

FSU RALLY FALLS SHORT

Bow to Mercer 69-61 in Macon

Special to The Democrat
MACON, Ga. — Florida State University's Seminoles made a great last half bid for their second successive victory over the Mercer Bears, but fell short and finally bowed 69-61 in a fast Dixie Conference basketball game here last night.

Trailing 37-22 at halftime and apparently outclassed by a fast-breaking Bruin five that was playing at its season's peak, the Indians slowly wrested the play away from the Bears and began hacking away at Mercer's margin.

McLaughlin Stars

Led by Big Tom McLaughlin, who staged a tremendous offensive and defensive effort in the losing cause, FSU played the favorites off their feet in the final period, outscoring them 39-37 down the stretch.

McLaughlin, who had racked up eight of the Seminoles' 22 points in the first half, hit from all angles after the intermission as he piled up seven more field goals and two foul shots for a 24-point total.

FSU just had too far to come back in the last 20 minutes to make the grade as their ineffective first half took its toll.

Monnie Wilkes

In addition to his scoring show, McLaughlin held Bear ace Glenn Wilkes to 15 points, which were compiled on five field goals and five charity tosses. It was the second time this season that Wilkes had been held under 20 points, and on both occasions it was McLaughlin who threw the blanket around the eagle-eyed forward. Wilkes had gotten 16 points in the opening game between the two teams when FSU scored a 57-45 triumph in Tallahassee.

Guard Glenn Cassell matched Wilkes' 15 points for Mercer, while Bill Weigel took runnerup honors for the Seminoles with 11 points.

Dick Kendall, Whitley Wyman, Monnie Nettles and Ted Hewitt all turned in fine floor games when FSU began driving. Hewitt and Wyman continually stole the ball from the Bears in that terrific second half.

The victory gave Mercer a season mark of 8-4 overall and 5-1 inside the Dixie loop. The loss was FSU's ninth against seven wins. They are 5-3 in the conference.

Fla State	fg	ft	tp	Mercer	fg	ft	tp
Kendall, f	2	3	3	Wilkes, f	5	5	15
Benjamin, f	1	0	2	Reeder	3	0	10
Trobaugh	1	1	3	Webb, f	4	1	9
McLaughlin	11	2	24	Clemente, c	5	0	10
Dickson	0	0	0	Wilson	1	4	6
Weigel, g	2	7	11	Cassell, g	5	5	15
Hewitt	2	1	5	Stewart	0	1	1
Penne, g	0	0	0	Dobbins, g	1	1	3
Nettie	0	0	0	Kinsell	0	0	0
Wyman	2	1	5				

Totals 22 15 61 Totals 24 17 60
Score at halftime: Mercer 37-22.
Referees: Caney and Biggs.