

**Special to The Democrat**

**NORMAN, Okla.**—Florida State gained the finals of the NCAA Volleyball Tournament by defeating George Williams College of Chicago, 15-10, 9-15, 14-11 this morning.

The Seminoles of Coach Bill Odeneal were to meet the College of Medical Evangelism for the national championship this afternoon.

FSU needed two victories over the Glendale, Calif., team to take the title in the double-elimination tournament. The College of Medical Evangelism, which needed only one triumph today to grab the crown had dealt FSU its lone defeat in three engagements Wednesday by 15-10, 15-12.

In other Wednesday tests, FSU bounced Central (Okla.) College, 15-2, 15-6 and Oklahoma, 15-0, 15-2.

Ernie McCann and Phil Slaton sparkled for the Seminoles in first-day action.



# FSU Volleyballers Win NCAA Title

## Seminoles Pull Great Comeback; Place Three On All-Star Team

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NORAN, Okla.—Florida State's intercollegiate volleyballers staged a brilliant uphill campaign here yesterday to win the 1955 National Collegiate Athletic Association volleyball championship.

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Coach Bill Odeneal's Seminoles, entering the double-elimination finals with one defeat, had to sweep two straight matches from previously unbeaten College of Medical Evangelism, Los Angeles, for their first national volleyball crown.

It was the greatest comeback in the history of the NCAA meet and earned FSU its second national sports title in less than two weeks. State won the national AAU gymnastics championship at Rochester, N. Y., April 30.

### THRILL FINISH

The Seminoles pounded out a 14-12, 15-4 victory in its first showdown match with CME, then nailed down the crown with a thrilling 9-13, 11-6, 12-10 triumph, the third game going into overtime.

The California sextet had handed FSU its only defeat of the tourney in the second round by a 15-10, 15-12 score. CME held leads of 5-1 and 8-3 in the deciding game of the extra final, but the Seminoles clawed back to tie it at 10-10 just as regulations time elapsed.

FSU, which had finished fourth twice but never higher in the NCAA meet, gained the finals by defeating the University of Oklahoma twice, Central (Okla.) College, and George Williams College of Chicago.

### ALL-AMERICAN TRIO

Junior Phil Slaton of Eustis, FSU's captain, was named the outstanding player of the tourney as the Seminoles and CME each placed three men on the U. S. Volleyball Association's 1955 Collegiate All-American squad.

Slaton, Bernie McCann of West Palm Beach, and Wally Cox of Palmetto were named to the FSU eight collegiate volleyball All-Americans in seven years.

In winning six out of seven matches during the two-day tourney, FSU jumped its season record to a final 31-12 reading. The Seminoles also claimed the Florida AAU title at St. Petersburg in March.

#### **DANFORD NAMED**

As a sidelight to the national tournament, FSU Director of Athletics Howard Danford was elected to the executive committee of the U. S. Volleyball Association. A former standout player and coach, Danford has serv-

ed as a regional representative of USVA for some time and has written magazine articles on volleyball.

Ed Whittlesey, director of public relations at FSU, was named to head the USVA's public relations program for the coming year.