

Special To The Democrat

JACKSONVILLE — With guards Ham Wernke and Jimmy Oler leading the way, Florida State University's basketballers roared back in the final minutes here tonight to decision Georgia, 97-87, in the consolation round of the Gator Bowl basketball tournament.

Using a tricky zone defense effectively, Spring Hill of Mobile, Ala., captured the tournament title with a 66-60 victory over the University of Florida in the championship round.

Wernke and Oler, the Seminoles' all-stars, paced a furious last quarter FSU rally that saw the Indians rip the nets for 14 points in the final 3½ minutes of play.

Wernke, regaining his form of the past two seasons, cracked the nets for 32 points, a new Gator Bowl individual mark. Twenty of Wernke's points came in the second half. Oler was equally impressive, meshing 29 points.

However, most of the way it looked as if FSU, which had dropped a 82-79 thriller to Florida Monday night, would lose its second tourney start.

Save for the opening minutes and a fleeting second late in the third stanza, Georgia led all the way. And with only five minutes left in the game, the Bulldogs still held a 83-79 lead.

At that point, however,

Wernke and 6-8 Bob Williams, who sparkled in a relief role, took over. Wernke drove in for a layup to leave the Indians only two behind and Williams got a tip-in to tie it up, 83-83.

Williams then came back with another double-decker and Wernke added a long push to put the Seminoles in front to stay.

For nearly three quarters, though, Coach Bud Kennedy's five found it rough sledding. Thanks to some fancy marksmanship by Morris Dinwiddie and Murphy McManus, Georgia worked to a 27-22 lead at the end of the first quarter.

After Wernke and Oler began to hit in the next canto, FSU managed to shave Georgia's lead a point by halftime. But the Tribe still trailed 49-46.

Dinwiddie, a 5-10 guard, was the chief thorn in the Seminoles' side, tallying 24 points mostly on twisting layups. Teammate McManus had 23 while center Allen Parrish checked in with 22.

Happy Mahfouz, Spring Hill forward, paced his team with 25 points. Center Bob Emrick led Florida with 16 points, half of them on free shots.

GEORGIA				FLORIDA STATE			
	G	F	T		G	F	T
Knight, f	6	8	12	Benson, f	8	2	14
Potts, f	1	2	4	Artmeyer, f	3	0	6
Bradley, c	1	0	2	Williams, c	3	2	8
Parrish, c	9	4	22	Wernke, g	12	8	32
Ensley, g	0	0	0	Walter, g	1	2	4
Dinwiddie, g	11	2	24	Oler, g	11	7	29
McManus, g	6	11	23				

Totals 34 19 87 Totals 37 23 87
Halftime score: Georgia 49, Florida State 46.

Free throws missed: Georgia Potts, Parrish, McManus 2. Florida State Artmeyer, Wold 2, Williams 2, Wernke 3, Oler 3.