

Two junior college graduates paid off in blue chips for Florida State last night as his Seminoles edged past Tennessee Tech, 74-71, in the season-opener for both teams.

Guard Jim Liteky, a 6-2 grad of Jacksonville Junior College, and 6-5 Burt Deckel, acquired from Chipola Junior College, scored 28 and 21 points.

Never behind in the first 28 minutes, the Seminoles were obliged to rally to win in the final 12.

Coach Bud Kennedy praised Liteky, who he said "will make us an outstanding ball player," and commented he was "pleased with the play of the team as a unit, and with the board work."

The Seminole coach also felt the insertion of senior guard Tom Garcia late in the game helped "to knit the team together." After the fiery 5-8 playmaker entered the contest, the Seminoles pulled from four points behind and went on to victory.

The difference in the game proved to be the free-throw line. The winners sunk 28 of 34 free tosses, while Tennessee Tech made good on just nine of 18.

The Seminoles jumped off to an early 9-4 lead, mainly on free throws, but the Eagles quickly knotted it at 11-11. After that, however, the visitors were

unable to catch up again until the waning moments of the first half, when they tied it at 33-33. Deckel sunk two free throws and a bucket to give the Tribe a 37-33 halftime edge.

Tech went ahead for the first time with 12 minutes remaining, when a basket and a free throw by high scorer Herbie Merritt gave them a 47-45 edge.

The two teams see-sawed back and forth until the closing minutes when Liteky's long jump shots and accuracy from the foul line again proved the difference for the victors.

In contrast to their accurate foul shooting, the Seminoles made good on only 23 of 75 shots from the field for a 30.7 shooting percentage, while Tech dropped 31 of 80 for a 38.8 percentage.

Merritt, one of three Tech

1 starters who stood 6-7 or higher, led the Eagles with 18 points. Center Jim Hagan 16-9 contributed 13 along with 5-11 guard Kenny Sidwell. Hagan and both teams in rebounds with 17.

Tech outrebounded FSU slightly, 61 to 55 but the Seminoles had an edge in this department in the last half. Dan Boltz, 6-6 center and another Chipola product, took 14 rebounds. Deckel 13 and Larry Strom 10.

In totaling 28 points, Liteky hit on nine of 22 field-goal attempts, made good on 10 of 13 foul-line chances. Deckel bagged seven of 23 from the field, seven of eight foul shots.

FSU draws a second straight Ohio Valley Conference opponent Saturday night here, Murray State. The FSU freshmen under Jimmy Ober open the season in a 6 p. m. preliminary match with Norman Park (Ga.) Junior College.

Last night's success was a far cry from last year. The Seminoles lost their first eight before finally winning. FSU finished the last campaign with a 9-17 record. Tech went 9-11 a year ago.

FSU BOX

TENNESSEE TECH		G	F	P	T
Merritt, f		6	3-5	2	15
Sexton, f		3	1-2	3	7
Puckett, f		0	0-1	1	0
Shearer, f		2	0-0	4	4
Gilley, f		4	0-0	2	8
Hagan, c		6	1-3	2	13
McDonald, g		1	0-0	3	2
Sidwell, g		6	1-1	2	13
Herron, g		0	0-1	2	0
Phelps, g		2	3-5	3	7
Keller, g		1	0-0	0	2
		31	9-18	24	71
FLORIDA STATE		G	F	P	T
Strom, f		2	2-2	4	6
Deckel, f		7	7-8	1	21
Savage, f		0	0-0	0	0
Boltz, c		2	5-6	4	9
Casteel, c		0	0-0	0	0
Durham, g		3	4-5	3	10
Liteky, g		9	10-13	2	28
Garcia, g		0	0-0	2	0
		23	28-34	16	74
Halftime Score: Florida State 37, Tennessee Tech 32.					