

In his hip pocket, Florida State track coach Mike Long has two airplane tickets to Detroit, Mich., scene of the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships next month.

Getting those plane tickets was the first thing Long did upon returning from the Coliseum Relays in Montgomery, Ala., where the Seminoles won the Independent Division championship with 33 points last weekend.

The tickets will be used by Long and broad jumper Sid Gainey, whose leap of 24'5" set a new FSU meet and Montgomery Coliseum record, and resulted in Gainey being chosen as the meet's outstanding performer in the independent category.

Gainey, a junior from Cairo, now has three major relay victories to his credit, and the indoor season is just reaching its peak. His Montgomery jump bettered his FSU and Florida Relays record by four inches. Gainey also won the Orange Bowl and Senior Bowl meets this year.

"There may be a better collegiate jumper at this stage of the season," says Long, "But if there is, I have not heard of him."

Sprinter Ken White and Florida State's two-mile relay team were other Montgomery winners. White cruised the

60 yard-dash in 6.4 seconds, and the team of Bob Hohndel, Bill Nelson, Ross Winter and John Brogle set a new school and meet record with a time of 8:01.3.

Winter also finished second in the 1000 yard run. Other Seminole point winners were Charley Vickers, third in the 60 yard high hurdles; Bud Manning and Rett Hensley, who tied for second in the high jump; David Braggins and Tom Gardner, second and third in the shot put; and Jack Flandreau, third in the pole vault.

The FSU mile relay team of Steve Landis, Wayne Currie, Curt Long and Bill Campbell finished fourth.

Next big meet for the Seminoles is the Jesuit Invitational in Tampa, on Feb. 26. A new meet this year, the Jesuit is designed as a state championship event. Florida State, Florida, Miami and Florida A&M will all participate.

"The Montgomery victory was very satisfying for us," Long says. "However, it pointed up the need for more work in several areas before we tackle the field at Tampa."

The Seminoles were originally scheduled to appear in the Southeastern Indoor Championships in Chattanooga, Tenn. this weekend, but may pass up the meet in order to prepare for the Jesuit.