

Stetson, Mercer Ousted In NAIA Play

FSU Faces GTC For Title

Co-favorites Florida State and Georgia Teachers followed the form chart to the letter last night, disposing of game but outclassed Stetson and Mercer quintets to gain tonight's finale of the District 25 NAIA basketball playoffs.

FSU and Georgia Teachers, with identical 20-3 season's records, clash at 8:05 at Florida High gym tonight for the Georgia-Florida position in the national NAIA tournament at Kansas City, March 7-12.

EVEN MATCH

Coach Bud Kennedy's Seminoles knocked off Georgia Teach-

ers, 75-67, in a regular season game here in September, but tonight's joust is a toss-up on the basis of the Professors' 14-game winning streak. FSU has won 15 of its past 16 starts, 14 in a row in Tallahassee.

Both favorites experienced difficulty at one time or another in first-round action. Georgia Teachers led defending district champion Mercer by only one point (40-39) at halftime. But the Tutors started rolling after intermission and steamed to a 96-79 verdict.

It could have been worse, but Mercer froze the ball for the last 90 seconds to keep high-scoring Teachers from hitting 100 points.

STETSON SURGE

FSU opened up against Stetson as if it would pass the century mark. But after trailing by 50-38 at halftime, Stetson pulled within four points with five minutes left before the Seminoles opened up for their 86-77 triumph.

Center Chester Webb, highest scorer in the Southeast, broke Mercer's back with 39 points, 25 in the first half. Webb now has 763 points for a 28.3 average. Guard Don Wallen bagged 20 points for Teachers and Tommy Mixon, Mercer's valuable senior, collected 27 points in his final performance for the Bears.

Center Gary Wold pitched in 18 first-half points to get FSU off to a good start against Stetson. But forward Dave Howard and reserve center Keith King started

hitting for Stetson to narrow the gap to 76-72 with three minutes left.

PROTECT LEAD

A layup by Ham Wernke and a pair of free tosses by Rick Benson made it 80-72, and FSU used a semi-stall to protect its advantage the rest of the way.

Seminole guard, Jimmy Oler had his worst night in a month for the Seminoles, but still meshed 18 points to set a new

FSU season's scoring record and become the first player in Florida inter-collegiate history to total more than 500 points for one season.

Oler now has 504 points, which surpasses by 11 points the previous record of 493 hung up by Bob Hartman in 1951.

Wold was high for FSU against Stetson, though, garnering 22 points before fouling out in the final period. Wernke added 17 points.

STETSON (77)	fg	ft	pf	tp
Howard, f	8	5	4	21
Kitchens, f	4	3	2	11
Stones, f	4	0	5	8
Reynolds, f	0	0	2	0
Cassidy, c	0	3	2	3
King, c	3	4	2	10
Layer, g	3	5	4	11
Hopkins, g	0	0	0	0
Crompton, g	2	3	4	7
Gregory, g	2	2	2	6

Totals	26	25	27	77
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FSU (86)	fg	ft	pf	tp
Benson, f	4	5	4	13
Artmeier, f	3	2	5	8
Waits, f	0	0	0	0
Wold, c	7	8	5	22
Williams, c-f	2	1	2	5
Oler, g	5	8	2	18
Wernke, g	6	5	5	17
Twomey, g	1	1	0	3

Totals	28	30	23	86
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Halftime score Florida State 50, Stetson 38

Free throws missed: Stetson (14)—Layer 2, Howard, Crompton 4, Kitchens, Stones, Reynolds, Hopkins 2, King, Cassidy. FSU (17)—Artmeier 2, Wold 2, Benson 7, Oler 3, Williams 2, Twomey.