

FSU wins last two events to grab Metro track title

By TOM COAT

Democrat executive sports editor

Pre-meet favorite Florida State needed sweeps from its relay teams in the last two events Saturday to win the first Metro Conference Indoor Track Championship at Lexington, Va.

The Seminoles, locked in a three-way fight with Memphis State and host Virginia Tech, took the lead for the first time in the meet when its 1,600-meter relay team won. FSU assured itself of the title with a victory

in the distance medley relay — the last event of the day.

The victories swept FSU to a total of 165 points. Memphis State had 159. Virginia Tech had 155½. The rest of the conference schools were far behind.

"We did what we had to do," FSU Track Coach Dick Roberts said.

"You're darn right it was closer than I thought it would be," Roberts added when asked. "The other teams were surprisingly strong. I was impressed."

In a way, Roberts said, the closer-

than-expected meet was a good thing.

"I'm glad to see it. It will add to the interest in outdoor track in the Metro when people see we had to dig to win."

Florida State's 1,600-meter team of Palmer Simmons, Eddie Williams, Ron Nelson and Walter McCoy was running without injured All-American Mike Roberson, but responded when it had to, Roberts said.

Simmons and Nelson also took first

and second in the 400 meters. McCoy, the defending indoor 600-yard champion, won the 500 meters in 1:04.5, with Williams 4th in 1:07.7.

In the distance relay, freshman Robb Gomez, nipped at the wire in the 1,000 meters, came back to run the 1,200-meter third leg fast enough to break the event open. Tom Herron, John Citron and Cliff Cook were the other members of the team.

"Robb learned a lesson in the 1,000, and I think he was upset and wanted to come back. He really ran

super, about a 3:04 for the three laps," Roberts said.

In the 1,000, Gomez had an apparent victory when he took a big lead in the backstretch. But Memphis State's Geoff Cooper, named the meet's most valuable performer after he also won the 1,500 in 3:49.3, came back in the stretch to outlean Gomez at the finish. Both were timed in 2:30.2.

Florida State won eight titles, including the two relay victories. Other winners for FSU were:

- ✓ McCoy in the 500.
- ✓ Simmons in the 400 in :50.1.

✓ Ken Lanier in the shot put with a toss of 55-7½. Brad Cooper was second.

✓ Joe Moss in the long jump at 23-2.

✓ Tallahassee's Hilmar Skagefield with a 15-6 pole vault.

✓ And Leon High graduate's Herb Wills, who ran a 14:42.2 in the 5,000 meters. Fellow freshman Larry Greene was third in 14:47.3, being nipped at the wire by 1977 Metro Conference cross country champion Bernie Weber of Cincinnati.

TRACK MEETS

Metro Conference

LEXINGTON, Va. (AP) — Summaries of Saturday's final events in the Metro Conference indoor track meet in the Virginia Military Institute field house (running events in meters):

36-pound weight — 1, Dan O'Connor, VPI, 51.4. 2, Paul Sulik, VPI, 3, Ron Wyhoven, Memphis State, 4, Dave Steranko, VPI, 5, Chris Brevig, VPI, 6, Brad Cooper, FSU.

Shot put — 1, Ken Lanier, FSU, 55-7½. 2, Brad Cooper, FSU, 3, Dave Steranko, VPI, 4, Ron Wyhoven, Memphis State, 5, Ralph Woodring, Louisville, 6, Ray Nuredini, FSU.

Long jump — 1, Joe Moss, FSU, 22-2. 2, Kelvin Fairfax, Memphis State, 3, Drew Gant, VPI, 4, Phil Green, Cincinnati, 5, John Dyer, VPI, 6, Irv White, VPI.

Pole vault — 1, Hilmar Skagfield, FSU, 15-6. 2, Bob Phillips, VPI, 3, Bob Lytle, VPI, 4, Dennis Nobles, FSU, 5, Tom Donnelly, VPI, 6, Al Stanley, FSU.

3200 relay — 1, Memphis State (Doug Miller, Mark Porter, Guy Dwelly, Chris Daffin), 7:29.2. 2, VPI, 3, FSU, 4, Louisville.

55 — 1, Dennis Scott, VPI, 6.1. 2, Terron Wright, Memphis State, 3, Ron Nelson, FSU, 4, Larry Fallon, VPI, 5, Keith Davidson, FSU, 6, Don Phillips, Memphis State.

1500 — 1, Geoff Cooper, Memphis State, 3:49.3. 2, Tony Blackwell, Memphis State, 3, Cliff Cook, FSU, 4, Steve Anders, Memphis State, 5, Ray Ackenborn, VPI, 6, Tom Herron, FSU.

500 — 1, Walter McCoy, FSU, 1:04.5. 2, Bruce Merritt, VPI, 3, Bob Sanford, Memphis State, 4, Eddie Williams, FSU, 5, Brian Sharp, Memphis State, 6, Herman English, St. Louis.

High jump — 1, Larry Jenkins, Memphis State, 6-10. 2, Steve Curry, Cincinnati, 3, Doug Hering, VPI, 4, tie, Brad Resse, FSU, and Hank Bradley, VPI, 6, Robert Haley, FSU.

400 — 1, Palmer Simmons, FSU, 50.1. 2, Ron Nelson, FSU, 3, Arthur Battle, Memphis State, 4, Henry Holland, Memphis State, 5, tie, David Zaiser, VPI, and Lester Washington, Louisville.

50 hurdles — 1, Kenny Lewis, VPI, 7.1. 2, Terron Wright, Memphis State, 3, James Triplett, Louisville, 4, John Citron, FSU, 5, Ed Friar, VPI, 6, Tom LaPaille, Louisville.

5000 — 1, Herb Wills, FSU, 14:42.2. 2, Bernie Weber, Cincinnati, 3, Larry Greene, FSU, 4, Ed Raposo, Memphis State, 5, Tom Mountain, VPI, 6, Robbie White, VPI.

Triple jump — 1, Kevin Fairfax, Memphis State, 50-8½. 2, Bethel Ward, Louisville, 3, Doug Bocknell, VPI, 4, Robert Davis, VPI, 5, Irv White, VPI, 6, Joe Moss, FSU.

2000 — 1, Tie, Steve Anders, Memphis State, and Tony Blackwell, Memphis State, 8:31.7. 3, Doug Overlett, FSU, 4, Tom Herron, FSU, 5, Gene Crane, VPI, 6, Pat Henner, VPI.

1000 — 1, Geoff Cooper, Memphis State, 2:30.2. 2, Robb Gomez, FSU, 3, Chris Gilbert, Cincinnati, 4, Tom Goode, VPI, 5, Paul Azke, FSU, 6, Larry Veech, Louisville.

800 — 1, Mike Burns, VPI, 1:54.3. 2, Nick Brooks, Memphis State, 3, Bill Lowry, Louisville, 4, Marcus Jackson, Cincinnati, 5, Bobby Shackelford, FSU, 6, Ed Slattery, St. Louis.

1600 relay — 1, FSU (Palmer Simmons, Eddie Williams, Ron Nelson, Walter McCoy), 3:20.2. 2, Memphis State, 3, VPI, 4, Cincinnati, 5, St. Louis, 6, Louisville.

Distance medley relay — 1, FSU (Tom Herron, John Citron, Robb Gomez, Cliff Cook), 10:13.4. 2, VPI, 3, Memphis State, 4, Louisville.

Team scores — Florida State 165, Memphis State 159, Virginia Tech 155½, Louisville 34½, Cincinnati 34, St. Louis 4.