for the shaky pitching and observers wondered what would happen if the batters fell into a slump. But the wondering stopped for a few games as the Seminoles ran their record to 23-6 with a 5-1 series with Brown, a 1-1 split with Jacksonville and a victory over Northern Illinois.

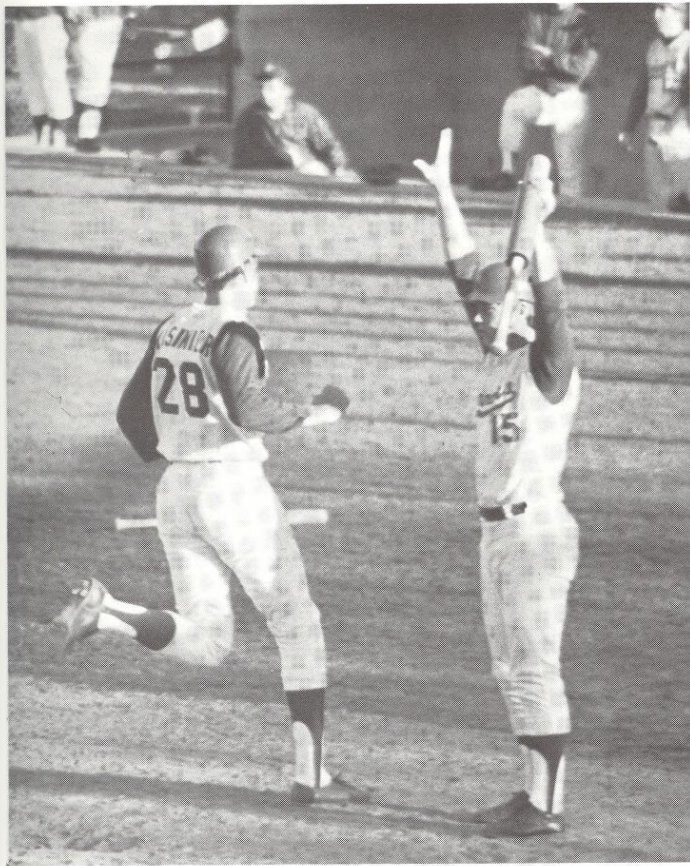












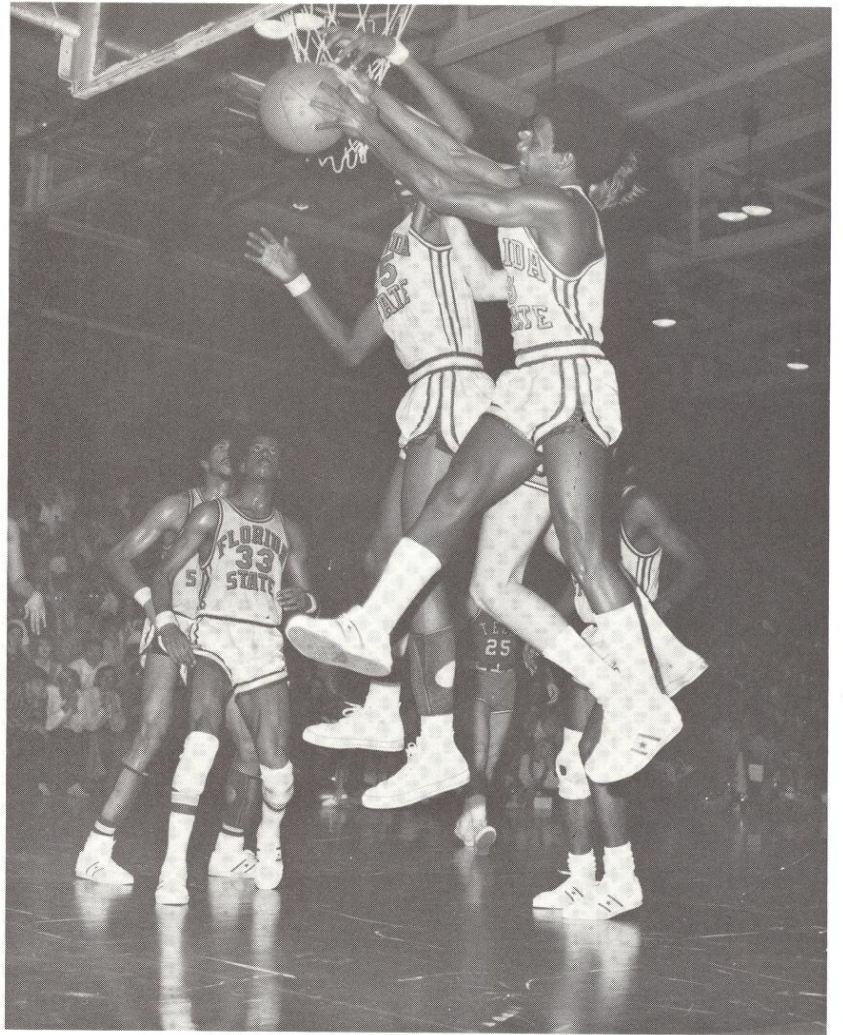
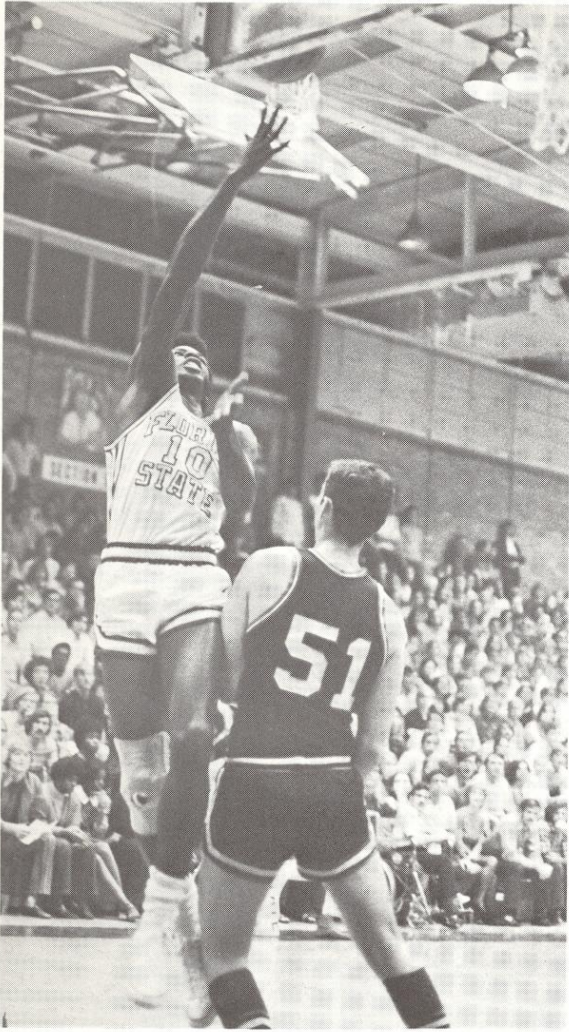
The slump then hit along with injuries, and when the damage was done, Florida State had lost six games. FSU went 1-1 against Miami, 1-1 against Auburn and won a single game with Valdosta State, then lost four of five on a road trip to Clemson and Georgia. The team returned to Tallahassee with a disappointing 27-12 record two-thirds of the way through the season.

With only a slight possibility remaining of receiving an invitation to the NCAA tournament, the Seminoles refused to quit. FSU put together another string of victories and lost only two of their next 13 games, defeating Auburn, South Alabama, Stetson, Georgia Southern and South Florida for a 38-14 mark with five games remaining against Florida.

But the slump at mid-season had hurt the Seminoles' chances for a tournament bid, and FSU was passed over by the tournament selection committee. The team then closed the season with three victories and two defeats against Florida for a final 41-16 mark.

