

Florida State combined perhaps its best defensive and rebounding jobs of the season here last night and it paid off with a thrilling 81-71 basketball victory over Centenary College.

The Seminoles took complete charge of the boards in the final four minutes for their third victory in their last five starts.

BACK AND FORTH

Until center John Richter's tip-in with 4:27 left gave the Tribe the lead for good, it had been a see-saw battle. The score was tied 16 times and the lead changed hands 30 times.

The 10-point verdict pushed FSU's season mark to 4-2 and left Centenary, a recent seven-point victor over once-beaten Miami, with a 5-6 record. FSU left this morning for a two-game road trip to Mississippi Southern and Memphis State.

Centenary hit 51 per cent of its field-goal attempts and 15 of 17 free throws. But a scrapping Seminole defense limited the Gentlemen from Shreveport, La., to only 55 shots from the floor.

In the meantime, FSU got off 79 shots and hit on 32 of them for a 40.5 per cent effort. The Tribe cashed in 17 of 26 free throws. FSU won the rebound wars, 50-35.

TOPNOTCH JOB

Richter proved the hero for the Seminoles. The 6-5 senior from Gloversville, N. Y., scored 23 points and pulled in 17 rebounds, 13 of them on the offensive backboards.

"Richter's overall play was the best he's done since he's been with us," said FSU Coach Bud Kennedy. "The thing I liked best was the absence of ball-handling mistakes. We made only four errors in the first half and six in the second."

Centenary Coach Orvis Sigler

was not pleased with the Gents' showing. "We had a poor effort, but there were some contributing factors. They made us play that way. FSU has a fine ball club. They hustle and work all the way," Sigler said.

FSU got fine play from reserves Rufus Ashworth and Fred Woodward. Ashworth hit three

final baskets in the final half and Woodward pushed 12 important points, all in the second half.

Woodward potted three long ones that kept FSU in the thick of things just

Fred Woodward after intermission.

Sophomore Dave Fedor continued his sparkling play for the Seminoles. The 6-6 forward contributed 18 points—his season average—and 12 rebounds.

CENTENARY AGES

Three Centenary players hit double players, with guard Larry Greene high with 18. Center Jackie Crawford, 6-8 junior, finished with 18 points and being checked with a pair of free throws in the first half.

Three quick baskets by Fedor helped FSU to an early 7-2 lead. But it was tied four times and the lead swapped hands on eight occasions before FSU took a 39-36 halftime edge.

After three ties after intermission, the visitors took a 56-52 lead with 9:05 left. But Richter and Jim Savage found the range and it was tied for the last time at 64-64 with 5:55 left.

Richter battleed underneath for a tip-in to send the Seminoles out front for good at 67-66.

The Seminoles meet a solid Mississippi Southern (9-2) team at Hattiesburg tomorrow night.

CENTENARY	FG	FT	PF	TP
Cothern	3-10	8-8	1	6
Van Bisher	4-8	1-2	1	9
Crawford	6-11	4-4	4	15
Eubanks	6-10	1-1	3	13
Greene	6-11	6-6	4	18
Mason	1-4	1-2	0	3
Mitchell	0-1	0-0	1	0
Vasilouponlos	1-1	0-0	2	2
Dubose	1-1	2-2	0	4
Totals	28-55	15-17	19	71
FSU	FG	FT	PF	TP
Fedor	8-17	2-3	2	18
Savage	3-7	2-2	2	8
Richter	2-12	7-8	2	23
Davis	2-13	4-8	4	8
Edney	0-0	0-0	0	0
Whitehead	1-3	0-0	0	2
Ashworth	5-10	0-1	0	10
Woodward	5-9	2-2	0	12
Swain	0-1	0-1	1	0
Casteel	0-0	0-0	0	0
Totals	32-78	17-28	12	31