

FSU Wins Third Place in Tourney

By FRED F. PETTIGREW

Dixie Conference basketball coaches and fans can point today to Florida Southern College as the shining example of the distances a basketball team can travel on sheer determination and drive.

Lacking height and short on the finesse and sharpshooting tactics that the mighty Mercer Bears had displayed in the early rounds of the Dixie tournament here, the little Mocs simply outran and out-fought the highly-touted Bruins to register an upset 50-55 triumph over the top-seeded Macon, Ga. quintet in the finals last night.

In NAIB

The two finalists are scheduled to enter the National Association of Intercollegiate basketball tourney in Tampa along with Tampa University and the Georgia State Teachers college.

The Georgia team and Tampa qualified on their season records.

The winners of the NAIB district 25 playoff in Tampa will be eligible for the nationals in Kansas City, Mo. March 8-13.

The Southern victory, which wound up the three-day meet in the FSU gym, climaxed a stirring back-to-the-wall battle that the Mocs had staged since the outset of the elimination play.

Trailing against Howard, Florida State and Mercer in the second half of all three of their encounters, the Mocs won every game the hard way—pounding up from behind and winning in a drive down the stretch.

Pegg Again

For the third straight game Florida Southern's victory spark was set by little Rocky Pegg, stellar guard.

With the score 37-30 against the Mocs, and Mercer threatening to hit the heights expected of them, young Mr. Pegg grabbed his team by the bootstraps and pulled them back into the ball game with three difficult off-angle field goals that cut the Bears' margin to a single point.

After Southern clawed its way out in front 45-43, it was Pegg who continually broke up the Bruins' counter-attack by stealing the ball from their slick operators, and he contributed three late charity tosses that weighed heavily in the final total.

It was a great night for Coach Dick Morland's Florida five, and a sad one for Coach Jim Cowan's Bruins.

BRUINS.

Mercer Off

After waltzing to two easy victories over Millsaps and Mississippi College, the Bears were figured to get past the Mocs without too much trouble. In two regular season games in Macon and Lakeland they had scored decisive 70-53 and 85-66 triumphs over Southern. But it was a different story last night.

The Bears as a whole were far below the precise, sharpshooting aggregation they had been. Scoring star Glenn Wilkes piled up 14 points before halftime, but he lost his touch after the intermission, and the Bruins couldn't get going without their wheelhorse. Wilkes' sights were set just a shade low as most of his shots banged into the lip of the rim and rebounded into the waiting arms of one of Southern's little ball-hawks.

Glenn Cassell, ace Mercer guard, played a terrific floor game, but failed to ripple the cords with his old accuracy and had compiled only seven points when he fouled out late in the game.

The tempo of the game was set in the early stages of the tilt when the lead changed hands eight times in the first 5½ minutes.

MADE IN THE FIRST 37 MINUTES.

Hot Streak

Southern hit a hot streak with the score tied at 10-10, and rolled in eight quick points to take an 18-10 lead.

Mercer finally rebounded and slowly closed the gap, tying the score at 27-27 and then going out in front at the half 31-37 on two neat flips by Wilkes.

Big Lamar Clements fired three doubledeckers at the outset of the second half to put the Bears out in front 37-30, but that was the signal for Southern to hit the road.

Capt Gene Robbins, Chuck Terry, Bill Valentine, Joe Zovath and Lou Huffnagel all played great roles for the Mocs.

Indians Rally Wins

Florida State University caught fire in the second half to win third place in the tournament rankings by beating Mississippi College 72-63 in the consolation game.

Behind 33-26 at the half, the Seminoles tied the count at 42-42 and then went out in front to stay 48-46 on Dick Kendall's field goal.

Goal.

Fla State	fg	ft	tp	Misc	Col	fg	ft	tp
Kendall, f	10	1	2	1	2	1	2	4
Pence	1	3	4	1	3	3	3	9
McLendon, c	12	1	2	1	3	0	0	0
Dickson	0	1	1	1	3	0	3	17
Weikel, g	0	1	1	1	3	2	2	3
Nettles	1	0	2	1	3	4	2	11
Hewitt, g	0	2	2	1	3	5	4	14
Wyman	2	0	4					

Totals 38 3 22 Totals 20 13 66

Score at halftime: Miss Col 33-26

Referee: McLendon. Umpire: Sauters.

Scorer: Williamson. Timekeeper: Eibold.

Mercer	fg	ft	tp	Southern	fg	ft	tp
Wilkes, f	8	6	15	Terry, f	2	0	0
Reeder	2	0	4	Tolle	1	1	3
Webb, f	0	1	1	Robbins, f	6	1	12
Clements, g	6	2	10	Valentine, g	4	1	9
Wilson	2	0	4	Kumm	0	2	2
Dobbins, g	2	1	5	Zovath, g	3	0	4
Kincaid	1	0	2	O'Brien	0	0	0
Oswell, g	3	1	7	Huffnagel, g	1	0	2
Mivins	0	0	0	Pegg	7	1	20
				Woods	0	0	0