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FSU, Florida Tie In Cross Country

This year's Florida State-Florida athletic rivalry opened with surprising 28-28 tie between the cross-country teams at Gainesville on Monday afternoon,

"It was one of the most

competitive and exciting races I've seen in my life," said Coach Mike Long, "I thought Florida had won the meet, and our runners were not happy with the outcome."

The four-mile race turned out to be a battle of seconds in which neither Florida nor the Seminoles could tell who was winning. Gene Cote, last year's national junior college champion, won for Florida in the time of 20:59.3.

In second was F.S.U.'s Bob Hohnadel, a senior who never ran college cross-country until this year. However when the Gators got third, it seemed that they would take the meet. But the Seminoles came in three straight—Tom Graham, Sid Merchant, and Bill Nelson.

FSU needed only that fifth man to finish 10th for the Seminoles to win the meet, but Florida men came in seventh to tenth places. "It was simply a race of seconds," added Long.

Tom Graham finished one second behind the Gators' Powcle for third place while Dick Carrico was a mere two seconds from tenth place.

In the freshmen meet, Florida's scholarship - ladened frosh defeated the Seminoles 23-36 despite strong performances by FSU's Marc Williamson and Bob Thomas, who took second and third.