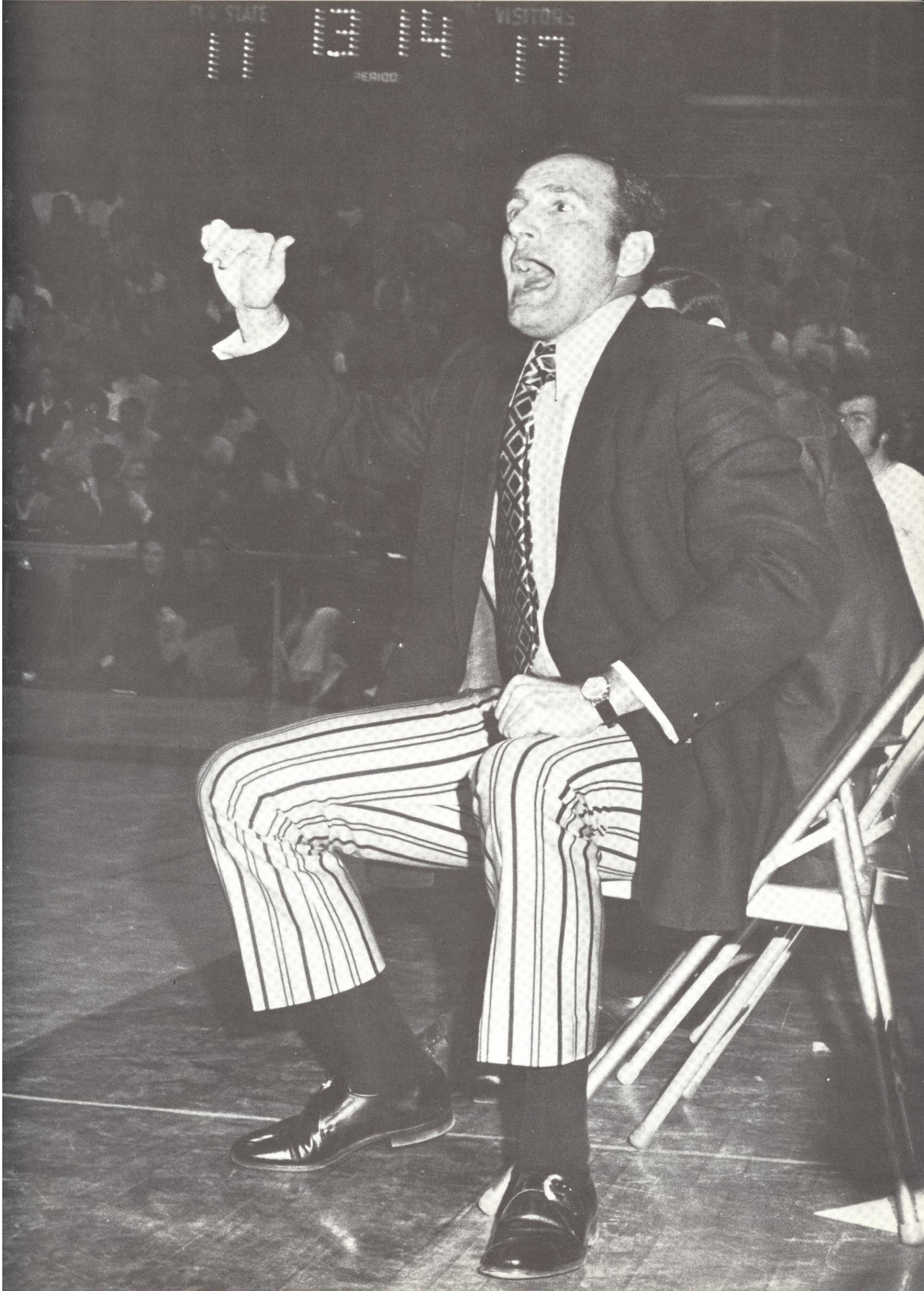






**ROUNDBALL**  
**it was a good year,**













# But not as good as last year

Exciting? Yes. But although the 1970-71 Florida State basketball team was exciting, it just wasn't as good as the year before.

One problem was defense -- FSU had the scoring, but defensively the team could not compare with the previous year's squad. And, when the season ended, the 17-9 record could not compare with the record of the year before.

The biggest gap in the defense was on the front line, where All-America center Dave Cowens and Willie Williams were gone after graduating and being drafted by Boston of the National Basketball Association. Reggie Royals and Vernell Ellzy did well in replacing the two, but could not fill the gap left by Cowens, who became the NBA's Rookie of the Year.

Defense hurt the performance of the 70-71 Seminoles, but scoring made every game exciting, win or lose, throughout the season. Ron King, Royals, Ellzy and Rowland Garrett all averaged in double figures for the season, King leading the team with a 22.7 mark.

FSU started out by winning the first four games of the season, then met Jacksonville in the finals of the Civitan Classic in Jacksonville. In the first of three contests between the two powers in Florida basketball, the Dolphins finally won a high scoring duel 114-108.

