

Seminoles End 14-Game Win String Of Team

Sheppard Toe Difference In Scoring

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Behind 13-0 before it got its britches soiled, Mississippi Southern fought back furiously but futilely here Saturday afternoon as Florida State's slightly stunning Seminoles swallowed up a 14-game winning streak by a gasping 20-19 score.

It was a vigorous replay of Southern's last trip to Tallahassee when FSU squeezed out a 19-18 decision in the final home game of 1954.

Since that reversal, Southern had lost but one game in 19. FSU was the last team to score as many as three touchdowns on Coach Pie Vann's big boys. Only team to beat Southern since FSU was Chattanooga by 10-0 last year.

Ironically, Southern halfback Dallas Whitehead had missed only one extra point attempt out of 18 going into this game. But he missed twice Saturday, after the Southerners' first touchdown and after their last one.

Bidding to tie it up at 20-20 in the last three minutes of play, Whitfield never had a chance. He got a high snap from center and Seminoles were all over him before he could

do anything with the ball.

In the last analysis, it was the point kicking of specialist Johnny Sheppard, an old Leon High boy, that wrote the difference. Sheppard converted after FSU's first and last touchdowns, running his season's record to 17 out of 18.

In between, FSU had a point try by halfback Stan Dobosz blocked by Southern tackle Don Owens. Sheppard was ineligible to go in at the time.

But the star of stars—and the Seminoles had a galaxy full of them—must have been quarterback Len Swantic, who came from just about nowhere to direct superbly.

Swantic was the general on both of FSU's scoring drives, and he passed for two touchdowns, five yards to end Gerald Philp and 11 to halfback Bobby Renn. Swantic hit 7 of 12 passes for 65 yards. No. 1 quarterback Lee Corso, injured in the first half, connected on four of five for the same yardage.

METTS INTERCEPTS

Metts was close to Swantic in brilliance. He cracked Southern open in the first couple of minutes with a 36-yard runback of an intercepted pass. He ran seven times for 38 and turned some big tackles defensively.

Southern was as hard a running team as it had been represented to be, rolling up 201 yards on the ground with Bo Dickinson getting 84 in 17 carries. But penalties, many of them for roughing, contributed to the demise of the Southerners. They were taxed for a whopping total of 125 yards.

Bobby Hughes, Southern's 6-5, 220-pound quarterback, passed like a pro on occasion. Still, he had trouble hitting when it counted most. He ended with nine completions out of 20 throws for 104 yards. FSU intercepted two big ones.

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But for all its running and passing, Southern had to have the help of some "breaks" to score. Southern's first TD came after FSU lost a fumble at its 43. No. 2 followed a quick-kick that took a crazy backward bounce to the FSU 48. And Southern's third touchdown was on the heels of a fumble recovery at the FSU 49. Quarterback Doug Barfield scored twice, on three and six-yard runs. Hughes got the last one from a yard out.

A minute and a half after receiving the game-opening kick-off, Southern was purring contentedly along at its 35. Came a 5-yard penalty for offside against Southern and Hughes sought to get the loss back quickly with his first pass of the day.

Metts leaped high, pulled it down, and shifted into high gear as he swerved slightly toward the sidelines and pounded 36 yards to score.

Johnny Sheppard kicked the point and with 2:06 gone, Southern was behind, 7-0.

RIGHT BACK

In short order, propelled by Corso's passes, FSU was knocking again.

Starting from their 38, the Seminoles whipped 61 yards to the Southern one-foot line, only to butt their heads against a fleshy but solid wall.

Big hits in the push was Corso's short pass to Metts, which the halfback converted into a 33-yard gain to the Southern 28, and Corso's 15-yard strike to Ham Bisbee at the one. Metts also contributed an 11-yard end run to the lightning drive that took only four plays to cover the 61 yards.

But in four more plays, FSU couldn't score. Corso tried the middle and was introduced to 248-pound tackle Don Owens. Metts hit off right tackle and met Mr. Owens. Corso banged away at the middle again, got stopped by guard Dave Fitzgerald. After a time out, Joe Holt slammed toward center and collided with the 234-pound P. W. Underwood.

Southern proved indeed troublesome after that heroic stand.

SWANTIC GUIDES

Still, the Hattiesburg boys couldn't handle a few moments later the No. 2 unit quarterbacked by a cagy Swantic. Maneuvering from the Southern 38 following a punt out of the hole Swantic and crew got the touchdown that had been denied the starting eleven.

