One-Point '87 Loss to Miami Lingers in Seminoles' Minds

By Ed Hinton Staff Writer

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - Some of Florida State's players make weak claims that they've forgotten. Others are open about their anguish

of 11 months. "That game," says noseguard Odell Haggins, "will stay with me for the rest of my life.



For a while, you'd hope that it was just a nightmare. You'd close your eyes and hope that when you opened them again it wouldn't be so, that you were just dreaming Miami had won. ... If we'd won that game, we probably would have won it

It was Oct. 3, 1987, 11 months to the day before Saturday night's heralded season opener between FSU, ranked No. 1 this preseason, and defending national champion Miami at the Orange

Miami came to Tallahassee ranked No. 3 and FSU was No. 4, but there was already a nationwide sense that this was for the national championship. It turned out just that way. Miami won 26-25 and finished 12-0 and No. 1. FSU finished 11-1 and No. 2.

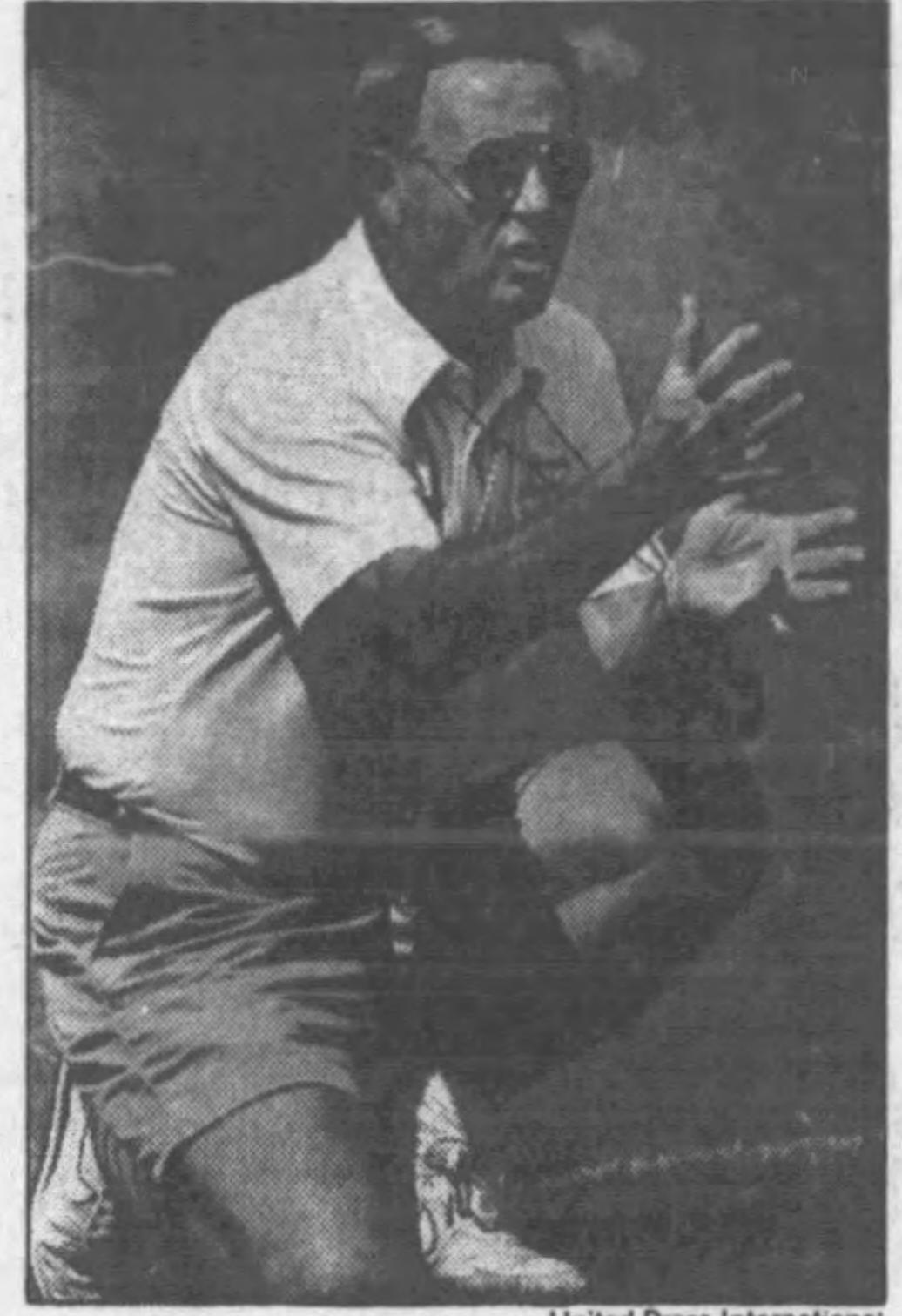
In bowl games, each dispensed of a team that had been ranked ahead of them on Oct. 3, Miami beating Oklahoma 20-14 in the Orange and FSU beating Nebraska 31-28 in the Fiesta. Both games were anticlimactic to the momentous ebb and flow of FSU-Miami.

