

BOWDEN TO HAVE SURGERY ON DISK

BYLINE: By Alan Schmadtke

Bobby Bowden's summer of discomfort will include an added aggravation - back surgery.

Florida State's football coach, busy defending the integrity of his program from player involvement with agents and from allegations of NCAA violations by a booster, will have a herniated disk surgically repaired on Monday.

Dr. Arthur Day, a Gainesville neurosurgeon, will perform micro-disectomy at Shands Teaching Hospital. Day said he will remove a broken piece of the herniated disk, L5 S1, in Bowden's lower back.

"Any operation to the nerves and to the spinal area is serious. However, the operation is very straightforward and probably the most common neurosurgery performed in this country," Day said. "Percentage-wise, the risk is very low."

Bowden is expected to be back in his office Aug. 8.