Florida State's smooth-working tennis team won all but one singles match to hand Howard College of Birmingham its first setback, 8-1, here yesterday.

Coach Keith Pitchford's Seminoles were in command all the way in registering their fourth victory in five starts. Russ Rollinger made his debut after an operation and teamed with No. I singles player Lex Hester for one FSU doubles victory.

State hosts Indiana, Florida, Mississippi State, and LSU in other matches here this week. The Seminoles need only one more triumph to match last season's 5-11 season record.

· Yesterday's summary:

Lex Hester, FSU, defeated Don Mc-Dougal, 6-1, 6-4; Jim Berry, FSU, defeated Carlton Cook, 9-7, 8-4; Frank Bryan, FSU, defeated Max Gartman, 6-4, 6-2; Jim Maddock, FSU, defeated Walter Attaway, 6-2, 6-3; Don Evans, Howard, defeated Jackie Crew, 10-8, 2-6, 6-3; Howard Levy, FSU, defeated Gene Jones, 6-3, 6-2.

Bryan-Maddock defeated Cook-Gartman, 6-1, 6-1; Berry-Crew defeated Attaway-McDougal, 7-5, 6-4; Hester-Russ Rollinger defeated Jones-Evans, 6-1, 6-2.