

Iron men lose to USF

By Dale Friedley

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Florida State's cross country team lost its first meet ever on the home course Saturday as a bunch of inspired runners from the University of South Florida raced by the Seminoles 23-30.

Played at the track set up on FSU's golf course, South Florida was led home in the win by star Cozwell Depiezza. He raced to victory Saturday in a time of 20:57, which is over a minute slower than the track record set last year by Ken Misner.

FSU did win the second and third spots in the final standings with Bobby Brooks finishing No.

2 in a time of 21:01 while Del Ramers ended up just behind

Brooks at 21:03.

Commenting on the meet, cross country Head Coach Dick Roberts expressed disappointment but was not angry with his team. "We worked hard for this match," he said. "We are just a young team that needs a lot of work and experience. You can't afford to have what has happened to us and expect to really be ready to run."

Roberts was referring to the recent happenings that saw two of the four top runners on the team being lost for the season.

Sophomore Mark O'Brien will most likely be out for the season with a knee injury and senior Jack Wise will not be able to

compete because he is interning in St. Petersburg.

The loss broke a string of seven consecutive wins that Seminole cross country teams had compiled over the past two seasons. It was also only the third loss that the Seminoles had suffered since Roberts started coaching at FSU four years ago.

"We are just short of numbers this season," commented Roberts. "Last year we had no problems but this year we lost Ken (Misner) and then those other two."

As well as being the first time the Seminoles had lost a team match on their home course, it was the only time that a non-FSU runner had broken the finishing tape at the track.