

Special to the Democrat

MOBILE, Ala. — Florida State's hard-luck Seminoles, who aren't convinced the New Year is any different from the old, meet battle-weary Georgia for third place in the fifth Senior Bowl basketball tournament here tonight.

But for some masterful strategy and a total of six seconds, FSU and Georgia would be playing for the championship.

WAY IT IS

Instead, The Citadel, 59-57 victor over the Seminoles in the tournament opener last night, and host Spring Hill, 69-67, winner over Georgia, have the pleasure.

FSU, which closed out 1957 with a two-point loss to LSU in the last two seconds, lost in the last four seconds to The Citadel. There were two seconds on the board when Spring Hill made the clincher against Georgia.

Relief for Florida State is the return of guard Hugh Durham, who played a magnificent 40 minutes with no sign of the ankle injury that hounded him since Dec. 11.

Rigged with a protective pad around the lame ankle, Durham scored 14 points and set up as many more on fast-break feeds to teammates.

BIG LEAD LOST

It still wasn't enough. The Seminoles watched a 10-point lead fade into a 57-56 deficit with two minutes left. Little Tommy Garcon tied it with a free throw before The Citadel called time out with 1:26 remaining.

That's when the Bulldogs mapped their strategy for a last-ditch assault that must have pleased General Mark Clark, Citadel president.

The battle plan was to hold the ball for one last fling. The seconds ticked off and with

only four left, Citadel sophomore Ray Graves sprang from his foxhole 20 feet from the basket. Graves' one-hand jump shot ripped the net and the explosion obscured a 40-foot effort by Durham that fell short of the target at the final buzzer.

The Citadel had better marksmen. Winning their seventh game in 11 starts, the Bulldogs hit 26 of 68 shots from the field. FSU, now 2-6, had 23 target hits in 66 rounds. Guard Jim Liteky bagged 16 points, 13 in the first half. Forward Burt Deckel had 14. The Citadel's Dick Wherry, a long distance

TIGHT DEFENSE

In the beginning, The Citadel deployed in a tight zone defense on the scaled-down McGill High School court. But the Bulldogs abandoned that for clinging-vine strategy when FSU stacked up a 35-27 halftime lead.

With a full-court press and Wherry and soph Art Musselman finding the range. The Citadel pulled ahead with 2:35 left. That set the stage for Garcia's tying free throw and Graves' game-winning blast.

The Georgia-Spring Hill game was closer. Jim Carney settled it for Spring Hill with an 18-foot shot in the last two seconds.

THE CITADEL	G	F	P	T
Musselman	7	4-5	4	18
Graves	2	1-3	2	5
Blackledge	0	0-2	0	0
Wherry	10	1-1	4	21
Weeks	4	1-1	1	9
Records	2	0-1	1	4
Jones	1	0-0	0	2

Totals 26 7-15 12 59

FLORIDA STATE	G	F	P	T
Strom	3	2-2	3	8
Beckel	7	2-4	1	16
Holtz	2	0-1	3	4
Liteky	6	2-3	4	14
Durham	5	4-5	2	14
Garcia	6	1-1	1	1
Savage	0	0-0	0	0
Castell	0	0-0	0	0

Totals 23 11-16 14 57

The Citadel 27 32-39

Florida State 25 22-37