

# Virginia Tech flattens FSU

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BLACKSBURG, Va. — Maybe it was wind currents that were swirling the snowflakes outside. Maybe it was the strain of travel. Maybe it was just those old post-fight blues.

Whatever it was, Florida State suffered it Monday night, connecting on only a frigid 37 percent of its field-goal attempts and losing 85-71 to Virginia Tech.

The loss, coming two days after a now nationally famous brawl between FSU and Louisville, was FSU's third in a row and fifth in its last six games. It was also FSU's third Metro Conference loss in as many games.

Virginia Tech, 2-0 in the Metro, is 11-3 overall, and has won all eight games it has played at home this season.

The Hokies' Dell Curry led all scorers with 28 points 18 in the first half. Teammate Keith Colbert added a career-high 21 points. FSU was led by Alton Gipson, who despite 8-of-25 shooting, scored 21 points and grabbed a career-high 15 rebounds.

Despite the 14-point margin of defeat, FSU could take comfort in the ageless cliché:

"This game was a lot closer than the score," supplied Virginia Tech head coach Charlie Moir. "For a team that has lost its last few games, Florida State played awful hard."

True enough. Though their shooting was colder than the proverbial well-digger's posterior, the

Seminoles were in the game until the final 31/2 minutes.

At that point, with 3:33 to play, the game was tied at 69. But as the Seminoles chilled, the Hokies heated up. Though the Hokies shot only 49 percent from the floor for the game, they outscored FSU 16-2 over those final three minutes. Similar to a 20-0 burst it threw on South Carolina on Saturday (in a 109-68 victory), Virginia Tech exploded with a 14-0 burst that ended with FSU's final points, on a basket by Dean Shaffer, with 10 seconds to go in the game.

"We shot very poorly," said FSU head coach Joe Williams. "I thought we played very aggressive defense. We went on the boards hard (outrebounding the Hokies 51-39) and had a lot of intensity."

"But the score was tied 69-69 and we didn't score. That's been one of our problems several times this season, not being able to score when we had to."

The game consisted of traded streaks.

Virginia Tech, a run-oriented team, burst out to a 24-14 lead with 11:06 to play in the first half before FSU rang off 10 straight points to tie the game with 7:54 left in the half.

After some back-and-forth, Virginia Tech popped off an 8-0 run and led 35-28 with 4:24 left in the half.

The Hokies eventually pushed their lead to 41-32 with 2:22 left in the half before FSU rang off six straight points to close to 41-38 at halftime.

See FSU 2D

Early in the second half, FSU tied the game 43-43 on a three-point play by Gipson. But Virginia Tech moved back to a seven-point lead on a couple of occasions. But back came FSU, led by the energetic play of Randy Allen. With 6:22 to play, FSU tied the game 61-61. Twice the Hokies led by four points before FSU tied the game at 69-69. Every Seminole, it seemed, missed shots down the stretch, and Virginia Tech responded with a couple of baskets and a pair of free throws by Bobby Beecher, four free throws by Curry, an alley-oop dunk by Colbert, and Beecher closed the show — after Shaffer's final basket — with a dunk at the buzzer.

#### Florida State (71)

	FG	FT	Rb	Asst	S	Min	TP
Allen	7-13	2-2	12	1	0	38	16
Myrick	4-12	2-2	9	0	3	32	10

Gipson	8-25	5-6	15	0	1	38	21
Shaffer	5-13	0-1	5	3	1	33	10
Farrar	3-11	2-2	2	1	0	30	8
Fitchett	2-4	0-0	5	0	0	19	4
Mabry	1-4	0-0	2	5	2	10	2
Totals	30-82	11-13	51	10	7	200	71

#### Virginia Tech (85)

	FG	FT	Rb	Asst	S	Min	TP
P. Young	3-8	5-7	8	3	0	40	11
Colbert	10-15	1-2	11	1	1	33	21
Beecher	4-7	4-4	4	4	2	22	12
Curry	12-23	4-4	7	3	4	39	28
A. Young	3-7	3-5	4	4	4	37	9
Brow	2-7	0-0	2	0	0	23	4
Lewis	0-1	0-0	0	1	0	4	0
Burgess	0-2	0-0	1	0	0	2	0
Totals	34-70	17-22	39	16	11	200	85

Halftime score: Va. Tech 41, FSU 38;  
 Fouled out: none; Technical fouls: none;  
 Total fouls: FSU — 16, Va. Tech — 18;  
 Attendance: 10,000.