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Special to the Democrat

TAMPA — Trailing late by as much as eight points, Florida State's basketball team rallied here last night only to lose to Auburn 59-58 in the final moments of the Tampa Holiday Tournament.

Led by another superb effort from 6-7 senior Gary Schull, the Seminoles forged in front 58-57 with 20 seconds left.

But Jimmy Montgomery put in two free throws to win it for the Plainsmen with 18 seconds to go.

Now 5-3 for the season, Florida State comes home for a brief Christmas rest, then renews action against this same unbeaten Auburn team in Pensacola on Monday night.

It was a close struggle the first half between the two tournament finalists, with FSU holding a 32-31 lead at intermission.

Behind most of the last half Florida State moved into a tie on Schull's 3-point shot with 2:23 to go.

With the score 57-57 and 1:22 remaining Schull fouled out. He led all scorers for the night with 24 points, and pulled down seven rebounds — a total matched by teammate Bill Peacock. It was an even game in the rebounding category with each team recovering 41.

After Schull's departure, Auburn missed at the free-throw line and Peacock grabbed the ball.

With 30 seconds to go Jim Lytle was fouled by Tom Fibbe. In a one-and-one situation, Lytle made the first, missed the second for a 58-57 FSU lead.

Auburn's Lee DeFore got

# FLORIDA STATE

	fg	ft	reb	ph	tp
Schull	7-12	18-18	7	3	14
Peacock	4-10	2-2	7	3	10
Danford	1-3	0-2	3	2	2
Lytle	2-11	4-4	3	2	8
Stewart	2-5	1-1	2	1	5
Phillips	0-2	1-1	3	2	1
Doyle	2-4	0-0	2	2	4
Murphy	2-4	0-0	1	1	4
Fairchild	0-1	0-1	1	1	0
Team			10		
TOTALS	20-52	18-24	41	18	58

# AUBURN

	fg	ft	reb	ph	tp
Montgomery	4-12	7-10	5	2	15
Millsap	4-12	1-1	9	3	9
DeFore	8-15	5-6	2	2	21
Burston	3-7	3-3	3	4	9
Quick	2-5	1-2	9	3	5
Howell	0-3	0-1	0	0	0
Fibbe	0-3	0-0	3	2	0
Faircloth	0-2	0-0	0	1	0
Team			10		
TOTALS	21-59	17-23	41	21	59
Florida State			22	22	53
Auburn			31	28	59

the rebound after the missed second shot. Charley Fairchild, who had come in for Schull, fouled Montgomery and he made the decisive two points with 18 seconds remaining.

With no timeouts left, FSU took the ball downcourt. Peacock's far - out shot rolled off the rim but Fairchild was fouled going for the rebound. It was 1-and-1 again, and Fairchild missed the shot that would have tied it. Auburn got the rebound, and that was it.

Montgomery finished with 15 points. DeFore, whose buckets in the last half kept Auburn rolling, packed in 21.

The Tigers are now 6-0. Auburn had survived the first-round of the tournament with a 76 - 75 victory over Columbia in overtime as FSU downed VMI, 62-61. Columbia came from behind in the last two minutes to take VMI 80-73 in a consolation game last night.

It was the 8th straight loss

for winless VMI, which has played most of 'em close.

Charlie Schmaus had 24 points for VMI, John Dema 23 for Columbia.

Peacock was second to Schull in FSU scoring, getting 10 points.

COLUMBIA			V M I			G	F	T
	G	F	T	Ayers		1	1-2	1
Dema	11	1-6	23	Hartung		5	1-2	11
Gan'm'er	3	4-5	10	Schmaus		10	4-5	24
Newmark	2	2-5	6	Kemper		5	0-1	10
Benot	4	3-4	11	Cooper		2	4-4	8
Hoffman	2	2-2	6	Porter		4	2-3	14
Harms	2	0-1	4	Gupton		0	0-1	0
Felsinger	0	2-2	20	Powers		0	1-2	1
Sorenke	0	0-1	0	Beach		1	0-0	2
Totals	33	4-27	80	Totals		30	13-18	73