

PORTLAND, Ore. — Florida State, following a heart-stopping 73-72 win over defending tournament champion Oregon State, will meet dark horse Washington State tonight to decide the champion of the Far West Classic.

The Seminoles used the clutch play of Ron King and Lawrence McCray to down the tenacious Beavers, then watched as the surprising Cougars tamed New Mexico's Lobos 60-51 to gain the berth against them.

Washington State upset Michigan Tuesday to gain the semifinals spot opposite New Mexico which had downed Oregon in its first game.

The Seminoles meanwhile have bounced the two pre-tournament favorites Washington and Oregon State.

The game will not get under way until about midnight eastern time, but will be carried by radio station WTNT.

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THE SEMINOLES played almost a carbon copy of their tournament opener against Washington when they won 85-77. The difference in this one, however, was that OSU took the lead with 6:50 left and with 3:30 remaining was on top by three.

The Tribe refused to crack, though, and Otis Cole cut the lead to one with a jumper, then King put the Seminoles back in front with a shot from the top of the key with three minutes remaining.

Oregon State worked for an opening.

Oregon State worked for an opening, found a shot, but McCray stepped in and knocked the ball out of bounds.

With two minutes left an errant Beaver shot came up in Seminole hands and Otto Petty led the tribe down court into a stall.

The Beavers let the clock run down to 0:30 before coming after the Seminoles with Ron Jones finally fouling Petty.

The Louisville junior stepped to the line but his shot was too long. McCray was again "man - of - the - hour" reaching across Neal Jurgenson and pulling the ball down.

Rick Reed then sent King to the line with 14 seconds left.

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THE TRIBE'S leading scorer sank both pressure-packed shots of the one-for-one before the 11,302 partisan fans.

Reed made it a one-point game with two seconds left, but the Seminoles never got the ball inbounds before the buzzer went off sealing the win.

The Seminoles opened the game with a blitz and threatened to make a runaway of things early, but Oregon State hung on gamely.

A jump shot by King and a layup by Rowland Garrett put the tribe up 4-0 in the opening minute.

Leading 14-9, the Seminoles broke loose for nine straight points to take a 23-9 lead with 12:50 left in the half.

With King and McCray bombing the Beaver zone to pieces, the lead grew until it reached 20 at 46-26 on a three-point play by Ron Harris.

The Beavers scored the final six points of the period and that actually proved to be the beginning of an outstanding comeback.

But at the half, it looked like the Seminoles all the way. The Tribe hit a blistering 61 per cent from the field and the defense had caused 10 OSU turnovers and forced the usually driving Beavers to shoot from outside.

The second half was a whole new game.

With Freddie Boyd leading the way offensively and a tenacious, pressing man-to-man defense keeping the Tribe off balance, Oregon State gradually cut the Seminole lead.

THE BEAVERS narrowed it

to six in the first two minutes, but a pair of field goals by Harris got it back to 10 for the Tribe.

Then Boyd and Sam Whitehead began chipping away. Coupled with cold shooting and several key turnovers by the Seminoles OSU closed to within two at 66-64 with 7:31 left.

Greg Samuel was guilty of charging as he tried to bring the ball down court and Whitehead took the opportunity to tie it up with a layup.

The Seminoles regained the lead momentarily when Harris sank a free throw. But Boyd and Whitehead hit back-to-back jumpers to give the favored Beavers their first lead of the night, and set the stage for the Seminole comeback.

King was again the Seminoles high scorer, getting 21 points, none so important as those last two free throws.

He was followed by McCray who turned in an 18-point performance and was credited with six rebounds. Also in double figures were Samuel with 11 and Harris with 10.

Boyd was the game's high scorer with 23, while Whitehead had 22.

The Seminoles won the game

The Seminoles won the rebounding battle against the stronger Beavers 34-33. The Tribe's shooting percentage dropped to an icy 35 in the second half and they finished the game at .492 compared with OSU's .500.

FLORIDA STATE						
	FG	FT	RB	Asst.	PF	TP
McCray	8-12	2-3	6	2	4	18
Garrett	2-4	1-1	2	0	3	5
Royals	1-6	2-4	4	3	4	4
Samuel	4-6	3-4	2	7	2	11
King	9-18	3-3	8	1	1	21
Harris	3-6	4-4	4	0	0	10
Petty	0-0	0-1	0	3	0	0
Gay	0-1	0-0	1	0	1	0
Amick	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0
Cole	2-5	0-0	2	0	1	5

TEAMS

TOTALS 29-59 15-20 34 16 17 73

OREGON STATE						
	FG	FT	RB	Asst.	PF	TP
Whitehead	9-14	4-7	5	1	1	22
Ericksen	3-6	3-5	3	0	5	9
Jurgenson	2-4	2-2	12	0	2	6
Boyd	10-20	3-3	4	9	1	23
Jones	3-7	2-3	1	8	4	8
Nickleberry	0-2	0-0	1	1	1	0
Reed	1-3	0-0	2	1	2	2
Cave	0-0	2-2	0	0	0	2

TEAMS

TOTALS 28-56 16-22 33 20 15 72

Fla. State 46 27— 73

Oregon St. 32 40— 72

OFFICIALS: Ernie Filiberti, Frank Buckiewicz.

Attendance: 11,301.