

# Durham Newest 100-Club Coach

## Tribe Whips Mercer 96-78 For 12th Win

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Democrat Sports Editor

If Hugh Durham picked up a few gray hairs before managing his 100th victory as Florida State's head basketball coach here last night, he at least shed one possible worry.

There's no chance his Seminoles will be going against strong Houston, in their next one Saturday night in Tully Gym, with any measure of overconfidence.

The 12th-ranked Seminoles had about as much as they could handle, and somewhat more than anyone had figured, in getting by spunky Mercer 96-78.

**THOUGH NEVER** behind, Florida State was never comfortably ahead until the last three minutes.

Oh, it looked as though they were comfortably ahead a few times, but the aggressive Bears kept coming, and were within six of the Seminoles, at 76-70, with seven minutes to play.

As Durham ran his record to 100-45 in 5½ seasons, the Seminoles extended theirs for this one to 12-2. Mercer, not a bad basketball team in its own league (and, at least last night, out of its league either), is 7-3 now.

Some shorter than the Seminoles, the Bears compensated much with liberal substitution and overall discipline — declining to be forced into as many mistakes as the Seminoles are accustomed to extracting from the opposition.

**THE VISITORS** matched Florida State shot for shot from the field — when they could get them off. Trouble was they couldn't get as many off. Florida State managed a 59-48 edge in rebounding.

Reggie Royals spurred Florida State with 23 points and 14 rebounds. Ron King, strong in the last half, threw in 22 points, little Greg Samuel 15, Rowland Garrett 12 and Lawrence McCray 11 for the Seminoles.

Mike Green, with 15 points, led Mercer's balanced effort.

The start was routine, with Florida State stepping out front 16-5.

Then the Seminoles suddenly found the route to the basket somewhat stickier, and went 4½ minutes without a field goal as the tenacious Georgians started whittling away.

On David Jones' 3-point play with 8:20 gone in the game Mercer pulled to within two at 18-16.

With Ron King cold from the field in those early minutes, the Seminoles substituted Otis Cole and started pressing. Two free throws by Ron Harris, another by Royals padded the lead to 21-16 before Royals broke the dry run on 2-pointers

by laying one up with 10:38 left in the half. Soon Royals tipped in a rebound for another two, pushing the score to 25-16.

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**WITH THE PRESS** on, Petty swiped an in-bounds pass and laid it up easily. Once again the Bears couldn't get the ball

across midcourt, and a turnover resulted in Cole hitting a jumper for 29-16.

One might have reckoned Mercer done in at that point. Not so.

The Bruins scrapped all over the court, rebounded well, remained disciplined. They

had gone 4½ minutes themselves without a field goal when they began another charge.

With six minutes left in the half Mercer trailed by four, at 30-26.

McCray put in four quick points and King a field goal that made it 36-26.

But then seven straight Mercer points narrowed it to 35-33 with three minutes left in the half.

Whereupon Royals got four points. Petty and King two apiece to extend the Seminoles' margin to 44-33 with a bit over a minute remaining.

Two baskets by Jones in the final minute enabled Mercer to stay with 46-37 range at intermission.

With King cutting loose for six early points after intermission the Seminoles pushed in front 53-40.

MERCER	FG	FT	REB	A	PF	TP
Scott	1-10	3-3	3	0	1	5
Gordy	2-9	2-3	5	0	3	6
Smith	3-10	2-3	7	2	3	8
Hardin	6-10	0-0	4	2	2	12
Brabham	1-3	0-0	6	0	4	2
Creech	3-5	0-0	0	3	4	6
Jones	5-8	1-4	7	0	1	11
Kinman	0-1	2-3	4	0	2	2
Dixon	0-1	2-2	0	1	0	2
Bailey	1-1	1-2	3	0	1	3
Falls	3-5	0-1	1	1	1	6
Green	6-7	3-4	2	0	0	15
Team			6			
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>31-70</b>	<b>16-25</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>78</b>
FLA. ST.	FG	FT	REB	A	PF	TP
Samuel	4-8	7-9	4	5	2	15
Garrett	6-16	0-0	10	2	4	12
Royals	9-19	5-8	14	22	2	23
King	10-20	2-3	8	1	3	22
McCray	4-9	3-3	9	0	3	11
Harris	1-4	2-3	6	1	0	4
Cole	1-4	0-0	1	0	4	2
Petty	1-4	2-4	1	4	0	4
Gay	1-2	1-2	1	0	0	3
Team			5			
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>37-86</b>	<b>22-32</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>96</b>
Mercer				37	41	78
Florida State				46	50	96

**ABOUT THIS TIME** Coach Dwayne Morrison started substituting by full units, and successfully so, leaving one in about five minutes before switching to a rested one.

Mercer rallied and trailed just 61-43 after 6½ minutes of that last half.

With King again running up six points in a hurry, the Seminoles pushed ahead by their biggest margin, 75-55.

Leonard Hardin was one of the sparks of a Mercer surge that narrowed it to 76-70 with about seven minutes remaining. But the Bruins were never closer in the late going.

With the score 80-72, King, McCray and Samuel hit 2-pointers. Samuel followed with a pair of free throws in a one-and-one situation, and Royals popped in a rebound for 90-72 with approximately three minutes left.

That did it.