

Leading by 47-42 with eight minutes left, Coach Joel Hayes' defending Southeastern Conference basketball champions made a flurry of one-pointers pay off for their 35th straight victory in Auburn's compact Sports Arena. The Plainsmen are undefeated after three games this season and have won 53 of their last 58 games.

EVEN RECORD

After winning its first two starts against Tampa and Kentucky, Coach Bud Kennedy's young Seminoles are now 2-2 for the season.

FSU trailed by eight points at the half, but whittled a second-

half Auburn lead of 10 points down to five on sophomore forward Charlie Long's field goal with 8:35 remaining.

But Auburn made a fantastic total of 23 free throws in the final 7½ minutes—15 of them by senior guard Ray Groover—as the anxious Seminoles tried to get back in the game. Auburn meshed only two field goals during that stretch. The Seminoles actually out-pointed their hosts from the field. FSU hit 22 field goals to 19 for Auburn.

But the Tigers converted a whopping 36 of 46 free throws as the Seminoles were taxed with 31 fouls. FSU hit 13 of 22 charity shots.

Groover established an Auburn single-game record by cashing in 17 free throws, 15 in the last half and 13 in the final seven minutes. He missed on four shots.

Groover and senior forward Jimmy Fibbe each finished with 19 points while senior forward David Vaughn, always trouble for the Seminoles, hit 20 points.

Dave Feder, the 6-6 junior ace, led FSU with 13 points, although it was his lowest total in 11 games dating back to last season. Junior forward Rufus Ashworth and sophomore forward Charlie Long, who played a magnificent second half, each had 10 points for FSU.

The Seminoles lost three men on five personals and had three other players with four fouls on them at game's end. Long fouled out with 6½ minutes left, and Feder and Cotton departed in the final minute.

State finished with a respectable 40 per cent shooting effort from the floor on 22 connections out of 55 attempts. The cautious Tigers took only 39 shots and made 19 for 49 per cent. The Tigers had a 54 per cent chart in the first half.

It was Auburn's fifth straight verdict over the Seminoles in the past three seasons. The teams will have a return match in Columbus, Ga., on Jan. 17.

"We couldn't get back in the game in that second half because of our fouls," said Kennedy. "We were in trouble at the half because we didn't take advantage of our chances to run in the first half. We thought Charlie Long played a fine second half," Kennedy concluded.

Auburn enters the Birmingham Classic next week with 12 straight triumphs dating back to last season.

FSU will attempt to keep its home record unspoiled in a Monday night clash with Clemson in Tallahassee. The Seminoles enter as state rival Florida (1-3) next Wednesday.

FSU	G	F	P	T
Fedor	8-15	1-3	5	13
Swain	3-5	1-1	4	7
Nickerson	6-2	1-2	2	1
Cotton	7-5	4-1	3	3
Ashworth	4-9	2-2	7	18
Long	5-10	6-2	5	10
McGuire	2-4	2-2	4	6
Butts	0-2	1-3	4	1
Lane	0-2	1-3	0	1
Edney	0-0	0-0	0	0
TOTAL	22-53	13-22	31	57

AUBURN	G	F	P	T
Leahy	7-8	1-1	2	7
Fedor	5-7	9-10	3	19
Vanzon	7-11	6-8	2	20
Gilbert	2-5	1-2	4	5
Glover	1-5	17-21	4	19
Johns	0-1	0-1	3	0
Koss	0-1	7-3	3	4
Edney	0-0	0-0	0	0
TOTALS	3-39	36-46	20	74
Fla. State		21	34-57	
Virginia Tech		21	43-78	