For lanky Dedrick Dodge, FSU's free safety, there is a singular chasm in the remembrance:

"Irvin ... Irvin running with that winning touchdown pass, running with me close behind, me a step from stopping him ... That's all that flashes into my mind now."

Miami's outrageously flamboyant senior receiver, Michael Irvin, had climaxed the Hurricanes' stunning late comeback from a 19-3 deficit with a 73-yard catch-and-run for the winning touchdown, to the embarrassment of Dodge.

"I still haven't gotten over it," says Dodge. With under three minutes to play, Irvin drifted down the sideline after FSU's corner-



FSU coach Bobby Bowden gives instructions to his kicking team during Wednesday's practice.

back had missed an assignment to chuck him at the line of scrimmage. Dodge took one step up to help cover a tight end who'd released, and that one step was fateful. Miami quarterback Steve Walsh saw Irvin alone and lofted a short

"If I'd taken the right angle and been deep enough, I'd have gotten him," says Dodge. But he never made up that one mistaken step in the wrong direction.

"I'm still going to think about it until this game starts," says Dodge.

But "Revenge? I'm not a believer in that," says FSU coach Bobby Bowden. "I don't think there's any way I can keep my players from thinking about that game this week, but I don't want to dwell on it. You get them too itchy that way, and you can itch yourself right out of a

"When we talk about last year's game," Bowden continues, "we don't say, 'Let's get even.' We say, 'Let's don't do this again, and let's don't do that again."

But what Bowden would do again is go for two points, as he did on the conversion attempt after FSU's final touchdown made it 26-25.

More than any other active major coach, Bowden has overtly despised ties, but going into last year's Miami game he vowed that if the situation dictated, he'd go for the tie to

play the poll game. However, at the nitty-gritty moment, Bowden couldn't do it. He sent on his two-point unit, the pass was knocked down, and that was

Still, "That was the best football decision I've ever made in my life," Bowden says. "If we'd gone for one and tied it, we'd have never known. And I'd probably never have slept again in my life. After the game, I told the players it was my fault, that we should have kicked it. They let me know immediately how they felt."

What they did was shout him down, shout their overwhelming approval of his decision,

even in defeat. "Now, all this week," says Bowden, "people have asked me what I was thinking as I walked off the field. What they mean is, 'What were you thinking about the two-point try?' Honestly, I wasn't thinking about that at all. I was thinking, 'How in the world did we lose a 19-3 lead

In the final 17 minutes of the game, Walsh had thrown for touchdowns of 49 yards to Melvin Bratton, 26 to Irvin and then the 73 to Irvin.

"Looking back, there were just too many things that told me all during that game we weren't supposed to win it," says Bowden. "I've never had a center long-snap the ball to nobody. (An errant snap while the holder and kicker were trotting on for a field goal attempt traveled 51 yards and resulted instead in an early 3-0 Miami lead). I've never had a screen pass intercepted before. (Miami defensive end Daniel Stubbs pulled it off to set up Walsh's second touchdown pass)."