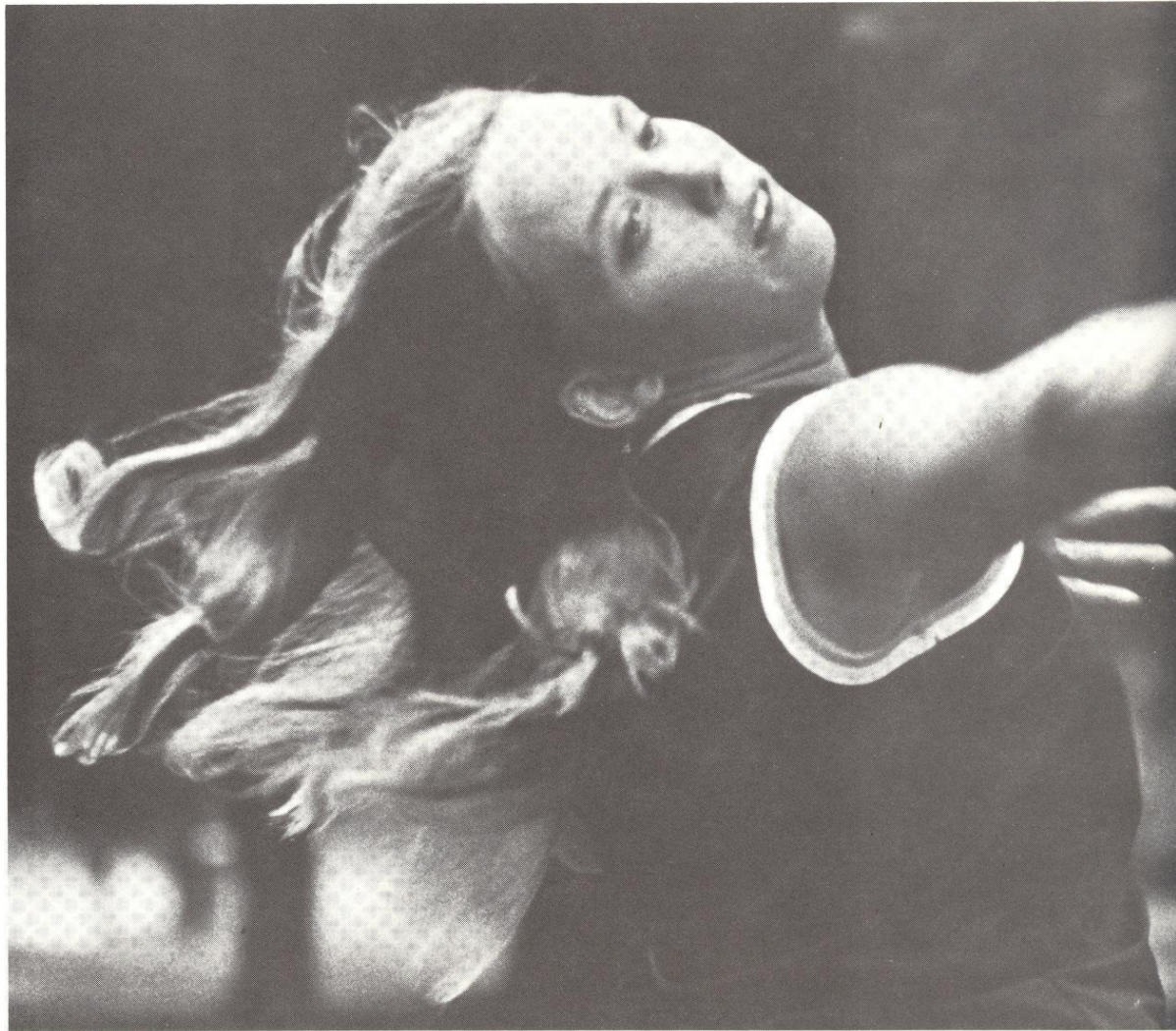
After defeating Valdosta State by a whopping margin, the Seminoles took a 5-1 record to the Sun Bowl tournament during the Christmas break. They returned from that tournament with a 5-3 record, losing to Southern California and to Miami of Ohio.

A two year home winning streak fell near the end of the season, as Georgia Tech stung Florida State with an 85-67 loss in Tully Gym. The Yellow Jackets came out on the losing end of the stick in Atlanta, however, as the Seminoles beat Tech on Tech's home court 81-76.

The Tribe was not so fortunate against Jacksonville, although FSU had two more chances to beat the Dolphins. Jacksonville romped in the second meeting of the two teams by 83-65, then captured the third of the three games on the Seminoles' home court, 90 - 79.

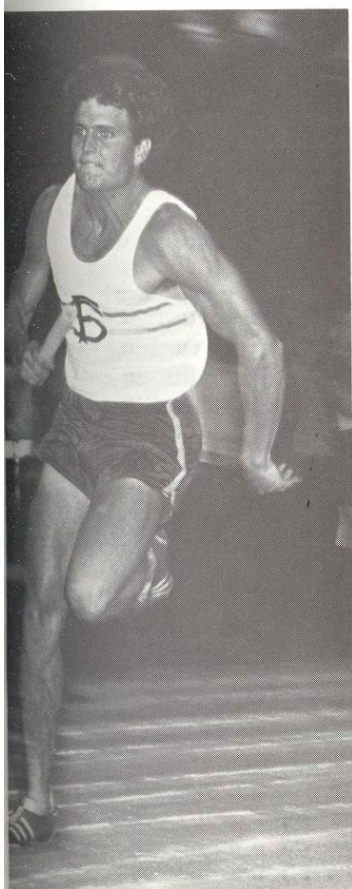
The team had its troubles, but still it was a good season. And with only one senior, Ellzy, on the starting five, hopes were high as the season closed and the team looked forward to next year.





