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The faint-hearted who were ready to concede just a few days ago that Florida State University doesn't stand a chance with Florida in the Gator Bowl tourney Dec. 29, are beginning to wonder now if they weren't selling the Seminoles short.

Fla. State 78 77 tp Miss. South. 78 70 tp

Exhibiting a determined efficiency previously missing, FSU's courtmen forced Mississippi Southern's highly-rated cagers to really drive for a 78-70 decision here Friday, indicating a suddenly brighter future for Coach Bud Kennedy's crew.

FLASH FINEST GAME.

The Seminoles had bowed, 84-43, to this same quintet at Hattiesburg just a few days before, but on the home hardwood they were anything but the dispirited ball club one might have expected as they flashed their finest game of the young season in defeat.

The action which transpired as a pleasant surprise for the slim, partisan crowd, must have come as a distinctive shock to the Southerners.

FSU opened up with a startling barrage and dribbled a 25-10 lead midway in the first half, only to see the towering Mississippians speed up to 36-35 at halftime.

The Seminoles and the Southerners battled on even terms from the opening of the last half until the buzzer ten-minute mark caught the teams in a 57-57 deadlock.

Then the visitors warmed up their All-American candidate and court wizard, Tom Bishop, who broke a 65-65 tie with five minutes left when he swished a free throw. He followed it a moment later with a long, running one-hander and from there on in the Seminoles had to be content with a showing "impressive in defeat."

BISHOP CLOSES DOOR

The Indians did squeeze it to 70-68 when freshman Jerry Ellenwood hit a keyhole jump shot on a neat feed from Tom McLaughlin, but Bishop still has scoring eye and in three minutes his teammates had their 78-70 victory.

Irv Quinn, senior from Staten

Island, took McLaughlin's usual place on the boards with some fiery first-half ball-hawking, and before he fouled out with five minutes left, his variety of shots had accounted for 17 points.

Captain Bob Whitmer, turned in his usually clever offensive and defensive game and hit with eleven of twelve free throws to match Quinn's 17-point total.

The Southerners were even more deadly at the free throw, however, netting 14 of 15 charity tosses.

Jerry Westhafer and Ellenwood rounded out a new starting five for Coach Bud Kennedy which he relieved with only one substitution. Westhafer's push-shots were good for 14 points, and Ellenwood, who alternated at guard with Lou Fisher, looked especially sharp for a freshman playing his first varsity game. In fact, it was the first time that the Fort Wayne footballer had dressed with the varsity.

Fla. State	fg	ft	tp	Miss. South.	fg	ft	tp
McLaughlin	3	5	11	Harrington	2	2	6
Whitmer	3	11	17	Clark	2	2	6
Westhafer	6	2	14	Bishop	9	4	22
Quinn	6	1	17	Weathers	0	1	1
Eldenwood	4	1	9	Revon	7	3	17
Fisher	1	1	3	Hunly	2	0	4
				O'Keefe	2	0	6
				Gallagher	1	0	2
				Sorenson	3	1	7
				Allgood	3	1	7
Totals	25	20	70	Totals	32	14	78
Officials: McCoy and Searcey.							