And Derek Schmidt, Bowden's placekicker who became the NCAA's all-time leading scorer, missed an extra point kick and two chipshot field goal attempts during the game.

Now, as Bowden contemplates a team he believes to be even stronger than last year's, and with an even stronger shot at the national championship, he sees what might have been the good in Oct. 3, 1987:

"I hope," he concludes, "that one-point loss is the greatest steppingstone we've ever had."

Convicted Crime Boss Says He Took the Fifth In Sports Agent Probe

By Chris Mortensen

Reputed organized crime figure Michael Franzese said Wednesday he refused to cooperate with federal prosecutors and twice took the Fifth Amendment in front of the federal grand jury that indicted sports agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom last week.

"I didn't cooperate with anybody ... There's nothing to cooperate about," said Franzese in a telephone interview from the federal prison camp in Boron, Calif., where he is serving a 10-year sentence on racketeering charges.

Franzese, 36, said U.S. Attorney Anton R. Valukas and Assistant U.S. Attorney Howard M. Pearl took him before the federal grand jury in Chicago last November and again Aug. 9 to ask him about his association with Walters.

"I took the Fifth each time," said Franzese.

Walters and Bloom were indicted on racketeering, extortion, mail fraud and wire fraud by the grand jury. They face maximum penalties of 70 years imprisonment and \$2 million in fines, if convicted. They have pleaded not guilty and are free on bond.

The racketeering charges allege that Franzese helped bankroll the agents' operation and that he allowed Walters and Bloom to use his reputation as an organized crime figure to "obtain and retain" clients by "extortionate means."

Franzese was named as an unindicted co-conspirator, raising questions about whether he cooperated with federal authorities.

"I'm still puzzled myself as to why it came out that I'm an unindicted co-conspirator," said Fran zese. "I guess people try and logically conclude that I must've cooperated, but that ain't the way it

Franzese declined to confirm or deny a grand jury allegation that said he provided Walters with \$50,000 in late 1984 or early 1985 to support Walters' expansion from entertainment to sports.

But, Franzese said, "Even if did give Norby money, what the heck is the crime in that?"

Franzese also denied he was a "silent partner" in the sports agent operation of Walters and Bloom, or that he allowed the agents to use his reputation as an organized crime figure to influence business transactions, as the grand jury charges.

"How they (prosecutors) got me involved in the sports business, don't know," said Franzese. "I don't know where they came up with

The indictment also alleges that Franzese in 1981 threatened the manager of the Jackson Five reunion tour, telling the manager that Walters had to be selected as the booking agent of the tour — "or that there would be no tour at all."

"I'm not going to get into that,"

said Franzese. "There was a tour, wasn't there?"

Walters, who was not involved in the Jacksons tour, has been labeled as a longtime associate of Franzese and his stepfather, John (Sonny) Franzese. Both Franzeses are reputed captains in the Colombo crime family, prosecutors said. John Franzese is in a federal prison for violation of parole stemming from a conviction on bank robbery

Franzese acknowledged that he used to call Walters "Uncle Norby" because the families were close.

Franzese said he was "shocked" when he was featured on the news last Wednesday when the indictments of Walters and Bloom were

"I mean, I'm looking at one national TV news deal and it starts off with 'The Mob and College Athletes,' or something like that. Then there's my name, my picture, and I couldn't believe it. What the heck was that? I had all kinds of friends and family call, wanting to know what the heck was going on.

"And I couldn't tell them. I wanted to see the indictment so bad, just to read what it said. I should have it in my hands in a couple of days."

Franzese said his transfer to a minimum security federal camp after appearing in Chicago earlier this month on a "writ to testify" should not be construed as a reward for cooperating with the grand jury. Franzese, who began serving his 10-year sentence in early 1986, had been at Terminal Island, Calif., a medium security prison.

"I've been eligible to move to this camp for over a year, and I've been fighting it," said Franzese. "Quite honestly, I had it great at T.I. (Terminal Island). I was close to Los Angeles, my home, my family, my friends. This (camp) is way out in the desert, and it's inconvenient."