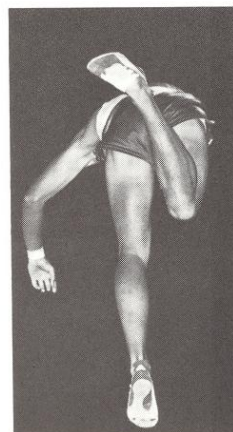
# What Track?





The highlight of the season came on a dreary weekend, but the rain could not dampen the performance of the FSU track team, who climaxed their season with a 92-53 trouncing of rival University of Florida.

The victory over UF made a successful season for the track team, which finished with a 1-1 dual meet record. All-America distance runner Ken Misner qualified for the NCAA meet, and finished the three-mile run in record-breaking time, bettering the old NCAA mark. The performance was good only for seventh place in the race, however, as seven runners came in under the old mark.

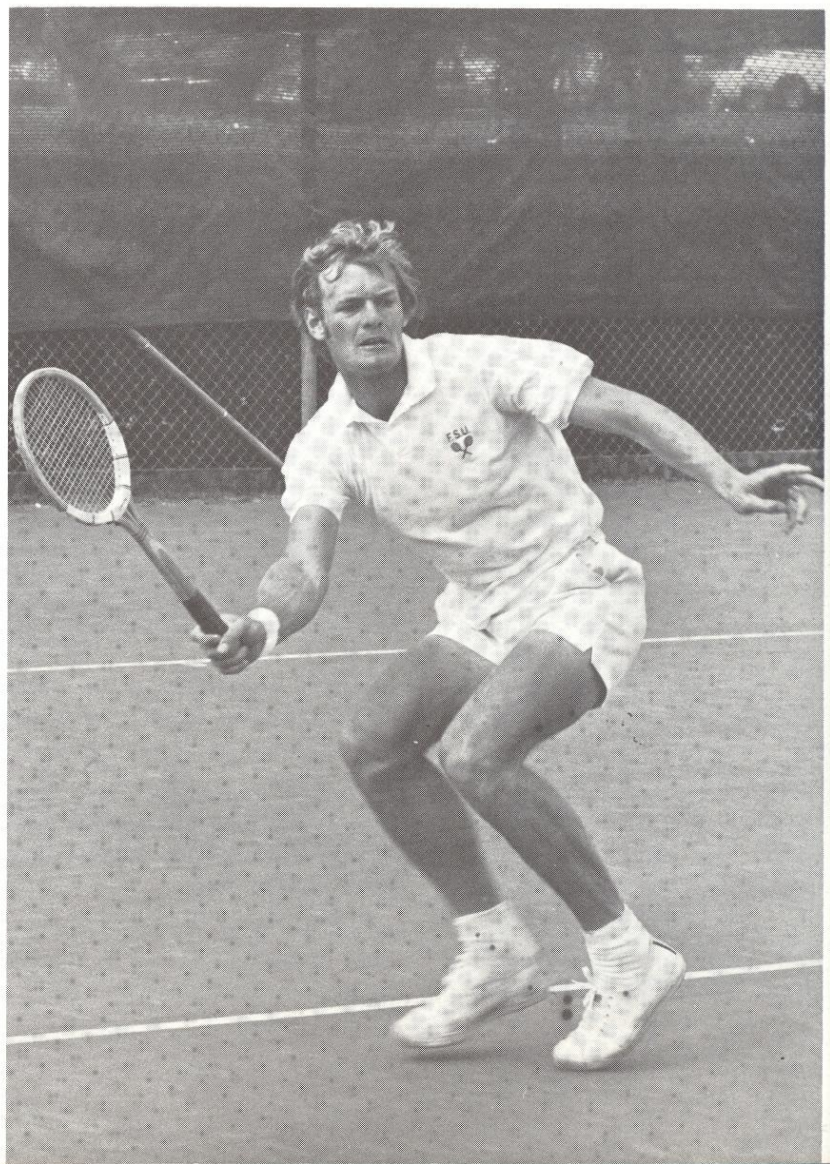




With five freshmen and one senior comprising the top six players on the Florida State tennis team, there was much conjecture about what would happen in 1971, most of it predicting good things for the FSU netters. A pre-season poll rated the Seminoles 19th in the nation, and at the end of the season they had surpassed even that with a tie for 16th in the NCAA tennis tournament, a very successful close to the most successful season since 1951.

