

# Gators down FSU 68-65

## Missed free throws plague Seminoles

By Gerald Ensley

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Veni, vidi — but no vici for the hometown crowd.

A state-record crowd of 13,188 came to the Tallahassee-Leon County Civic Center on Friday. They saw a taut, tingling basketball game between two evenly matched teams. But, for the majority of the crowd, it was a disappointing outcome as the visiting Florida Gators conquered the Florida State Seminoles 68-65.

Florida is now 0-2. FSU is 1-1.

It was a heartbreaking turn of events for the Seminoles, who as recently as two seasons ago averaged fewer than 3,000 spectators per game and had hoped that Friday's game, the second in what is expected to be an annual matchup before the two school's annual football game, would help sell basketball in this area.

"The players had done such a good job of helping sell tickets for this game. And I'm disappointed for them," said FSU head coach Joe Williams. "A lot of little things went wrong for us. There were a lot of things we didn't take advantage of. It would be nice to have a game of this magnitude later in the season when both teams are ready."

At the end, the game hinged on the free-throw shooting of sophomore forward Joe Lawrence, who connected on six straight free throws in the final three minutes, including a pair with eight seconds to play for the final points of the game.

Following a basket, with 41 seconds to play, by FSU point guard Joe Farrar — who tied Florida's Darryl Gresham for game scoring honors with 18 points — FSU set out to foul a Florida player in hopes of getting the ball back. Unfortunately, the Seminoles dallied a big too long — and fouled the wrong man.

"We had a player picked out. I won't say who it was because we play Florida again. But we didn't foul him," said Williams. "It's early in the season. There's going to be mistakes. It (fouling Lawrence) was definitely not what we wanted."

It was what Florida wanted.

"We had the right guy at the line," said Florida head coach Norm Sloan. "When he went up there, all I could think was that every day, Joe Lawrence is the first guy on the floor. He comes to shoot. He stands there knocking down foul shot after foul shot with monotony."

"If we had to pick a guy to put at the line, it was him."

Things might have been different for FSU had Randy Allen been able to emulate Lawrence. Though the owner of a good jump shot, Allen, the team's worst free-throw shooter last season (.507 percentage), hit only one of six free throw attempts Friday. Worse, over the game's last nine minutes when neither team

ever led by more than two points, Allen missed the front end of two one-and-one situations and a free throw after a basket.

"I don't know what's wrong," said a disappointed Allen, who is now 1-of-10 from the foul line this season. "It wasn't the crowd. I just didn't hit them."

The game, of course, hinged on more than free-throw shooting. Of crucial importance to FSU was the manner in which Florida shut off 6-foot-11 center Al Gipson. Saddled with two fouls in the game's first two minutes, Gipson never got untracked. Double-teamed much of the night by Florida's trio of big men, 6-8 Eugene McDowell, 6-9 Randall Leath and 6-10 Francisco Leon, Gipson connected on only four of 16 shots from the field, and two of three foul shots, for a total of 10 points.

"They did a lot of sagging on me. I should have got the ball back out (to the other players)," said Gipson, who also had only three rebounds. "I didn't feel that much pressure. I did feel that my shot was off. When I would release the ball, it felt like it was coming off flat."

"I've going to have to expect games like that. When you're 6-11, and you play the middle, other teams are going to sag on you."

"The only thing I have to be

embarrassed about is not winning for all those people who came to see us."

"All week in practice, we keyed on stopping Gipson," said McDowell. "He's so tall and he never brings the ball down. So we knew we had to stick on him, keep his back to the basket. Keep the pressure on the whole game."

"Al's improved. He's a better player. We, especially Randall and Francisco, just did a good job on him."

FSU, with Farrar showing his mettle from the outset, opened the game with two quick baskets by Maurice Myrick — starting for an injured Dean Shaffer — for a 4-0 lead. Florida fought back, eventually tying the game at 8 apiece with 14:05 left in the half. With Shaffer, able to play in limited fashion despite a strained Achilles tendon, *coming on in relief and scoring five* of his eventual seven points, FSU moved to a four-point lead, 18-14, with 11:11 to go in the half.

But Florida, led by the outstanding guard play of Gresham and freshman Vernon Maxwell, tied the game, 18-18, with 9:41 to play, pulled away to as much as a 10-point lead and, on a Leon tip-in at the buzzer, led 36-31 at half.

The second half was back-and-forth, with neither team ever leading by more than five points, and that only by Florida twice.

With Gipson continually bottled up, and Gresham seeming to gain confidence with every shot, the teams were tied three times.

With 10:19 to play, FSU led by four points, on a basket and two free throws by Granville Arnold — the scrappy 6-6 forward who led all players with 13 rebounds. But baskets by Maxwell and Lawrence tied the game, and single free throws by Maxwell and McDowell put Florida up by one.

FSU tied the game once, and moved up by one point twice in the final five minutes. But four Lawrence free throws — sandwiched around Gipson's last basket — had Florida up by a point. A tip-in by Leath made it a three-point Gator lead. Farrar scored FSU's last basket and Lawrence polished off the Seminoles with his final two free throws.

#### Florida

	FG	FT	Rb	Asst	S	Min	TP
Leath	4-5	0-0	5	0	0	20	8
Lawrence	2-7	6-6	4	2	0	34	10
McDowell	3-4	1-2	8	2	1	37	7
Gresham	9-14	0-2	8	0	0	27	18
Moten	1-11	5-6	4	2	0	29	7
Mntgmry	0-1	0-0	0	2	1	11	0
Maxwell	5-12	4-6	2	0	0	19	14
Leon	2-6	0-0	8	1	0	13	4
McClary	0-0	0-0	1	0	0	2	0
Saso	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	2	0
Totals	26-61	16-22	45	9	2	200	68

#### Florida State

	FG	FT	Rb	Asst	S	Min	TP
Allen	8-13	1-6	10	0	1	40	17
Arnold	1-6	5-6	13	2	0	36	7
Gipson	4-16	2-3	3	1	1	35	10
Myrick	2-8	2-4	4	0	2	19	6
Farrar	9-13	0-1	0	5	0	34	18
Shaffer	3-4	1-1	4	4	4	36	7
Totals	27-60	11-21	34	12	8	200	65

Halftime score: Florida 36, Florida State 31; Total fouls: Florida 21, Florida State 18; Fouled Out: Florida — Leon, Florida State — None; Technicals: None; Attendance: 13,188.