

By PAT HOGAN
Special To The Democrat

STATE COLLEGE, Miss.—Junior Ham Wernke, Florida State University's candidate for All-America honors, came up with a dazzling, 32-point performance here Friday night as the Seminoles opened their 20-game cage campaign. The only catch is that, Mississippi State won the ball game, 87-75.

More than 3,500 spectators turned out for Mississippi State's curtain-raiser. Before it was over, they were witness to a torrid scoring duel between Wernke and the Maroons' Gerald Caveness, and to a free-throw shooting exhibition that earned a spot in FSU's basketball record book.

A Helms Foundation All-America choice a year ago, Wernke took 20 charity losses and cashed in 16 of them. That shattered Ham's record of 13 set in 1952. In an effort to stop his driving lay-ups, the Maroons fouled Wernke 13 times, 10 times in the last half and though he was closely checked, Ham still managed eight buckets from the floor to finish with 32 points, 19 in the second half.

STOLE BALL

Besides his scoring output, which topped Caveness' 29 points for M-State, Wernke stole the ball from the Maroons on seven occasions and chipped in with six rebounds.

It was a tight, well-played contest all the way. Neither team showed a semblance of opening-night jitters, although the Seminoles hit only 22 per cent of their shots from the floor. Mississippi State connected on 40 per cent, that being the only difference.

The score was tied seven times during a hectic first half in which FSU led three times. A 25-foot one-hander by Captain Duane Gordon put FSU ahead, 6-5; a pair of free losses by Wernke made it 22-20, and a solo drip after Wernke swiped a Maroon pass pushed it to 24-22, midway in the second quarter. That was the last time the Indians were in command, however, as M-State caught fire and built up an eight-point spread, 44-36, at intermission.

MISS WESTHAFFER

The Seminoles were handicapped by the absence of injury-riddled Jerry Westhafer. The junior forward—he scored 306 points last season—could play only four minutes because of a severely wrenched ankle. Sophomore Dick Artmeier, a

guard, Harold Blaylock, provided a one-two punch that touched off M-State's flurry just before the half. Blaylock, getting most of his points early, scored 19.

FSU plays its first home game Tuesday night against Mercer.

FLORIDA STATE		FG	FT	TP
Gordon, f	1	0	2	
Westhafer, f	1	0	2	
Dellahan, f	0	0	0	
Artmeier, f	3	2	8	
Benson, c-f	6	1	13	
Wald, c	0	0	0	
Reeves, c	1	0	2	
Wernke, g	8	16	32	
Burst, g	2	1	5	
Oler, g	1	8	10	
TOTALS	23	29	75	
MISS. STATE		FG	FT	TP
Houston, f	5	6	16	
Cherry, f	0	0	0	
Ashmore, f	1	3	5	
Daley, c	3	3	9	
Cocke, c	1	3	5	
Caveness, g	11	7	29	
Blaylock, g	8	3	19	
Nash, g	1	2	4	
TOTALS	30	27	87	