Franzese said he also preferred to remain close to Los Angeles because a Hollywood film company, Steve Krantz Productions, is working on a mini-series for CBS television "centered on my life."

Franzese said most of the proceeds from the film is designated as part of restitution he must make for his part in orchestrating a gasoline tax fraud scheme that federal prosecutors say bilked New York, New Jersey and Florida out of more than \$100 million.

Franzese was indicted Dec. 20, 1985, and pleaded guilty to charges in 1986. He agreed to sell his Long Island, N.Y., mansion and other properties and profits from his own film production company as part of \$15 million in fines and restitution.

Franzese said he is scheduled to appear before the parole board in November and is eligible for parole in 1990.

Federal prosecutors have labeled Franzese as one of the nation's top organized crime leaders and also the youngest.

Cram Hurts Leg in Meet, Questionable for Olympics

From Staff and Wire Reports



Star British miler Steve
Cram suffered a leg injury in a track meet jury in a track meet Wednesday in Rieti, Ita-SPORTSWIRE ly, and an Italian doctor who treated him said

there were "serious doubts" he could run at the Seoul Olympics. Cram, 27, walked away from the track, however, and said he felt the injury was far less serious than first feared. "I am sure with a few days of rest I'll be fine," Cram said as he left the track. "The tendon was sore before the race so when I felt a pain on the backstretch, a sort of a tap, I stopped."

LSU Won't Let Maravich In Athletic Hall of Fame

The Louisiana Legislature renamed the Louisiana State University Assembly Center in his honor, but the LSU Athletic Council refused to let former basketball star Pete Maravich be inducted into the school's Athletic Hall of Fame. The reason: Maravich never graduated

from college. So, the athletic council refused to waive the requirement that a nominee must have earned a degree from LSU or another regionally accredited institution. Maravich, who died of a heart attack last Jan. 5, left LSU in 1970 after playing out four years of eligibility. He held 11 NCAA and 34 Southeastern Conference records at the close of his collegiate career. He later played in the NBA for the Atlanta Hawks, the New Orleans Jazz and the Boston Celtics. . . . Anthony Tucker, a high school All-American and a two-time all-Metro selection from Washington, D.C., has officially transferred from Georgetown to Wake Forest.

Seahawks' Taylor Latest NFL Drug Suspension

Defensive back Terry Taylor of the Seattle Seahawks has been suspended for 30 days for violating the NFL's substance abuse policy, the league announced. ... Six players suspended during the exhibition season after violating the NFL's

substance abuse policy were reinstated by the league. The six are running backs Doug DuBose of San Francisco and Robb Riddick of Buffalo, defensive linemen Greg Townsend of the Los Angeles Raiders and Richard Reed of Denver and offensive linemen Kevin Gogan of Dallas and Pat Saindon of Atlanta.

... The Chicago Bears picked up former Auburn defensive end Gerald Robinson, who was cut by the Minnesota Vikings.

Four-Time All-Star Birdsong Is Released by New Jersey

Ald Four-time All-Star Otis Birdsong, a 6-foot-4 guard, was released as the New Jersey Nets turned to youth for their shooting strength. Harry Weltman, vice president and general manager of the NBA team, said the 11-year veteran was let go now so he had sufficient time to negotiate with another team after seven years with the Nets.

Georgia's Spencer Sentenced To Probation, \$250 Fine



Georgia basketball player Elmore Spencer pleaded guilty to theft by taking in Superior SPORTSWIRE Court in Athens on Wednesday and was

sentenced to 12 months probation and a \$250 fine by judge James Barrow. The probationary period will run concurrently with another 12month penalty he received Monday after he pleaded guilty to obstruction charges. Both incidents occured on the same night last May. Spencer, a 6-11, 270-pound redshirt freshman, originally was charged with felony robbery after taking milk and butter valued at \$2 from Georgia student Kyle Sturtevant of Dunwoody. Under the first-offender program, Spencer will not have a criminal record upon successfu completion of his probation.

-Thomas O'Toole

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