Three-point play at buzzer downs FSU

By Gerald Ensley Democrat staff writer

CINCINNATI Ohio - Tormented by a Big Mac attack, the Florida State men's basketball team opened the new year with indigestion, as surprising Cincinnati upset the Seminoles 63-62 Wednesday night.

Though most of the damage was done by Cincinnati's pair of smoothshooting guards Derrick McMillan and Roger McClendon - who combined for 40 points - the poisonous morsel was served up by center Brian Helm, who scored the tying basket at the buzzer, then added the winning point on a free throw after time had expired.

Helm's tying basket followed a longrange miss by McMillan and Joe Stiffend's missed tip-in. Helm, who had scored only one point prior to his heroics, grabbed the second miss about three feet from the basket, leaped. turned and banked the ball in.

"I was nowhere near the man," said FSU's Maurice Myrick, who, nonetheless, was charged with the foul on Helm.

"If you're going to foul somebody in that situation, you have to make sure you really foul them, that they don't get the shot off," said FSU head coach Joe

Williams. "It seems we just didn't play

very smart right there.

After FSU had called two time-outs, in an attempt to rattle Helm, the juniorcollege transfer stepped to the line and caught nothing but net with his winning free throw.

"I just tried to listen to what coach (Tony Yates) told me," said Helm. "He said just do like I do in practice."

The free throw, however, was shot with textbook motion - a departure from Helm's normal style of putting the ball behind his head before shooting.

"I didn't put it behind my head?" asked Helm - a 58-percent free-throw shooter - with a laugh. "I guess I was in the Twilight Zone.'

The victory, in the first Metro Conference game for both teams, was Cincinnati's first after three losses, lifting the Bearcats to 7-4. FSU ended a five-

It was Cincinnati's first Metro win after 21 losses - since the Bearcats beat FSU 63-48 on Feb. 5, 1983.

game winning streak and is 6-2.

The victory capped a fine second half by Cincinnati, which had trailed 37-30 at halftime. Though FSU moved to a 39-30 lead on the first basket of the

See FSU, 2D

FSU

From 1D

second half, Cincinnati fought back to tie the game 42-40 with 13:59 to play.

From that point on, the game seesawed. Cincinnati led by two points twice before FSU pushed to a 60-56 lead with 5:12 to play. A driving basket by Troy Thompson, followed by McMillan's last basket of the night tied the game at 60 with 2:20 to play.

Each team traded missed shots before FSU got the ball back with 1:26 to play. Gipson missed a shot, and Randy Allen missed an attempted tip-in but Myrick saved the rebound, and FSU had second life with about 40 seconds to play. The Seminoles worked the ball around before Myrick spotted an opening, drove down the left side and banked in a basket with 22 seconds remaining.

Cincinnati then came down and worked the ball around briefly before McMillan began the final series of events.

"We took their (FSU's) inside game away from them in the second half," said Yates. "Derrick and Roger played fantastic the whole game. We finally had somebody who could hit those outside shots. And they had to because that's what Florida State was giving us."

The Seminoles started the game quickly, with guard Dean Shaffer connecting on two field goals and a pair of free throws to boost FSU to a 10-4 lead in the first three minutes.

It took nearly eight minutes for Cincinnati to lower that margin to three points — which was as close as the Bearcats came to the Seminoles in the first half. Spearheading the Cincinnati effort were guards McMillan and McClendon, who scored 10 and 11 points, respectively, in the first half.

But FSU, substituting freely — and leaving the 6-foot-11 Gipson on the bench for the final 10 minutes of the half — stepped up the tempo in the final minutes, pulling away to as much as an 11-point lead. Shaffer had nine points during the half.

But Cincinnati held FSU scoreless the final 2:33 of the half, with McMillan connecting from the top of the key and Stiffend tipping in a missed shot at the buzzer to bring the Bearcats to within seven points, 37-30, at halftime.

Florida State (62)

	FG	FT	Rb	Asst	S	Min	TP
Farrar	6-13	0-0	2	2	1	40	12
Myrick	5-9	0-1	3	2	5	39	10
Shaffer	3-6	3-4	3	1	2	23	9
Allen	3-12	2-3	6	0	0	38	- 8
Gipson	6-12	3-4	12	0	0	30	15
Fitchett	4-7	0-0	3	0	0	24	8
Speights	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	4	0
Carter	0-0	0-0	1	0	0	2	0
Totals	27-59	8-12	35	7	8	200	62

Cincinnati (63)

	FG	FT	Rb	Asst	5	Min	TP
McMillan	11-16	1-1	4	0	1	40	23
McClendon	8-16	1-2	6	1	2	39	17
Henry	0-5	0-0	2	0	0	16	0
Heim	2-6	2-3	11	0	2	37	6
Stiffend	5-14	1-2	8	2	1	40	11
Thompson	2-6	0-0	4	1	1	24	4
Glover	1-2	0-0	1	0	0	3	2
Kecman	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	1	0

Halftime score: Florida State 37, Cincinnati 30; Fouled out: none; Technical fouls: none; Total fouls: Florida St. — 15, Cincinnati — 15; Attendance: 4344.