

Big Year For FSU's Tennis Team

Florida State's tennis team completed its 11th consecutive winning season with a 19-3 record. The 19th victory, a satisfying 8-1 trouncing of Georgia Tech here last week, established a school mark for most victories in a season.

After his fourth year as coach, Lex Wood owns a record of 66-28. The team percentage has steadily improved with Wood's tenure: 1965 (15-9), 1966 (16-9), 1967 (16-7), 1968 (19-3).

Wood's team accomplished the current record despite losing its best two players to graduation. Paul DeZeeuw, ace of the squad during the 1965-67 period, and Stu Bruner departed, leaving two juniors, three sophomores, and one freshman in the starting lineup.

One of the juniors was David Danielson, a quick strategist who compiled a 17-4 personal singles record. He was joined by others of considerable experience — junior Bob Marcher, and sophomores Herb Rapp, Scott Bristol, and Al Procopio.

A most welcome addition to the lineup was John DeZeeuw, Paul's younger brother. A freshman, he broke into the starting lineup with relative ease.

Bristol, DeZeeuw, and Rapp were FSU's most consistent winners in singles play over the entire season. Bristol, who had been used sparingly in singles last season, proved his mettle early versus Florida by taking a 6-4, 3-6, 8-6 victory, and then proceeded to compile a 21-1 season mark.

Bristol relied heavily on ground stroke consistency and a flat, accurate forehand volley. Dubbed "the machine" by his teammates, the

sophomore drew errors from more powerful players and defeated pushball styles by attacking the net with steadiness. Late in the season, he advanced to the fourth position from his regular No. 6 slot, and hammered Rollins' tough Jim Griffith 7-5, 6-1, thus assuring his continued presence at No. 4.

DeZeeuw, carrying many of the same weapons in his net arsenal that earned respect for his brother Paul, executed the serve-and-volley assault with all the power of a future No. 1 player. DeZeeuw dropped his early-season singles contest with Florida, but did not lose another singles point in 20 matches thereafter. He upended such notables foes as Miami's Sven Gnanan, Rollins' Cliff Montgomery, and Georgia Tech's Larry Turville during the year.

Rapp, winner of the Clearwater Invitational Tournament as a freshman last season, rolled up a 19-3 singles mark that matched the team record. Competing at the No. 2 position, he used a deft volleying touch to score wins

over Mississippi State's Rob Cadwalder, Rollins' Ron Van Gelder, and Tech's Bob Speicher.

FSU's season began on a disappointing note when the Tribe traveled to Gainesville and yielded a 7-2 decision to the Gators. Subsequently, Florida ran up a string of 40 consecutive dual-match victories, and the loss at U of F did not seem so discouraging in that light.

Following the Gator encounter, Wood's warriors recorded four easy victories, but then met Mississippi State at Starkville. The Maroons, fourth-ranked among all NCAA squads last season, captured a 7-2 victory despite Rapp's win over Cadwalder and a doubles

score by DeZeeuw and Marcher.

FSU rebounded from the MSU defeat to snare wins over Michigan State, the Big Ten champion, and Oklahoma, the title-holder of the Big Eight. Dave Danielson, No. 1 Seminole strokemaker, reached a peak of form in downing State's Chuck Brinard 6-3, 6-2 and Oklahoma's tough Jerry Perry 7-5, 3-6, 8-6.

The twin victories propelled FSU to a streak which numbered 10 straight. Following the Oklahoma win, the Tribe downed six of eight opponents by a 9-0 whitewash, to run the years mark to 14-2.

A trip to Miami ended the Florida State siege, as the Hurricanes forged a 7-2

triumph. DeZeeuw and Bristol were victors in singles play, but the Miami squad took all three doubles matches to insure the victory. UM later became the squad that snapped Florida's string at 40, by defeating the Gators to the same 7-2 tune that had stopped FSU.

The Seminole closed the season in a rush by sweeping five more dual contests, including last-minute 5-4 victories over Rollins and Georgia Tech, the latter being played in Atlanta previous to the 8-1 rout at home.

Early season victims included Columbia, Auburn, Alabama, Virginia, and Kalamazoo. All of these foes fell by a 9-0 count.