

DEMOCRAT SPORTS EDITOR

Florida State had one of its worst shooting nights of a schedule half gone, still came within a smidgen of beating nationally ranked Auburn here last evening.

Both teams had their eye on defense, rather than the basket, as the unbeaten Plainsmen squeezed by, 69-62, in a rough match.

It was Auburn's 18th straight over a two-season span—longest winning streak in the nation—and it's seventh conquest this year. The Tigers are rated ninth in the country in this week's AP poll.

SIMILAR GOALS

FSU set out to stymie Auburn's touted shuffle offense—and pretty well did! Auburn was determined to whack the shotmaking of FSU's torrid guard pair, Hugh Durham and Don Bates.

Bates, who missed his first 12 shots from the field, was held to his lowest total of the season, eight points. But Durham bucketed 11 field goals, ended with 26 points.

When FSU lost a 95-74 match at Auburn earlier this year, Bates and Durham each hit for 26.

"We knew FSU had a real sound basketball team," said Auburn Coach Joel Eaves. "It can play with any in our league. That pair of guards is about as good as they come. . . . FSU tonight did a real job on our offense."

Auburn, whose players can and do play any position on the floor, failed to get its usual quota of shooters loose under the basket as FSU used something of a mixture of man-to-man and zone defensive principles in holding the Tigers to their lowest point total of the season. The Tigers went into this one with an 88.3 game scoring average.

DOWN BY 13

Down 13 points at halftime, 37-24, FSU rolled on Durham's versatile firing to within a single point, 61-60, with 5:22 left.

But co-captain Jimmy Lee, Auburn's most productive with 18 points, hit a long one from the corner that moved the count to 63-60. Auburn went into a freeze with 3:50 left and FSU efforts to break it resulted in fouls that enabled the Tigers to pad the slim margin.

FSU jumped to a 4-0 lead at the start on Jim Liteky's field goal and Bates' pair of free throws. Jimmy Fippe, who along with David Vaughn got 13 points in the Auburn cause, hit seven of the Tigers' first 12 points to keep them close.

Auburn went ahead for the first time on Fippe's two foul

their working up a 37-24 half-time advantage.

Three Seminoles—Bates, Dan Boltz, Jim Savage—fouled out. Boltz, the bruising center, departed quite early, with 13 minutes left. Auburn lost none via fouls.

FSU committed six more fouls than Auburn, 27 to 21. Auburn hit on 27 of 39 free throws while FSU sank only 18 of 32.

Able to bucket only 22 percent of its field shots in the first half, FSU did only a little better in the final portion. All told, the Seminoles shot a whopping 76 times, racked 22 of those efforts. Auburn hit one less field goal, out of 55 attempts. FSU finished with a poor .289 shooting percentage, versus Auburn's .382.

While Auburn was being checked with its season's lowest point total, FSU got less than in any previous outing.

Now 4-6 for the year, the Seminoles rest until Jan. 6 when Mississippi Southern comes to town.

W/FSU—					
AUBURN	FG	FT	PF	TP	
Vaughn, f	4-13	5-5	3	13	
Fibbe, f	4-8	5-5	3	13	
Frederick, c	1-8	2-14	4	10	
Lee, g	7-14	4-5	1	18	
Hart, g	1-3	4-8	4	6	
Gilbert, g	1-4	0-0	3	2	
Gregory, c	1-2	1-2	0	3	
Groover, g	2-3	0-0	1	4	
Totals	21-55	27-39	21	69	
FSU	FG	FT	PF	TP	
Tinsley, f	4-11	1-6	4	9	
Litkey, f	3-9	2-4	4	8	
Boltz, c	2-5	3-5	5	7	
Bates, g	2-14	4-5	5	8	
Durham, g	11-23	4-5	3	25	
Savage, f-c	0-6	2-5	5	2	
Archer, f	0-1	2-2	1	2	
Williams, g	0-2	0-0	0	0	
Totals	22-76	18-32	27	62	
Halftime: Auburn 37, FSU 24					