

Top Berth In Dixie Loop Awaits FSU

The Florida State University basketball team just about assured itself of a number one seeding in the Dixie Conference basketball tournament, and moved another long step towards a bid to Jacksonville's NAIB district meet, by defeating the Mercer University Bears 69-64 here last night.

The victory gave the Seminoles a season record against all opponents of 12 wins against 7 defeats, and a conference mark of 7-0. The Indians will close their regular season schedule against Rollins College here next Friday night, then play in the Dixie Conference tournament at Macon, Georgia, February 26-28.

FSU TAKES LEAD

Florida State took the lead on Center Tom McLaughlin's field goal one minute and eight seconds after the opening whistle against Mercer, and the Seminoles were never headed for the rest of the evening.

The Bears managed to tie the score 34-34 shortly before the halftime whistle sounded, but a fielder by Guard Bob Whitmer and a free throw by substitute Center Larry Dickson pushed State out front again in the next few seconds and it was the Seminoles all the way from that point.

The accurate shooting and rebounding of 6-foot 7-inch Center Lamar Clements kept Mercer within striking distance throughout the contest, the big pivotman racking up 28 points to take individual honors for the evening.

Whitmer was high for Florida State with 21 points, Bob Hartman got 17 for the Seminoles and Guard Glenn Cassell came up with 16 markers for Mercer.

SCORE IN SPURTS

The two teams seemed to score in spurts during the game with Florida State holding leads at various times of 11-2, 22-14, 53-40 and 59-49.

Mercer scoring rampages, in addition to tying the score 34-34 late in the first half, also brought the Bears up to within one or two points of the Seminoles on five occasions during the contest before Whitmer and Red Merriman paced a drive that carried the Indians to a safe margin in the closing minutes.

The Seminoles held a 20-14 lead at the end of the first 10 minutes of play, were on top 37-36 at the half and led 59-49 at the three-quarter mark.

Fla State	fg	ft	tp	Mercer	fg	ft	tp
Hartman, f	7	3	17	Reid, f	2	1	5
Martee	2	0	4	Reeder	1	0	2
McLaughlin, c	2	0	4	Schwartz	2	0	4
Dickson	1	2	4	Wilson, f	1	0	2
Westhafer	0	0	0	Harris	2	2	6
Whitmer, g	9	3	21	Clements, c	11	6	28
Merriman	2	2	6	Cassell, g	6	4	16
Boott, g	4	1	9	Wilder, g	0	1	1
Trobaugh	2	0	4				

Totals 29 11 69 Totals 23 14 64
Halftime score: FSU 37, Mercer 36.