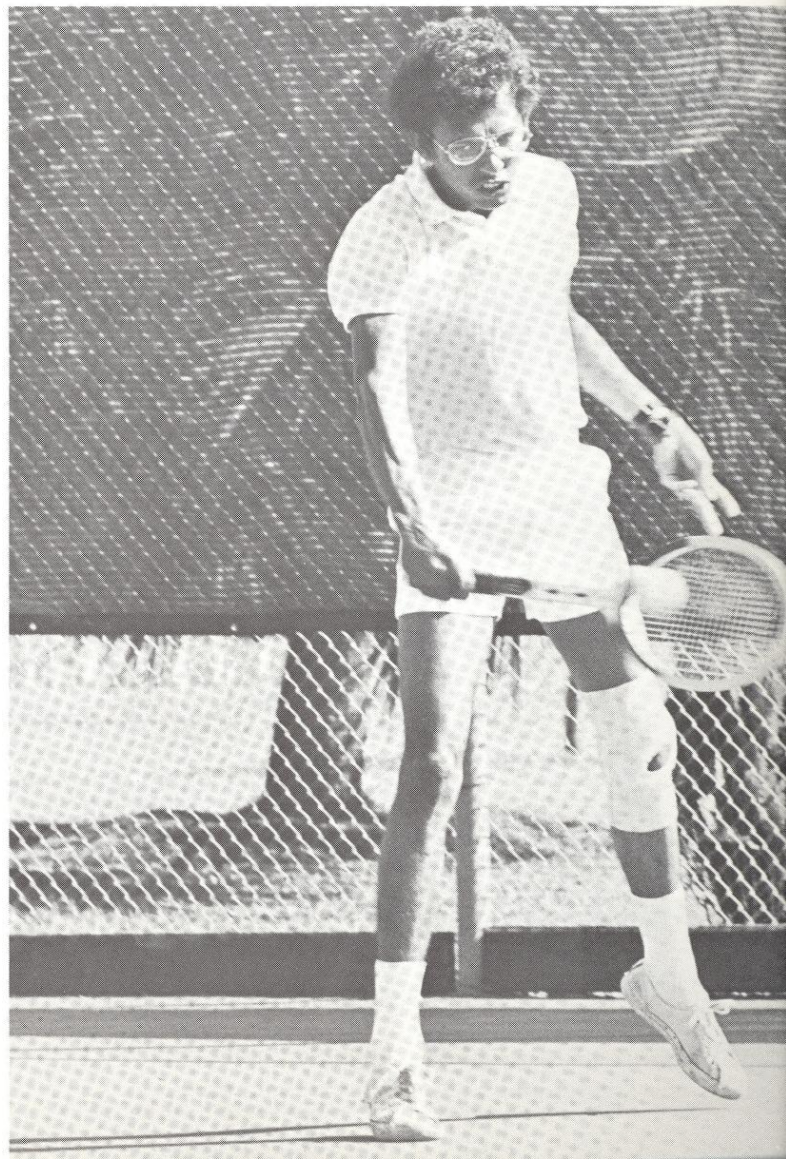
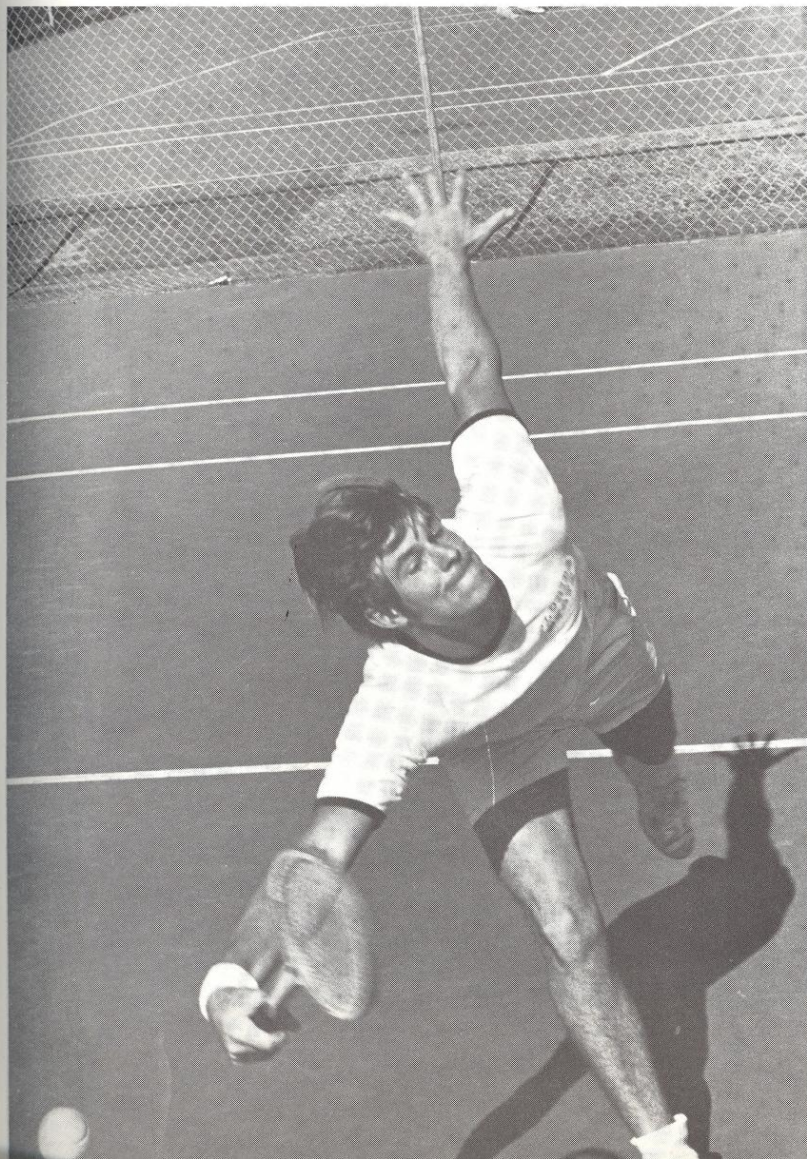
With losses to only Georgia, Miami and Georgia Tech, the team finished with an 18-3 record, best in 20 years, and sent four players to the NCAA matches. John DeZeeuw, the only upperclassman among the top six, Richardo Bernd, Steve Diamond and Legendre Genois carried FSU to the top twenty in the national net tournament.

