

# LATE LAYUP DECIDES TILT

## 552 Fans See Missouri Five Rally

By PETER NIMKOFF  
Democrat Sports Writer

Florida State University's cagers opened their nine-game home schedule last night with a 59-56 defeat at the hands of Culver-Stockton's touring Wildcats from Canton, Mo., before 552 fans. Wildcat sparkplug Jack Walz decided the see-saw contest in the final minute when he drove in with a layup.

Battling back from a 43-40 deficit with 10 minutes to go, the Seminoles had finally gone ahead with three minutes to play when Tom McLaughlin, a tower of strength off his defensive board, netted a free throw and followed it eight seconds later with a push shot from the keyhole.

### 'CATS CLAW BACK

The Wildcats clawed back with a foul and field goal by John Fencik to lead, 55-54. Then the Indians regained the lead as Ken Smith drove in with a hook. With a minute and a half to go, F. S. U. held a one-point edge. Walz's duck erased that, and Fencik led the contest with two seconds left when he scooped up a loose ball and took it all the way.

It had been even-stephen throughout the third quarter, also, and again it was Walz who gave the 'Cats a chance to breathe as the stanza closed. He swished a free throw with 20 seconds left and hit with an electrifying one-handed from mid-court just before the buzzer.

The first-half accuracy of Lou Fisher kept the Seminoles in the

Culver-S.	G	F	P	TP	FSU	G	F	P	TP
Fencik, f	5	4	3	14	Whitmer, f	5	1	2	11
Wessler	0	0	0	0	Hardesty	1	1	1	3
Gragg, f	1	1	3	3	McLaughlin, f	8	3	4	13
Nortrop	0	0	0	0	Quinn	0	1	1	1
Mauch, c	4	2	4	10	Burst	0	0	2	0
Walz, g	5	8	4	18	Westh'r, c	2	1	1	5
Gilbert, g	6	2	2	14	Pence, g	0	0	0	0
					Fischer	8	1	4	17
					Smith, g	2	0	3	4

Totals 21 17 16 59 Totals 24 8 19 56  
Officials: Searcy, Fromhart.

ball game when it appeared that they were being outplayed collectively. A last-second hook by Jim Hardesty — clutch scores were numerous in this contest — gave them a 25-23 halftime spread.

The well-drilled Wildcats seemed to be the smoother ball club as they employed the deliberate slow-break offense, typical of their Missouri area, to good advantage. More accurate than the Seminoles from the floor and free-throw line, they refrained, however, from shooting outside, preferring to double-screen off their pivot whenever possible. Floorman and captain Vic Gragg set up the openings for Walz, Fencik and 6'3" Gilbert.

FSU was forced to play in the Wildcats' style in the first half but came back to make a hair-raiser of it. Captain Bob Witmer and McLaughlin sparkled with some fine defensive work.