

SEATTLE, Wash. — Curtis Genders, Florida State's All-America diving whiz from Sarasota, capped a brilliant career by winning the national collegiate low-board diving championship here last night.



Curt Genders

Before a packed house at the University of Washington pool, Genders bested seven of the nation's finest divers in the one-meter finals of the 38th NCAA championships.

Leading through the preliminary and semifinal competition, Genders went through a near-flawless performance in last night's final round of dives. He succeeds Ohio State's Sam Hall, the 1960 champion, and broke a three-year reign on the one-meter crown by Ohio State divers.

Genders, who plans to enter law school after graduation from FSU this semester, is the first Southern diver to win the low-board title since Skippy Browning of Texas won it in 1952.

Genders will compete for the high-board (three-meter) crown today.

Two other Seminole stars saw action. Senior All-America Buck Hiles finished 10th in the 200-yard butterfly finals with a school-record time of 2:07.3.

Tallahasseean Paul Thompson placed 13th in the 220-yard freestyle finals with a 2:05.8 time, a school record.

Hiles will compete in the 100 butterfly and Thompson in the 440-yard freestyle in the final day of competition today.

Thanks to senior Curtis Genders' national championship in one-meter diving, Florida State's three-man delegation to the 38th NCAA swimming championships finished 11th among 56 schools competing at Seattle, Wash., last week.

It was the strongest showing ever in NCAA competition for Coach Bim Stults' Seminoles, who finished 19th in 1951 and 17th in both 1954 and 1959. Michigan won its fourth NCAA crown in the last five years.

Genders pulled out a stunning victory in the low-board finals at the University of Washington pool last Friday. He finished sixth in 3-meter (high board) finals on Saturday night.

Genders and Stults, elected president of the College Swimming Coaches Asn. of America last week, are en route to New Haven, Conn., where Genders will compete in the national AAU diving championships beginning Friday.

Senior Buck Hiles and Junior

Paul Thompson, who made strong showings at Seattle, returned to Tallahassee late last night.

Hiles, a 1959 All-America in the 440-yard freestyle, probably will make All-America this year on the basis of his sixth-place finish in the 100-yard butterfly finish Saturday. He turned in a school-record clocking of :54.3 in that event.

Earlier, Hiles had finished 8th in the 200-yard individual medley (2:07.6) and 10th in the 200-yard butterfly (2:07.3). Both times were school records.

Thompson placed 10th in the 200 individual medley (2:09.0) and was 13th in both the 220 and 440-freestyle finals. Thompson's 2:05.8 time in the 220 freestyle establisher a Seminole record.