

By BILL McGROTHA
Democrat Sports Editor

GAINESVILLE — Florida's aggressive, quite solid looking basketball team throttled Florida State 78-53 here Tuesday night in a season opener for both.

It wasn't as close as the score indicated.

The Gators applied a 1-3-1 zone defense and it turned Florida State's shuffle offense into a slow and stumbling dribble.

FSU hit a rather pathetic 30.6 per cent of its shots from the floor, 22 of 72. Florida, as loose as so many geese, popped in 39.1 per cent, on 25 of 64.

It seemed incredible, at game's end, that FSU had got-

ten off more shots than Florida. So often, in the early going, the Seminoles couldn't get open for a shot at all.

Florida's splendid guard combination of Tom Baxley and Brooks Henderson sparked the scoring. Baxley dropped in a game-high 22 points, Henderson 14. Monty Highly also had 14 for UF. Paul Morton, a sophomore, played a magnificent floor game and contributed nine points. Dick Tomlinson had nine, including six at the start, before FSU got on the board.

The Seminoles made more floor errors in this one than in any game in recent memory. Florida's sterling defensive work must be credited with much of it.

Florida controlled the boards, snaring 59 rebounds to FSU's 44. The Gators bagged 28 of 37 free-throw attempts as the Seminoles committed 23 fouls. FSU managed just 11-for-16 from the foul line.

Still, Florida's foul-line success was a far cry from the last meeting between the two. In that one Florida hits a school-record 44 of 48 foul shots. FSU had 11 more field goals in that one but lost 94-86.

FSU had 11-points contributions from Jerry Shirley and Bill Peacock. Pete Rogers got 10. Larry Bulger nine. Shirley's nine rebounds were high for the Seminoles. Highly had 12 for Florida, Richard Peek and Henderson 10 apiece.

An estimated turnout of 7,000 whooped it up and stayed for a finish that was pretty well cut out quite early in the evening.

FSU was behind 9-0 almost before it got a shot off.

Tomlinson hit two quick ones from the field. Peek added a free throw. Monty Highly put in a fielder, and Tomlinson dropped in his third.

Sophomore Ken Leakey finally broke the barrier for FSU with a 2-pointer. Three minutes and 45 seconds were gone.

Suddenly Shirley got his first two from the field, and the Seminoles added a pair of free throws to pull within 14-10. And that was as close as they got.

With the score 17-12, Florida cut loose for 15 straight points and a 32-12 lead. Highly started it with five in a row.

Along about there, with FSU's seventh foul, Florida started capitalizing on the one-and-one rule. Morton dropped in four straight from the foul line. Florida missed on only one foul shot as it racked 10 in the minutes before the half.

FSU got some scattered field goals after Florida's 15 - points tear. It was 43-21 at intermission.

Eight minutes after the half Florida had jumped ahead 59-30, with Baxley dropping 'em in with regularity.

Peacock's sharp marksmanship helped FSU stick in there pretty well. Florida's biggest lead was 31 points, at 67-36, 69-38 and 72-41.

Both sides substituted liberally and FSU was able to close the gap a bit.

In the freshmen preliminary, FSU got behind 12-1 at the start and never caught up. Never more than 12 points back, the Baby Seminoles were within 44-35 range at halftime.

The final score was 58-62, with FSU outscoring the Baby Gators 27-24 in the late going.

Ron Malmen, a 6-4 forward just out of the Air Force, pushed in 31 points for FSU, including 26 on field goals. Florida was led by Harry Winkler and Wally Murray, each with 17 points.

The Seminoles' next action—and only home game until Dec. 21 — comes Saturday night against Auburn, which was 13-4 last year and beat the Tribe 65-47 and 77-70.

After that comes a road swing against Alabama, Rice and TCU.

FSU	21	34-55
FLORIDA	43	35-73

FSU	fg	ft	reb	pf	tp
Rogers	12-4	3-2	7	5	10
Schull	5-1	1-1	4	3	3
Shirley	14-5	2-1	9	2	11
Gonzalez	2-0	0-0	1	0	0
Leakey	9-1	2-1	3	1	3
Ek	3-1	0-0	0	0	2
Huge	2-0	1-0	2	4	1
Wallace	1-1	0-0	0	2	2
Peacock	10-5	1-1	4	2	11
Bulger	13-3	3-3	2	3	9
Phillips	0-0	3-1	1	1	1
Gemming	1-1	0-0	1	0	2
Team			10		
Totals	72-22	16-11	34	23	55

FLORIDA	fg	ft	reb	pf	tp
Tomlinson	12-4	2-1	4	4	9
Peck	4-0	12-7	10	3	7
Highly	8-5	5-4	12	2	14
Baxley	20-9	4-4	3	2	22
Henderson	13-6	2-2	10	3	14
Morton	3-1	8-7	6	2	9
Koss	1-0	2-1	1	0	1
Moore	2-0	2-2	0	0	2
Somenese	1-0	0-0	0	0	0
Team			13		
Totals	64-25	37-28	46	16	78

FRESHMEN

FSU	35	27-52
Florida	44	24-58

FLA	fg	ft	tp	FLA	fg	ft	tp
Rogers	2	0	4	McElroy	0	1	1
Malmen	13	5	31	Winkler	8	1	17
Doyle	4	6	14	Ramsey	2	0	4
Bldwth	2	2	6	Mahoney	3	2	8
Murphy	1	0	2	Higley	5	1	11
Danford	2	1	5	Glaudel	2	0	4
Nelson	0	0	0	Murray	5	7	17
				Hoffman	3	0	6

Totals	24	14	62	Totals	28	12	58
--------	----	----	----	--------	----	----	----