

Florida State's basketball Seminoles wrapped up their first success of the season here last night, a thrilling 72-70 decision over a flashy Mercer University crew.

Four free throws off the fingers of Ham Wernke and Jimmy Oler in the final two minutes provided the victory margin in the tight tussle.

The score was tied in the game 14 times, with the lead changing hands 18 times.

FSU held a one-point advantage at 17-16 after one period of play, and the Seminoles extended the margin to six points at 34-28 midway the second period. It was the biggest lead by either team in the contest.

TRIBE TRIALS

However, the Bears rallied to hit nine points in a row and take a 37-35 lead at halftime.

With a quarter to play, Mercer was out ahead, 57-56.

Time was fast running out and the count was knotted at 68-68 when Mercer's John Hughes fouled Wernke. The six-foot star hit both charity efforts and FSU was in command, 70-68.

Oler notched what proved to be the winning margin a minute later when the pressing Hughes again registered a foul. And he socked in both attempts to give FSU a 72-68 lead.

Bob Green fired a fielder for Mercer that brought the Bears within 72-70 range. The Bears got one shot at the basket after that, a desperation heave by Hughes as the gun sounded, but it was futile.

Wernke, who hit 32 points in last week's initial game against Mississippi State and gained All-

American honors while averaging better than 20 points last season, was a shade "off," collecting 16 points for the night.

OLER'S TOTAL

Oler hit nine from the foul-line and seven from the field to total 23 and gain scoring honors for the evening. Rick Benson hit 17 for the Seminoles.

Mercer's efforts were well divided, with Tommy Mixon racking 15 and Richard Reid 14. Both are 5-11 forwards.

The Tribe played without the services of Jerry Westhafer, second on Wernke in the scoring department last year. He is nursing a bad ankle.

Triumph over Mercer served to even FSU's series over the seasons with the Bears at seven

games apiece. The Seminoles took two of three from the Macon, Ga., team last year.

FSU is host to a strong Georgia Teachers College five here Friday night, plays Fort Jackson (S. C.) here Saturday.

In a preliminary last night, Brewton Parker Institute's quintet edged the FSU freshmen, 61-59.

Mercer 70	fg	ft	tp	FBU 72	fg	ft	tp
Mixon,f	7	1	15	Artnier,f	3	3	9
Schwartz,f	1	2	4	Gordon,f	2	8	4
Green,f	1	1	3	Dellahan,f	0	1	1
Jn.Hughes,f	2	4	8	Burst,f	1	8	2
Jewett,c	3	2	9	Wernke,g	6	4	16
Reld,g	6	2	14	Oler,g	7	9	23
Hofflich,g	1	3	5				
JmHughes,g	1	0	2				

Totals 26 18 70 Totals 26 20 72

Free throws missed: Artnier 4,
Henson 1, Wernke 3, Oler 4, Dellahan
1, Mixon 1, Schwartz 1, Jewett 2, Jn.
Hughes 1, Hofflich 5, Harris 3, Jm.
Hughes 2, Green 1.