# Tennis: t





# he best in 20 years





# Muddy Water for Swim Coach

The 1971 season was rough sailing for FSU swim coach N.B. "Bim" Stults. Even though the team won all but three meets and sent six swimmers and divers to the NCAA championships, the real story of the season came out of the water.

On February 1 the team voted to ask Stults to resign as swim coach, effective at the end of the season. The act brought to a head the controversy and discontent which had plagued the team for nearly half the season.

The trouble began as soon as the season started, and by February the

team felt that action should be taken. They felt that Stults was not able to relate to the swimmers, and criticized his coaching ability.

Throughout the controversy, however, the team continued to swim well, even though the fate of their coach was not announced until the season had ended. The season ended with the swimmers owning an 8-3 record, and six FSU swimmers went to the NCAA meet. Their performance was good enough to place the team in the top 20 nationally.

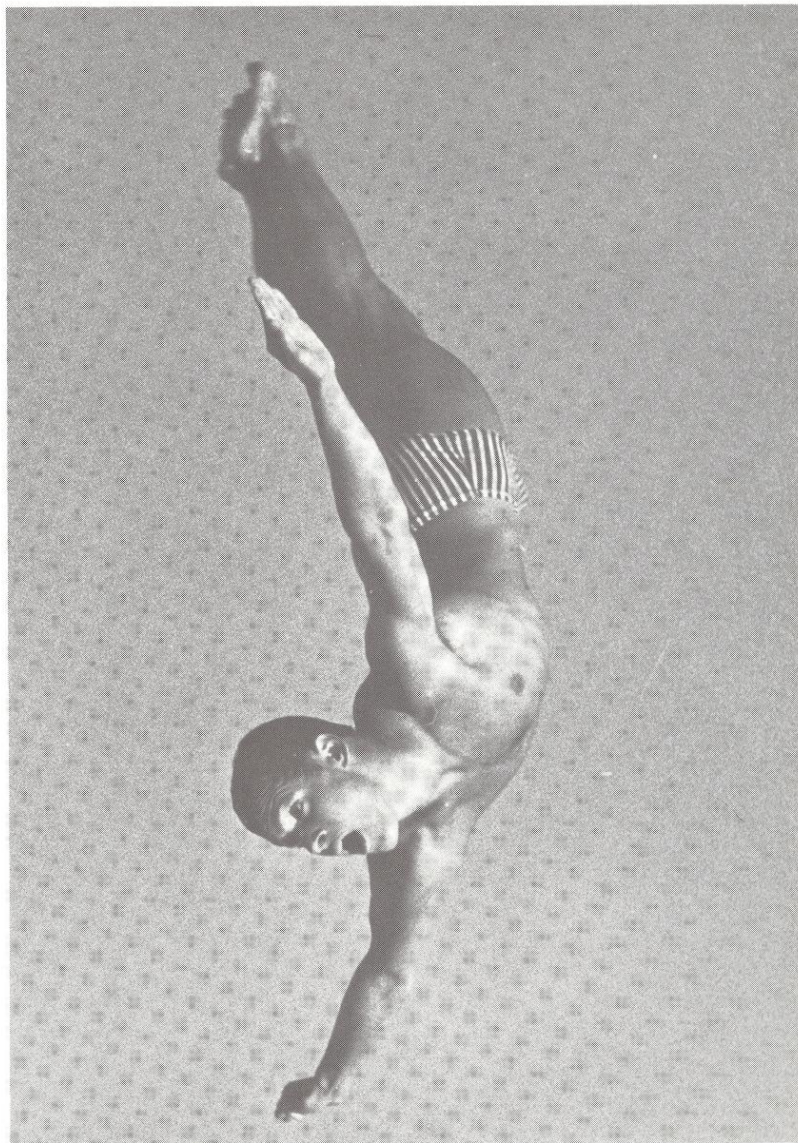




# s in 71 ch

Phil Boggs captured an individual national championship in three-meter diving, and added a third place finish in the one-meter event. Dean Jerger became one of five people to finish the 50-meter freestyle in less than 21.0 seconds in his qualifying heat, then finished a respectable third in the finals of that event.

