

FSU Moves Into NAIB After Bowing in Dixie Finals

MERCER COPS TITLE. 69-65

Clements 34 Points Sparks Bears to Win

(Special to The Democrat)

MACON, Ga.—Beaten by Mercer's Bears 69-65 in the finals of the Dixie Conference basketball tournament here last night, the Florida State University Seminoles move over to Jacksonville today for the district 25 NAIB tournament.

Drawing for the four-team tourney, whose winner lands a berth in Kansas City, was scheduled for this afternoon. Seminole cage Coach J K "Bud" Kennedy was representing FSU at the meet. His team was scheduled to leave Tallahassee at noon today and work out in Jacksonville tonight.

UPSET DOPE BUCKET

Mercer, fired up by the great 34-point performance of center Lamarr Clements and driving to win the Dixie title for Coach Jim Cowan who goes on active duty with the navy this summer, upset the dope bucket in handing the top-seeded Seminoles a bitter setback in last night's finals.

With an overflow crowd of 1,500 backing them to the limit the Bears, who were beaten twice by FSU during the regular season, broke a 62-62 deadlock with 3:16 of time remaining and went on to win.

It was this same Clements who finally put the Bruins ahead to stay when he caged a foul shot that gave Mercer a 63-62 edge after Ronnie Nettles double-decker had knotted the score for the Seminoles.

Two more free throws by the terrific Clements and a pair of field goals by guard Glenn Cassell kept Mercer moving and offset a trio of free throws dropped through by Bobby Hartman and Bob Whitmer in the closing minutes.

DEADLY HOOK SHOT

Clements, a unanimous choice for the All-Dixie loop team along with teammate Cassell, Hartman and Harold "Red" Parks of Howard, hit 11 times from the field and 12 times from the foul line in compiling his 34-point total. Most of his field goals came on a deadly hook shot that he managed to get away despite the close guarding that the Seminoles were trying to cloak him with.

Hartman, with eight field goals and five free tosses, was high for FSU with 21 points.

Whitmer had 12, Dick Trobaugh

FSU	fg	ft	tp	Mercer	fg	ft	tp
Whitmer,f	3	6	12	Reid,f	2	2	6
Scott,f	2	4	8	Reeder	0	0	0
Dickson	0	0	0	Wilson,f	2	0	4
Merriman	0	2	2	W Harris	0	0	0
McLaughlin,c	4	2	10	Clements,c	11	12	34
Hartman,g	8	5	21	Jewett	0	0	0
Nettles	0	1	1	Cassell,g	6	3	15
Trobaugh,g	5	1	11	Wilder,g	4	2	10
Fischer	0	0	0	Schwartz	0	0	0

Totals 22 21 65 Totals 25 19 69

Halftime score: Mercer 30-29.

Free throws missed: FSU—Whitmer 2, Scott, Hartman 2, Trobaugh 2, Mercer—Reid 3, Wilson, Clements 2, Cassell, Wilder 2.

11 and Tom McLaughlin 10 in the losing battle.

It was a rough and rugged finale with eight of the starting players on the two teams fouling out and a total of 51 personals being called during the battle.

FOUR FOUL OUT

The Seminoles lost four men via the foul route — Hartman, McLaughlin, Trobaugh and Bud Scott. Clements, Cassell and Wilson took the long walk for Mercer.

The longest lead either team fashioned was six points. Mercer three times held that margin at 20-14, 41-35 and 43-37. The Seminoles were never able to gain over a one-point margin throughout.

In addition to the four unanimous choices, the following players were named to the All-Dixie team: Whitmer, FSU; Dick Reid, Mercer; Fred Lapper and Bill Valentine, Florida Southern; and Phil Wallace and Bob Pruitt, Howard college.

Trophies to the championship Bears and runnerup Indians were presented by Major George B Connell, vice president of Mercer and president of the Dixie loop.

Connell also presented tiny basketballs to the 10 All-Conference selections.

BEARS START FAST

Clements got the Bears out in front when he dunked in a field goal on a rebound, and the Bruins stayed in the lead until McLaughlin tied the score at 23-all with four minutes remaining in the first half.

From that point the lead changed hands four times and was tied twice before Reid put Mercer ahead 30-29 at the intermission with a bucket in the last three seconds.

Whitmer's field goal put FSU ahead 31-30 as the second half opened, but Clements checked in with two charity tosses and the Bears stayed out in front until Whitmer knotted the count at 44-44.

The tilt see-sawed back and forth for the next eight minutes with the lead changing hands six times and being tied four times, but with most of the Seminole starters trooping to the sidelines on fouls, the stage was set for the finish that gave Mercer its first Dixie cage crown.