From the Tallahassee Democrat May 28, 1969, page 22

The 1969 season ended a little earlier than Florida Stale's baseball team hoped, but the national sixth-ranked Seminoles figure it was a good year anyway.

The Tribe closed its regular schedule with a 38-13 mark, but a hoped-for fifth straight bid to the NCAA District III tournament in Gastonia, N.C.

got away.

"We were disappointed, naturally," said Coach Jack Stallings: "This was a veteran ball club and going to Gastoma was almost a regular part of the season for them.

"But even though we didn't get, the bid and were not playing real good ball at the end, it was a good season."

The Seminoles, among other things, had a 21-game winning streak for the second straight year. Their 38 wins were just one away from tying a school record.

"For the first two-thirds of the season this team played ball like the Florida State teams I remember playing all those years I was coaching at Wake Forest," said Stallings who just completed his first season at the Seminole belin.

"I thought this club had just reached its stride when we won those four games at Clemson and Georgia, and that they were really on the way. But then something happened and we tailed off to .500 ball the last third of the year."

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There is no easy explanation for the Tribe's slump, but Stallings feels a let-down in the defense played a big part. After making just 58 errors in 36 games, the Seminole's committed 30 over the last 16 contests.

"Not only the errors, but also the mental lapses," said: Stallings, "We just seemed to have a letdown and just

couldn't get back up:"

Florida State's pitchers, meanwhile, did not loose their momentum. The Tribe staff highlighted, the year with a record-breaking 1.98 earned run average. Six pitchers had ERA's less than 2.00 and a seventh was at 2.08.

"Pitching was the backbone of this club," said Stallings, "Depth was the outstanding factor, we actually had trouble finding a spot for everyone to work."

Winner of the Seminole

batting title was no surprise. Jacksonville's Dick Nichols who has led the regulars all season wound up on top with a 336 average.

Dick Gold was next with a .317 average while Mike Easom, Walt Sumner and Mike English all finished at .300.

With six of the eight regulars seniors, the record books were in for quite an assault.

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Gold led the barrage, entering the record book nine times: In all 19 changes were made. Another half dozen marks were close to being changed.

Career, records for at-bats (511), runs (98) and hits (151) were set by Gold, Along with Eason he established a new record for career RBI (83) and those two also tied Maury Hopkins record of 20 career doubles.

Gold also tied the record for career triples equalling Bob Hudson's mark of 12. The Grover, N.C. native set a season record with nine triples this year. His 20 game hitting streak is also a new mark.

The one record he is not likely to want to publicize is beld jointly with Sumner for career strikeouts (85).

Other records to fall included season doubles (13) and strikeouts (58) both going to Summer.

Easom, a Tallahassee native and former Leon High star, broke Jim Lyttle's career home run record with 17 in three seasons. His 227 total bases was another career mark.

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