OKLAHOMA CITY—Top-seeded DePaul University of Chicago staved off an early Florida State threat Monday night and won 52-44 in first round action of the 29th All-College Basketball Tournament.

Led by 6-6 forward Jerry Shirley, Florida State hit 12 of 28 shots and led for 15 minutes of the first half. The Seminoles biggest lead was six points, but DePaul rallied to tie the score 27-27 by halftime.

DePaul swept to a 12-p o in t s lead in the second half while FSU, suddenly cold, managed only one field goal in the first nine minutes after intermission.

The Seminoles moved into the losers bracket and meet Creighton University of Omaha, Neb., at 2 p. m. today. Creighton lost Monday to a strong Brigham Young 109 - 74 as the Provo, Utah, team set a tournament scoring record.

In the third of four first-round games, Xavier of Cincinnati defeated Louisian's State 93-87 behind 32 points accred by All-American guard Steve Thomas. LSU's Dick Maile took scoring honors, however, with 38 points.

In the fourth game, hometown favorite Oklahoma City University, 8-1 for the year, met winless Rice. Oklahoma City won 93-63.

FSU, 5-5, can finish no better than fifth by winning the fournament's consolation bracket. The Seminoles gave the fans here a rare look at their disciplined style play, and held high scoring Jesse Nash of De Paul to 10 points.

Gene Murphy led the Blue Demons with 14 points, while Gary Schull had 12 for Florida State. Shirley finished with eight points; same as Ron Malmen.

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