

Special to The Democrat

LOS ANGELES — Florida State's fighting Seminoles battled the nationally-ranked Southern California Trojans right down to the wire only to bow 71-68 in a thriller at the Sports Arena in Los Angeles last night.

Southern Cal grabbed the lead for good with 7:40 left on the clock and quickly spurred to a 68-62 lead. The Seminoles weren't finished yet, however.

Big Dave Cowens (6-10) came back with a pair of free tosses to put the Seminoles within four. George Watson retaliated for the Trojans with a long jumper, but scrappy FSU guard Skip Young made it 70-66 with a 20-footer at the 4:00 mark.

The Trojans then went into a stall and held the ball for 1:30 before Young slipped in behind USC's Dennis Layton for a steal. Young fed big Willie Williams who couldn't find the handle and chased the ball into the crowd.

USC took up the freeze again, with Young drawing a foul with 1:55 remaining. Don Crenshaw missed the clutch free toss with Young spearing the rebound for the Seminoles.

The Seminoles swept down the court and after a mad scramble for the ball, Young came out of the melee and canned a 25-footer to put the Tallahasseeans within two with 1:00 left.

Don Riley missed a layup for the Trojans and Vernell Ellzy pulled down the vital rebound for FSU. A pass under the bucket to Cowens however went astray, and the Seminoles died with the turnover.

Crenshaw added a free throw with 12 seconds left on an intentional foul by Ellzy as the desperate Seminoles tried valiantly for possession.

Sparkplug Trojan, Dennis Layton, topped all scorers with 20 markers, while Watson tossed in 19 for the winners.

Cowens paced the FSU attack with 18 while Ellzy turned in his second brilliant performance in as many nights and contributed 17. Big Willie Williams garnered 14 and Ken Macklin added 10 as the Seminoles dropped their second of the season in 11 outings.

Next for FSU is the University of Arizona Monday night as the Seminoles conclude their long road trip to the west.

# FLORIDA STATE

	FG	FT	RB	AST	PF	TP
Macklin	3-6	4-4	3	2	3	10
Young	4-14	0-2	1	4	3	8
Cowens	6-14	6-7	19	1	3	18
Harris	0-1	0-1	3	0	0	0
Williams	7-8	0-3	9	0	2	14
Cable	0-0	2-2	0	0	0	2
Gies	1-2	0-1	1	0	2	2
Ellzy	6-11	2-3	8	1	3	14
TEAM			3			
Totals	27-56	14-23	44	8	16	68

# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

	FG	FT	RB	AST	PF	TP
Padgett	2-8	2-2	3	6	1	6
Layton	8-20	4-4	4	2	2	20
Riley	3-8	3-3	5	1	4	9
Watson	9-18	3-6	9	0	4	21
Crenshaw	5-10	5-10	3	2	3	15
Westphal	0-3	0-0	1	0	0	0
Cobb	0-0	0-0	1	0	0	0
Scharobilgen	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
Taylor	0-1	0-0	3	1	1	0
TEAM			4			
Totals	27-68	17-25	29	12	15	71

Florida State	35-33—68
Southern Cal	39-32—71