

JACKSONVILLE—Well, you would have to say that the military future of this country must be in pretty good hands.

An Air Force Academy basketball team, in the first round of the Gator Bowl Tournament here Thursday night, gave Florida State a lesson in conditioning, in willingness, in discipline that it won't soon forget.

It was quite a bit smaller team than Florida State, but much tougher, smarter and faster.

The Falcons won by 78-53 and it was an accurate reflection of how badly FSU was beaten on this night.

Employing a shifting man-to-man defense against FSU's shuffle — an offense that the Falcons use themselves — the Air Academy forced the Seminoles into multiple mistakes.

When it was 30 - 18 at half-time a neutral coach, looking on, remarked: "Because the Air Force uses the shuffle itself, it is anticipating FSU's every move with its defense, and using its superior speed to advantage."

It was clearly one of FSU's worst nights "Every time we come into this place," said one member of the FSU party of Jacksonville's Coliseum. "We play like donkeys. We stink up the joint."

Before 5,300 people, too.

FSU will have another chance to show what it can do in this basketball show tonight in a 7:30 consolation game. FSU takes on Manhattan.

Florida stormed past the New York City quint 100 - 75 last night to gain the finals with Air Force tonight.

FSU led only twice against the Air Academy, now 4-2 for the season.

At the start the Seminoles were ahead 2-0 on Cal Huges'

fielder, and a bit later led 4-3 on Pete Roger's 2 - pointer.

Those were two of the six field goals FSU registered in all of the first half.

Scott Etnyre, who stands an even six feet and who had been averaging 3.8 points per game, pumped in 26 to spur the winners offensively. Johnny Judd, who goes just 5-8, had 13.

The Falcons bagged 29 of 53 field - goal tries, for 54.7 per cent. FSU, meanwhile, was hitting a mere 18 of 50 for 36 per cent. Both teams were efficient at the foul line, FSU potting 17 of 21, the Air Academy 20 of 24. FSU trailed in total rebounding 33 to 28.

Pete Gonzalez was the high-pointer for FSU with 11, Gary Schull got 10. Ken Leakey nine.

FSU had trouble passing the ball from one player to another, much less shooting.

A sticky defense gave the Tribe little early offensive opportunity. The Academy team appeared to be something of a cross between an Octopus and a Jackrabbit — all arms and bounce.

In the last half, the Air Force pulled away steadily, fattening its 12 - points halftime lead. With 10 minutes to play the Falcons were in front 55-30.

FSU rallied a bit and managed 23 points in those last 10 minutes, but the gambling tactics FSU was obliged to resort to also let the Airmen loose for some point - making.

Jerry Shirely, generally considered FSU's best player, didn't make a point until 9:17 remained in the game. In fact, he managed only two shots all evening, ended with two points.

Florida used superior height to good advantage against Manhattan. Sloan credited the biggest Gator, 6-foot - 11 Richard Peek, with the decisive performance though he played only 11 minutes and scored just seven points.

After the first half ended 39-36 for Florida, Peek started the second half and within four minutes the Gators had a 10-point lead they never relinquished.

Brooks Henderson and Dick Tomlinson led Florida with 24 points each. Mont Highley was close behind with 20 and Tom Baxley hit 14.

Coach Sloan said he won't know if Peek, troubled with a pulled leg muscle, will be able to play in the title game until the teams take the floor. It depends upon whether his leg swells as a result of his action against Manhattan.

Manhattan and FSU will play a consolation game.

FSU	fg	ft	reb	pf	tp
Rogers	4-1	1-0	1	3	2
Huge	2-2	1-1	4	3	5
Shirley	2-1	0-0	4	1	2
Gonzalez	11-4	4-3	3	4	11
Peacock	2-1	2-2	1	2	4
Schull	7-4	2-2	4	1	10
Ek	6-1	3-3	3	1	5
Phillips	0-0	3-2	1	1	2
Leakey	13-3	3-3	5	1	9
Wallace	3-1	2-1	2	2	3
Hinton	0-0	0-0	0	1	0
TOTALS	50-18	21-17	28	20	53

AIR FORCE	fg	ft	reb	pf	tp
Peshut	2-2	3-3	1	4	7
Porter	4-1	3-2	6	2	4
Head	7-4	2-1	8	1	9
Pavich	6-1	1-0	0	1	2
Judd	12-6	1-1	4	2	13
Yankee	3-1	0-0	0	0	2
Sullivan	8-4	2-2	4	3	10
Ethyre	10-8	8-8	8	2	26
Estes	1-1	2-2	1	1	4
Luckl	0-0	0-0	1	2	0
Andrade	0-0	2-1	0	0	1
TOTALS	53-29	24-20	33	18	78
FSU	18			35	53
AIR FORCE	30			48	78