

Florida State's tennis team, losers for the first time Friday to powerful Mississippi State, meet Georgia Tech at 10 and Navy at 2 today at the FSU courts adjacent to Tully Gym.

Georgia Tech has two Junior Davis Cuppers in Floridians Walter Johnson and Paul Speicher, and Navy's assistant coach is Paul Scarpa, the 1962 Eastern Collegiate champion as an FSU senior and coach last year.

Mississippi State and Navy play in the morning, at 10 at the hard courts behind Montgomery Gym.

The Maroons, 9-1 with only a defeat to the University of Miami two weeks ago to their discredit, handed Florida State its first official loss of the season Friday, 7-2 in a drizzle of rain. (Miss. State defeated the Seminoles by the same score back in January, but Coach Lex Wood and members of the freshman team played in the match.)

The victory was not as decisive as the score indicated.

"For one brief moment," Wood, the 27-year-old South African coach explained, "We had a taste of victory. But the rain washed it away."

The situation was this:

Bob Brien, third-ranked in the South, and Graham Primrose,

last year's SEC singles champ, easily defeated Florida State's Paul de Zeeuw and Paul Bennett in singles action. Brien and Primrose are Australians.

Then State's Rob Dean whipped FSU's Steve Burt in two sets to put the Maroons ahead, 3-0. But the Seminoles' gritty, 5-9 Terry Poore fought State's Venezuelan national champion, Orlando Bracamonte, and won 12-10, 6-2. FSU's Steve Guse's victory over Mark Cameron made it 3-2 with Stew Bruner of the Seminoles still to play Chilean Tito Echiburru.

Bruner and Echiburru split sets and Echiburru, under Bruner's relentless attack, developed cramps. As the third set began, the rains came. Echiburru recovered, and, returning to the match, won the final set.

State swept the doubles and the match. Brien and Primrose overwhelmed de Zeeuw and Guse 6-2, 6-3. State is now 9-1, FSU 6-1.