So, despite the controversy, which was finally resolved after the NCAA meet when Stults was retained as swim coach, the swimming team had a good year.





**FOOTBALL**

FSU	Opponent	
9	Louisville	7
13	Georgia Tech	23
19	Wake Forest	14
27	Florida	38
12	Memphis State	16
21	South Carolina	13
27	Miami	3
38	Clemson	13
34	Virginia Tech	8
33	Kansas State	7
21	Houston	53

**BASKETBALL**

FSU	Opponent	
80	Texas	78
106	Biscayne	70
125	South Dakota	65
117	Southern Mississippi	84
108	Jacksonville	114
111	Valdosta State	63
85	Southern California	94
64	Miami, Ohio	67
95	Pan American	90
95	Arizona	85
101	Pepperdine	82
114	Miami	106
96	Manhattan	68
69	Tulane	88
122	Samford	79
78	Stetson	71
67	Georgia Tech	85
65	Jacksonville	83
82	California at Irvine	69
98	Wisconsin at Milwaukee	61
81	Georgia Tech	76
113	Georgia Southern	81
79	Jacksonville	90
61	North Carolina	70
74	Florida Southern	66
94	Miami	100

**JUDO**

FSU	
1	Florida State Championships
1	Southeastern Championships
1	Eastern Championships
2	NCAA Championships

**SWIMMING**

FSU	Opponent	
78	Evansville	34
87	Georgia Tech	26
98	Emory	15
57	Georgia	56
59	East Carolina	54
47	Florida	66
56	South Carolina	57
69	North Carolina	44
74	South Florida	39
48	Florida	65
	Tulane	

**TRACK**

FSU	Opponent	
	dual meets	
61	Southern Illinois	83
92	Florida	53

**GOLF**

FSU finish	Tournament
7	All-Dixie Tournament
5	LSU Invitational
2	Senior Bowl Invitational
2	Florida Intercollegiates
2	Florida State Invitational
2	West Florida Invitational
4	Gulf-American Corp. Intercollegiates
7	Chris Schenkel Intercollegiates
17	NCAA Championships



TENNIS		
FSU		Opponent
8	Mississippi State	0
1	Miami	8
6	Florida	3
5	Presbyterian	3
5	Southern Illinois	4
7	Kalamazoo College	2
7	Wake Forest	0
9	Florida A & M	0
5	Alabama	4
4	Georgia Tech	5
7	South Carolina	2
6	Wingate College	3
6	Tulane	3
6	Rollins	3
0	Georgia	9
5	Georgia Southern	4
8	Jacksonville	1
9	Valdosta State	0
8	Columbus College	1

BASEBALL		
FSU		Opponent
13	Valdosta State	1
5	Union University	0
14	Union University	0
7	Union University	6
9	St. Leo College	8
7	St. Leo College (11 innings)	6
3	Lafayette College	0
1	Lafayette	0
2	Lafayette College	1
5	Miami (10 innings)	4
4	Miami (10 innings)	5
1	Ohio State	9
9	Michigan State	5
14	St. Leo College	2
FSU TOURNAMENT		
5	Western Michigan	7
2	Florida A & M	1
21	Florida A & M	1
7	Western Michigan	5
1	Western Michigan	5
7	Florida A & M	1
0	Brown University	2
5	Brown University	1
3	Brown University	1
12	Brown University	1
4	Brown University	1
6	Brown University	1
4	Jacksonville	13
8	Jacksonville	6
7	Northern Illinois	1
7	Miami	5
4	Miami	7
13	Auburn	8
8	Auburn	11
17	Valdosta State	3
0	Clemson	11
7	Clemson	12
2	Clemson	3

6	Georgia	0
2	Georgia	4
9	South Alabama	7
4	South Alabama	5
9	South Alabama	4
10	South Florida	6
4	South Florida (14 innings)	3
2	Stetson	0
1	Stetson	0
1	Georgia Southern	2
6	Georgia Southern	1
7	South Alabama	3
1	Georgia Southern	0
9	Auburn	4
6	Auburn	5
7	Florida	2
2	Florida	0
3	Florida	4
1	Florida	4
7	Florida	0