

## FSU beaten at the buzzer again

### Memphis State steals it 70-68

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MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Incredible. With eight seconds to play Saturday, the Florida State men's basketball team was in possession of the ball at its end of

the court. The score was tied 68-68 against Memphis State.

There appeared no way the Seminoles could lose unless the game went into overtime.

The game did not go into overtime. But the Seminoles lost 70-68, as Memphis State point guard Andre Turner stole an FSU inbounds pass, dribbled to the other end of the court and launched a 25-foot shot that swished through the net with one second to play.

It was the fourth game this season

that the Seminoles have lost in the final second. And it was the second game in a row that the Seminoles have lost to Memphis State in the Mid-South Coliseum on a last-second shot. Last season, in the semifinals of the Metro Conference tournament, Memphis State beat FSU 65-63 on a jump shot by senior guard Doom Haynes at the buzzer.

"This one hurts worse than all the rest of them," said FSU senior guard Dean Shaffer.

The loss ended a three-game winning

streak for FSU, dropping the last-place Seminoles to 2-8 in the Metro Conference and 10-13 overall. With four regular-season games remaining, FSU is one loss away from clinching its first losing season since 1982, and only its second losing season in the seven seasons Joe Williams has been head coach.

Memphis State, the nation's fifth-ranked team, moved its first-place conference record to 9-1 and its overall record to 19-2.

FSU forward Randy Allen, who was a lights-out 13 of 15 from the floor in the first half as he scored 27 points, led all scorers with a career-high 31 points.

The game ranked with the most exciting in FSU history, as Allen sparked FSU to a 15-point lead, 47-32, at halftime. FSU trailed only briefly, by two points, early in that half. It could do little wrong as it outrebounded (22-18) Memphis State and forced the Tigers into nine turnovers.

"I think we thought we could just come out and throw our hat in the ring. Instead, we got ourselves into quite a hole," said Memphis State coach Dana Kirk of the first half.

But Memphis State, which had trailed at halftime only four other times this season, began cooking in the second half, and battled back to tie the score 55-55 with 8:36 to play.

From that point on, with the pro-Memphis State crowd of 10,341 on its feet, the lead changed hands nine times before FSU's Maurice Myrick tied the game 68-68 with a free throw with 1:36 to play.

"We needed to win, not play well and lose," said Williams. "What we cannot allow to happen now is what happened when we lost all those games before (nine straight earlier in the season). We cannot sit around and pout. We've got four games left. We've got to go out and win those four."

"We lost today because of a silly little mistake. Memphis State is a great club and you can't make mistakes like that against a great club."

The "silly little mistake" occurred, of course, on the game's final play.

After a missed Memphis State shot had given FSU the ball back with 1:02 to play, FSU called a timeout. The Seminoles then worked the ball around before Keith Lee blocked a Joe Farrar shot, and Allen missed with a jumper off the loose ball. In the scramble for the rebound, Memphis State's Baskerville Holmes tied up two Seminoles with the ball, forcing a jump ball

that was awarded to FSU, on the alternate-possession rule, with 26 seconds to play. FSU threw the ball in bounds, worked 18 seconds off the clock and called timeout, seemingly assured of the game's final shot.

But with eight seconds to play, Shaffer attempted to throw the ball in to point guard Farrar, who was being covered by Turner. The silly mistake ensued.

"I faked down, then went back up. Turner stuck with me all the way," said Farrar.

Shaffer, however, bit on the fake and passed the ball inbound — where it bounced untouched for two seconds.

"I tried to stop but I had already let it (the pass) go," said Shaffer.

Turner scooped up the ball, eluded two FSU players as he dribbled to the other side of the court, then raced down the left side, pulled up from 25 feet and shot.

"I had my mind made up I was going to shoot," said Turner, who had a couple of teammates closer to the basket. "I felt very confident, especially since the score was tied (and a miss would send the game into overtime). There was no skepticism in my mind about shooting, and it felt good just as soon as I let it go."

His shot capped a second-half in which Turner scored 16 of his team-high 18 points.

"I'm not accustomed to shooting that much. The situation just presented itself and I took advantage of it," said point guard Turner, who made eight of 17 field goal attempts.

Turner scored 13 of those points in the first 12 minutes of the second half, as Memphis State outscored FSU 23-8. Memphis State closed the FSU lead despite the alternating absence of Memphis State big men Lee and William Bedford, who each garnered their fourth foul early in the second half.

"We played tentatively in the second half," admitted Williams. "We had said at halftime that we weren't going to play that way because that's what happened to us last year (in the loss to Memphis State in the conference tournament). We led at halftime last year, then we went into a delay game and it hurt us. We were determined not to do that this time."

And basically, the Seminoles didn't, as they ran their offense and attempted to score throughout the half. But Memphis State, aided by 11 second-half FSU turnovers, did a pretty good job of scoring itself. In addition to Turner, the Tigers got good second-half efforts out of forward Baskerville Holmes, who scored eight second-half points, and Lee. Although his foul problems limited Lee, a senior all-American, to only 24 minutes of playing time, Lee played the last 11 minutes of the game. His six second-half points all came at crucial times.

"We knew we could fight back, even though we've only been behind like that once before this season," said Lee, referring to a brief FSU lead of 16 points in the first minute of the second half. That matched a lead owned by Kansas last Saturday before it wound up beating Memphis State by four points. "Florida State always seems to play us well here in the Coliseum. It came down to who wanted it more. And we wanted it more than them."

A disheartened FSU disagreed.

"We played hard. We had them in the right position. We just let up in the end," said Allen.

FSU next plays Wednesday against Louisville.

"I've been saying that Florida State is like TNT: waiting to explode," said Kirk. "They played awful well today. They're going to be a contender in the (Metro Conference) tournament."

#### Florida State (68)

	FG	FT	Rb	Asst	S	Min	TP
Myrick	2-4	4-6	7	4	1	35	8
Allen	14-21	3-5	9	1	1	38	31
Gipson	5-19	4-5	9	0	0	40	14
Shaffer	4-4	0-0	2	7	4	38	8
Farrar	2-9	1-2	3	2	1	35	5
Fitchett	0-3	2-4	5	0	0	13	2
Carter	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>27-60</b>	<b>14-22</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>68</b>

#### Memphis State (70)

	FG	FT	Rb	Asst	S	Min	TP
Lee	6-12	4-5	5	0	0	24	16
Holmes	3-9	6-8	8	1	2	27	12
Bedford	5-11	0-1	7	1	1	27	10
Turner	8-17	2-4	3	7	4	40	18
Askew	0-3	2-2	3	4	1	35	2
Becton	4-9	2-2	9	2	2	32	10
Boyd	1-4	0-0	3	0	0	12	2
Bailey	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	3	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>27-66</b>	<b>16-22</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>70</b>

Halftime score: FSU 47, Mem. St. 32;

Fouled out: Bedford (Mem. St.); Technical fouls: none; Total fouls: FSU — 18, Mem. St. — 21; Attendance: 10,341.