From the Tallahassee Democrat March 1, 1953 Page 10

The Seminoles swept into last night's final with an impressive 87-77 triumph over Mercer in the tournament opener Friday night.

Hammerin' Ham Wernke, who tossed in 30 points, paced a late Florida State rally that settled the issue with Mercer. Ham hit three fielders in a row in a 32-point fourth-quarter Seminole drive.

Duane Gordon had put the Seminoles ahead, 69-67, when Wernke hit his flurry.

The shorter Mercer team out-

rebounded FSU but had trouble with the Seminoles' tight defense around the basket. Tom Mixon, Mercer's all-around senior star, bucketed 22 points to lead the Bears' losing efforts.

It was the Seminoles' second and, of course, most important victory over Mercer this season. The Bears, entering the tournament the slight favorites on the basis of their 19-4 record during regular-season play, were beaten by FSU by a single point in an overtime thriller in Tallahassee.

Jimmy Oler, with 14 points, and Gordon, with 13, were the main supporters to V'ernke's scoring output against Mercer.

FSU			Mercer			
fg	ft	tp		fg	ft	tp
Dellahan,f 4	0	8	Mixon,f	8	6	22
Richrdsn.g 1	0	2	Schwartz,f	0	2	2
Burst,g 1	1	3	Jewett,c	1	2	4
Oler.g 5	4	14	Reid,f	5	4	14
Wernke,g 12	- 6	30	Veal.g	5	3	11
		13	Harris,f	5	5	15
Westhafer,f 3	2	8	Hughes,f	3	3	9
Benson,c 4	1	9				
Free throws 2, Burst, We	rn	niss ke	TOTALS ed: FSU-I 7, Gordon 2: Mercer-	Dell	Wes	an st-
hafer 2, Ben Schwartz, Re Hughes.	id	2,	Veal 3, H	arı	is	5,