

# FSU motor purrs along to victory

By Gerald Ensley  
Democrat staff writer

The Seminole engine is still revving.

Five days after breaking a nine-game losing streak with a victory over Tulane, the Florida State men's basketball team won its second game in a row Monday, beating Southern Mississippi 91-79 in the Tallahassee-Leon County Civic Center.

The victory, which avenged a 77-63 loss to Southern Miss in January, pushed FSU's record to 9-12 overall and 2-7 in the Metro Conference. FSU remains in last place in the conference, as Louisville moved its conference record to 3-6 Monday with a mildly surprising 70-65 victory over second-place Virginia Tech. Southern Miss, also 3-6 in the conference, is 7-16 overall.

The game was a strong continuation of the hustle and marksmanship that FSU displayed against Tulane, as the Seminoles shot 59 percent from the floor and broke the 90-point mark for only the fourth time this season. Only three times this season — in victories over Florida International, Furman and St. Joseph's — have the Seminoles made more than 59 percent of their field goal attempts.

"I think (beating Tulane last Wednesday) was a big reason we played so well tonight," said FSU head coach Joe Williams. "We've gotten back home, we've got our confidence back up.

"I always use the word intensity. So, I guess the way to say it is that the guys had a lot of spring in their legs tonight. The players looked like they really enjoyed playing tonight."

Leading the FSU charge was guard-forward Maurice Myrick, who scored a career-high 23 points, as he connected on seven of 10 field goal attempts and nine of 13 free throws. Center Al Gipson had 22 points and forward Randy Allen scored 16. Sparking FSU the entire game were guards Dean Shaffer and Joe Farrar. Shaffer passed out nine assists and had four steals. Farrar had four steals and two assists. Each scored 10 points.

Southern Miss was led in scoring by James Williams with 28 points and Kenny Siler with 16. For Siler, from Crestview, the total matched his career high — as he also scored 16 against FSU in the game earlier this season.

"No question that their guards (Myrick, who played part of the game at point guard, Shaffer and Farrar) did a tremendous job," said Southern Miss coach M.K. Turk. "Not just with their offensive firepower but with their defensive ball-hawking. I think the way they were stealing balls and forcing turnovers was a major factor in them getting an early lead and forcing us to play catchup the rest of the way."

FSU trailed for the first four minutes or so of the game, as Southern Miss hit its first three shots and jumped to a 6-2 lead. But Allen led the Seminoles back, scoring two baskets off rebounds and dunking an alley oop pass from Shaffer with 15:53 to go in the half to tie the score at 10-10.

A basket by Williams put Southern Miss back up 12-10. But FSU, with contributions from everybody, outscored Southern Miss 14-4 over the next six minutes, taking a 24-16 lead with 9:33 to go in the half.

Southern Miss got no closer than that eight-point margin in the first half, as FSU moved out to as much as a 16-point lead — sparked in the final six minutes of the half by reserve guard Tony Carter (two rebounds, a blocked shot and a steal) — before taking a 44-34 lead into the lockerroom.

FSU took control at the start of the second half, and with 16:51 to play led by 16 points again, 56-40. Then, Southern Miss responded with the first of its two second-half charges.

Running off seven straight points, the Golden Eagles cut the margin to nine points (56-47), then, after a free throw by Myrick, to eight points (57-49). FSU then rang off five straight points itself — the first three of which came on a behind-the-back, fast-break pass from Shaffer to Myrick, who put in a reverse layup and was fouled — to move to a 13-point lead (62-49).

Back came Southern Miss with six straight points — punctuated by a dunk by Williams — as the Golden Eagles closed to within seven points, 62-55, with 11:29 to play.

Southern Miss could get no closer, however, as Myrick, Gipson

and reserve forward Jerome Fitchett (10 points, six rebounds) asserted themselves down the stretch. After briefly cutting the FSU lead to eight points with 10:07 to play, the Golden Eagles drew no closer than 10 points the rest of the way.

"I think we've just gotten better," said Shaffer. "The Tulane game gave us what we needed to feel. We found out what we need to do to win."

Myrick said that it was a matter of emotion.

"We're playing with more intensity and enthusiasm now," said Myrick. "That's what we were missing earlier."

FSU's next game is Wednesday against Jacksonville, also in the civic center.

# So. Mississippi (79)

	FG	FT	Rb	Asst	S	Min	TP
M. Jeff	3-9	0-0	0	0	0	14	6
Williams	14-23	0-0	15	1	3	36	28
Keys	2-9	0-0	5	1	0	23	4
Fisher	4-6	1-2	2	4	0	34	9
Siler	7-11	2-4	8	2	1	40	16
Simmons	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	4	0
White	2-8	0-0	1	2	0	23	4
Hamilton	3-4	2-2	1	0	1	18	8
S. Jeff	2-2	0-0	1	0	0	8	4
<b>Totals</b>	<b>37-72</b>	<b>5-8</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>79</b>

# Florida State (91)

	FG	FT	Rb	Asst	S	Min	TP
Allen	7-12	2-2	8	0	4	39	16
Myrick	7-10	9-13	3	3	2	37	23
Gipson	9-15	4-5	3	0	2	37	22
Farrar	4-6	2-3	1	4	2	23	10
Shaffer	4-9	2-3	1	9	4	33	10
Fitchett	4-5	2-3	4	1	3	24	10
Mabry	0-0	0-0	0	0	1	1	0
Carter	0-0	0-0	2	1	0	6	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>35-59</b>	<b>21-29</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>91</b>

Halftime score: FSU 44 So. Miss. 34; Fouled out: Keys (So. Miss.); Technical fouls: none; Total fouls: So. Miss. — 23, FSU — 13; Attendance: 2216.