Swantic used a simple formula and stuck to it until he got to the five. He gave the ball to Stan Dobosz one time and to Billy Odom the next. They ran alternately and splendidly seven times until the sticks moved to the nine. Southern was offside and the ball shifted to the four. Odom lost a yard. Then Swantic raised up and pitched a pass over the middle to Philip in the end zone. Dobosz' kicking try for the point was blocked by the monstrous Owens.

It was the 10th time Swantic passed this season, his seventh completion and his fourth touchdown toss. Some mileage!

That 13-0 lead held up until a minute before halftime.

After backfield-in-motion penalties collapsed one FSU march, Southern moved out of its own

territory for the first time midway the second quarter. It was managed on one big individual effort. Joe Doggett's 49-yard punt return to the FSU 33. Ronald Schomburger finally tackled him from behind otherwise he would have gone all the way.

A holding penalty shackled Southern momentarily but on Hughes passes to Bob Yencho and Lawrence Meeks, plus the quarterback's own keep running, the penetration went to the 13 before FSU stiffened enough to hold for downs.

FSU was in much difficulty when Yencho broke through to deck Corso on the one-yard line, a loss of 13. Renn punted up to the 35. A Hughes pass to Jerry Taylor on the one looked good but was cancelled by a holding penalty. Then Corso intercepted a Hughes throw at the 14 and wheeled up to the FSU 41.

Renn fumbled on the next play, however, and Underwood covered the ball for Southern at the 43. From there, a touchdown was manufactured.

Seligman, on the draw play, raced 25 yards to the 18. In two carries, Doggett made it a first down at the seven. On fourth down, Doug Barfield scored. Barfield fed the ball to Dickinson but when he failed to hang on, the quarterback smashed over himself. For only the second time this season, Whitfield missed a point kick and it stayed 13-6.

An onside kick flopped when George Boyer grabbed it for the Seminoles at their 48. On the last play of the half, Ted Rodrigue's long pass was deflected from Schomburger's grasping hand on a fine defensive contribution from Whitfield.

Southern drew a tying opportunity early in the third period when a Renn quick-kick took a reverse bounce and travelled a mere 29 yards to the FSU 48.

Dickinson and J. C. Arban led a running charge to the 16. Barfield passed to Arban at the 10. From the six, on third down Barfield, on the keep, romped across. Whitfield kicked his 18th point in 20 tries to knot things up, 13-13.

Quickly, Southern was on the go again as Arban intercepted Rodrigue's pass, thrown long from the FSU 21, and ran it back 31 yards to the Seminole 30. Southern got snarled with a pair of 15-yard personal-foul penalties, however, and finally had to punt.

After swapping punts, FSU moved 64 yards and scored in the opening minutes of the fourth quarter.

Swantic hit Schomburger and Metts with passes that sat the Seminoles up at the Southern 44. On a bootleg run, Swantic got nine, then passed to Metts for 10. Renn picked up a couple and Metts cut a wide path to the 15. Renn made it a first down at the 11. After one futile throw, Swantic passed again and Renn turned around just in time to catch it in the end zone. Sheppard's conversion made it 20-13.

It got pretty hectic after that.

Hughes got down to serious business with some reckless and deadly throwing. Mixing his passes with Dickinson's hard running, Hughes guided his attack to the FSU 38. Another 15-yard assessment, this time for clipping, knocked his troops back. They finally had to yield at the FSU 29, just short of a first down. Metts made a vital tackle of Dickinson who was trying to go wide for three yards and new life.

Southern soon got another shot. Swantic fumbled at mid-field and Donnie Waits hopped on the ball for the Mississippians at the FSU 49.

Hughes threw a long one to Arban, who rambled to the one before Renn corraled him. That one was stricken off the books, however, for Southern was detected with its backs in motion.

Hughes, only slightly disturbed, promptly pitched again, this time to Taylor at the FSU 33. Then Hughes cocked once more and Waits grabbed it with a fancy catch at the one, where Renn got him. Interference was ruled on Renn at the five but Southern, of course, declined it in favor of the reception at the one.

Hughes plunged over for the touchdown.

As the crowd tensed for Whitfield's kick, FSU linemen were on their toes also. When the snap went high, Whitfield never had a chance to do anything with the ball as he was swarmed under.

With 2:44 to go, Swantic ran out as much of the clock as he could. FSU was finally forced to punt with 44 seconds left. Southern tried two passes in vain before the whistle called it quits.

The Yardstick

	Miss. South.	FSU
First Downs	14	16
Rushing Yardage	201	116
Passing Yardage	104	131
Passes	11-23	12-21
Passes Intercepted	1	2
Punts	5-38.6	5-35.4
Fumbles Lost	0	2
Yards Penalized	125	50