



Myron Rolle recently earned a coveted Rhodes Scholarship.

Rolle celebrates academic honor

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (AP) — Florida State safety Myron Rolle earned a Rhodes Scholarship on Saturday, then boarded a plane and joined his team for its game against Maryland.

A spokesman for Florida State said Rolle, 22, is the school's second athlete in three years to earn a Rhodes Scholarship. NCAA shot put champion Garrett Johnson of Tampa, Fla., was one of 32 Americans to earn the scholarship three years ago.

Rolle, an aspiring neurosurgeon, will be entitled to study for two years at the University of Oxford in England. He is the third Florida State student in three years to be awarded the honor.

"It was a very exciting day, and I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to study at Oxford," Rolle said at half-time with the Seminoles leading 21-0. "This was a great experience. I will remember today for a lifetime."

He finished the interview in Birmingham, Ala., around 6 p.m. EST. After learning of the honor, he boarded a private plane to catch up with his teammates for the game that started around 7:45.

Rolle had started 32 consecutive games before Saturday. He arrived at the stadium at 8:34, dressed and emerged from the locker room with 6 minutes left in the first half. He waved at the fans in the Florida State section of the crowd, then warmed up on the sideline before entering the game with 1:30 left in the

second quarter. The names of the Rhodes winners were expected to be released late Saturday or early Sunday.

Rolle certainly fulfills the criteria set by diamond magnate Cecil Rhodes when he created the scholarship a century ago.

Rhodes' will ordered that recipients "shall not be merely bookworms" and shall be chosen for their scholastic achievements, character and "fondness of and success in manly outdoor sports such as cricket, football and the like."

Over the years, selectees have included Heisman Trophy winner Pete Dawkins and runner-up Byron White, along with eventual NBA players — and members of Congress — Tom McMillen and Bill Bradley.

Florida State entered with an outside chance of playing in the Atlantic Coast Conference title game next month. The Seminoles (7-3, 4-3) needed to beat Maryland and have the Terrapins defeat Boston College next week.

Rolle is one of Florida State's best defensive players, but coach Bobby Bowden was quick to allow the student-athlete to miss the start of the game.

"It's a no-brainer," Bowden said earlier in the week. "I know academics comes first."

The 79-year-old Bowden had never coached a Rhodes Scholar during a career spanning six decades.

GM nixes Woods' endorsement

DETROIT (AP) — General Motors Corp. said Monday it is ending its nine-year endorsement deal with golf superstar Tiger Woods as the automaker continues to cut expenses and hoard cash while trying to survive the worst sales downturn in a quarter-century.

The cash-strapped company said in a statement that it is looking to reduce costs, and that the world's No. 1 golfer also wants more personal time as he expects his second child.

Woods has endorsed GM products around the world and mainly has been seen in Buick commercials as the company tried to give the nameplate a more youthful image. He has carried the Buick brand on his golf bag since 2000, and his most recent promotion was to caddy for a contest winner for nine holes at Torrey Pines, where Woods won the U.S. Open this summer for his 14th career major.

The endorsement deal, believed to be worth at least \$7 million a year, was to end in 2009. Woods' agent at

IMG, Mark Steinberg, said the decision to end the relationship one year early was "absolutely mutual."

"It was a combination of things," Steinberg said. "Tiger was looking to gain some more time, and certainly it was an opportunity for GM to reduce its spending with everything going on."

GM has been making dramatic cuts in advertising as it tries to conserve cash. The nation's largest automaker spent nearly \$7 billion more than it took in last quarter and has warned that, without federal help, it may reach the

minimum amount of cash required to run the company by the end of the year.

Mark LaNeve, GM's vice president for North American marketing, said GM and Woods started discussing an end to the deal earlier this year, and it had nothing to do with the Detroit Three automakers' quest for \$25 billion in federal loans.

But GM's statement said the decision was made as part of "the search for budget efficiencies during a difficult economy for (See Tiger, Page 11)

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