

The 1969 season ended a little earlier than Florida State'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 Gastonia 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 helm.

"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."

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 Seminoles 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 lose 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 Eason, Walt Sumner and Mike English all finished at .300.



1969 FINAL STATISTICS

3B-13

BATTING

	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	SB	RBI	BB	SO	AVG.
Nichols	134	25	45	7	3	1	5	19	19	17	.336
Gold	199	33	63	4	9	4	3	50	27	37	.317
Summer	207	47	62	13	3	6	21	27	22	58	.300
Eason	167	25	50	8	6	9	0	35	18	27	.300
English	137	14	41	4	1	1	0	19	16	25	.300
Moates	213	45	55	2	7	1	23	21	24	20	.258
Hogan	196	28	50	2	3	0	8	26	10	17	.255
Gurzynski	165	29	36	6	0	8	3	28	32	52	.218

(Less than 100 at bats)

Cocks	3	2	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	.667
Gromek	17	2	6	2	0	0	0	4	1	3	.375
Porter	29	5	7	1	0	0	1	1	7	3	.241
Keith	44	6	10	0	1	1	0	5	2	5	.227
Matthews	38	5	8	1	0	0	2	0	8	7	.211
Schnute	31	9	5	0	0	0	3	0	9	10	.161
Kasimier	29	3	3	0	0	0	0	1	2	9	.103
Brown	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	.000

(Pitchers)

Hill	10	6	5	0	1	0	0	2	4	0	.500
Henson	14	2	6	1	0	0	0	4	2	3	.429
Stade	5	1	2	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	.400
Gromek	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.333
Ferguson	7	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	1	2	.286
Loff	40	2	10	3	0	0	0	5	0	13	.250
Rebling	9	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	.222
Ammann	37	5	8	0	0	0	0	2	7	11	.216
Skok	28	4	4	0	0	0	0	1	1	10	.143
Cleveland	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	.000
Mathis	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	.000

FLORIDASTATE	1769	303	483	59	35	31	69	257	217	336	.273
OPPONENT	1714	158	375	30	14	31	33	129	156	404	.219

PITCHING

	APP	GS	CG	W	L	IP	R	ER	H	BB	SO	ERA
Gromek	5	0	0	0	0	12 1-3	1	0	5	2	5	0.00
Skok	10	10	3	6	2	74	22	11	61	30	79	1.34
Loff	12	11	10	9	2	94 2-3	25	18	75	14	75	1.70
Ferguson	12	2	1	4	2	31 2-3	8	7	28	9	34	1.97
Hill	9	4	2	2	1	32	20	7	31	4	24	1.97
Henson	10	4	1	3	2	40 2-3	13	9	40	19	26	1.98
Ammann	16	15	8	11	2	120 2-3	37	28	82	55	113	2.08
Stade	5	2	1	1	0	17 1-3	7	6	12	5	16	3.18
Rebling	7	4	1	1	2	27	15	10	29	10	26	3.33
Others	4	0	0	1	0	7 1-3	10	5	12	7	6	6.43
FLORIDASTATE	90	52	27	38	13	457 2-3	158	101	375	155	404	1.98
OPPONENT	113	52	20	13	38	442	303	226	483	217	336	4.60