

By TOMMY SANDS

The Florida State University cagers, after leading for over three quarters, couldn't stave off a last period rally by Stetson, and dropped a hairraising 66-64 decision to the Hatters, here last night.

The Seminoles took a quick 6-0 lead on successive baskets by Jerry Westhafer, Ham Wernke and Tom MacLaughlin and it looked for awhile as if they were going to turn the tilt into a runaway.

At the end of the first stanza, the Indians were out in front 17-13 and at the halfway mark held a 35-29 margin. At the end of the third period they were still ahead 50-44.

The Hatters tied it up, 55-55 with six minutes left and from that point on it was nip and tuck to the final gun.

For FSU Jerry Westhafer sunk nine field goals and a single free throw to tie the Hatters' Jim Tavenier for scoring honors. Veteran Tom MacLaughlin was a close second with 18 markers while newcomer Ham Wernke added 11.

John Imgrund, smooth working Stetson forward was runner-up to Tavenier with 17 points.

Coach Bud Kennedy's charges were playing without the services of their captain and floor leader, Bob Whitmer who was nursing a bad ankle. The Indians were also hampered by the loss of center Duane Gordon, via the foul route before the end of the first half. Aggressive guards Ham Wernke and Lou Fischer also went out on personals.

Inability to hit from the free throw line actually cost the Seminoles the tilt. The Indians were able to make good on only 10 of 22 charity tosses while the visitors sunk 18 of the 25. Tavenier, one of the state's leading scorers, dropped in nine one pointers out of ten tries.

For the Seminoles, it was their 19th loss against four wins while Stetson racked up their 15th victory against only three defeats.

MacLaughlin's 18 points increased his season total to 274 and with the District 25 N.A.I.B. tourney still to go the tall veteran's chances of going over the 1000 mark for his four year career remained good.

FSU	fg	ft	tp	Stetson	fg	ft	tp
McLaughlin f	7	4	18	Peterson f	0	0	0
Westhafer f	9	1	19	Imgrund	7	3	17
Gordon c	2	0	4	Rein King f	6	0	12
Pence	1	1	3	Hansel c	4	1	9
Fischer g	4	1	9	Yonge	2	2	6
Burst	0	0	0	Taveniere g	5	9	19
Wernke g	4	3	11	Ross g	0	1	1
Quinn	0	0	0	Smith	0	2	2

Totals 59 10 64 Totals 34 18 65
Halfway score Florida State 35-29.