

#### **Mercer Downs FSU**

Mercer's ball-hawking Bears sent an outclassed Florida State University quintet reeling to its fifth consecutive defeat Friday night with a 61-48 decision before some 950 fans in the West Campus gym.

The rangy orange and black clad Bruins, racking up their eighth victory in ten starts this winter, jumped away to an early 8-2 lead and were never headed.

#### **Left no Doubt**

Passing smartly and handling the ball in smooth fashion, the Bears repeatedly caught the Seminoles off balance with a lightning-like fast breaking offense. And the manner in which they dominated the leather off both boards left little doubt as to the eventual outcome.

The Seminoles, pressing desperately to snap their losing string, rallied several times in an effort to overhaul the flying Georgia cagers, but were unable to close the gap.

The steady, experienced Bears, staffed with ten lettermen, clamped a pressing defense on the over-anxious Indian hoopsters and succeeded in hamstringing their high-scoring attack.

#### **Kratzert Leads**

Only Bill Kratzert, who out maneuvered the skin-tight Mercer defenders for five field goals from his pivot position, was able to rip the cords with any regularity.

Kratzert, adding four charity tosses to his field goals total took scoring honors for the Seminoles with 14 points.

Bill Osteen who came in late in the fray and slipped away for three quick buckets, and Orlando Wyman who hit twice from the field and foul line, followed Kratzert with six points apiece.

Glenn Wilkes, a tricky Eaton, Ga. pivotman whose maneuvers draw fourteen foul shots from the desperate FSU defense-men, paced the Mercer attack with sixteen points—ten of which come from the free throw line.

#### **Foul Line Barrage**

Dick Thornton, a one-handed expert and Maynard Reynolds, scrapping sopohomore shotmaker supported Wilkes' foul line barrage with nine points apiece to take runnerup scoring honors for the Bears.

After Ben McCrary had dropped through a charity toss for the game's first tally, the Bears took quick command and dropped in four quick double-deckers while FSU was picking up another point from the free throw line.

With Kratzert breaking

through several times the Seminoles hung on the Bears' heels, however, trailing 10-7 and 15-10. Battling back from the foul line FSU hit nine of their first ten tries to hang in the tilt 22-15 late in the first half.

#### **Lead at Halftime**

The Bears, backed by a closing flurry of Wilkes and Reynolds baskets hit the halftime mark with a 30-20 lead.

Striking quickly after intermission the Bruins pulled away to a 36-21 edge before FSU could regain its poise, and after the Seminoles had chopped the margin to 41-30 the Bears catapulted out in front again 54-34.

Big Hosea Maxwell and Osteen came in for a closing drive, however, and led FSU's final spurt, to narrow the gap.

F S U	fg	ft	pf	tp
Kratzert, f	5	4	5	14
Hilaman	1	0	1	2
Wyman, f	2	2	3	6
Wilson	0	0	0	0
McCrary, c	1	3	5	5
Dickson	1	1	3	3
Maxwell	2	1	4	5
Nettles, g	0	2	4	2
Chaudron	0	1	0	1
Pavy, g	0	4	3	4
Osteen	3	0	0	6
Williams	0	0	1	0
Totals	15	18	29	48
MERCER	fg	ft	pf	tp
Thornton, f	3	3	4	9
Reynolds	3	3	0	9
Stewart	0	0	1	0
Pender, f	1	2	2	4
Marshall	0	0	1	0
Snow, c	3	2	4	8
Wilkes	3	10	4	16
Sutton, g	2	0	2	4
Flanders	1	0	1	2
Kinskui	0	0	0	0
Shuler, g	3	1	1	7
Dobbins	1	0	2	2
Totals	20	21	22	61
Referee Brown, Umpire Streetman,				
Scorer Williamson, Timekeeper Shores,				
Score at halftime: Mercer 30, FSU 20.				
Free throws missed: Kratzert, Wil-				
liams, Pavy, McCrary 2, Osteen, Nettles,				
Thornton, Reynolds 3, Pender 2, Snow				
2, Wilkes 4, Sutton, Shuler 2.				