

LEXINGTON, Va. — Inspired performances by forwards Bill Blair and Bob Watson sent Virginia Military Institute's basketball team into an early lead, and the Keydets stayed ahead for an 83-72 victory over Florida State Saturday night.

Florida State couldn't contain Blair, a thin 6-3 forward, who played his best game of the season. He bucketed 28 points and played a fine floor game at guard.

Another Keydet terror was the 6-8, 230-pound Watson, dead-ly all evening under the boards, where he yanked down 18 re-bounds. He was the No. 2 Key-det scorer, with 16.

Coach Weenie Miller had his Keydets at their best in a so-far losing season (4-6) in preparation for a big meeting Tuesday night with nationally ranked Davidson. Florida State, 4-7 now, plays Miami at Tallahassee next Saturday night.

VMI opened the game with a pressing zone-defense to thwart the Seminoles' shuffle, and held a 6-1 lead with 18:49 left in the half. Baskets by sophomores Gary Schull and Bill Peacock tied it at 7-7 two minutes later. The Keydets went ahead from there, never to trail or be tied again.

Biggest lead of the game was 43-33 with 1:13 left in the first half. It was 46-37 at the buzzer. Senior forward Pete Rogers and Schull, who had 20 points for the night, led the Seminoles in an early second half surge. A jump shot by Rogers with 15:08 left in the game brought the Tribe within striking distance (51-49) of the lead, but the Keydets put the steam on and led by at least 5-6 points during the remainder.

Florida State scored on 26 of 63 shots from the floor, a poor 41.3 per cent. VMI did little better — 30 of 74 for 44.6 per cent.

The Virginians trailed in rebounds, 52-49. FSU was led by Rogers, with 10.

FLORIDA STATE (72)					
	FG	FT	Reb.	PF	TP
Schull	8-14	4-4	6	2	20
Rogers	6-13	2-5	10	3	14
Huge	3-6	2-2	3	5	8
Leakey	0-2	1-2	2	0	1
Pracock	3-7	1-2	2	5	7
Shirley	2-5	4-5	5	4	8
Gonzalez	0-4	1-2	7	4	1
Ek	2-8	4-5	3	0	8
Lovell	2-4	1-2	4	0	5
Totals	26-63	20-29	52	23	72
Team rebounds—8					
VMU (83)					
	FG	FT	Reb.	PF	TP
Gausephol	1-3	4-4	5	4	6
Schmaus	7-16	2-5	9	3	16
Guy	1-2	2-4	4	2	4
Watson	6-14	4-7	18	5	16
Hartung	0-1	0-0		1	0
Blair	11-23	6-7	7	1	28
Kruszewski	4-11	5-5	3	4	13
Totals	30-74	23-32	49	20	83
Team rebounds—2					
FSU .....			37	35—72	
VMU .....			46	37—83	