

FSU's slow start enables Cardinals to swoop to win

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LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Blitzed early and often, the Florida State men's basketball team went down to an 83-72 defeat by Louisville on Wednesday.

The Seminoles, unable to generate any offense for the first 10 minutes of the game, trailed by 17 points at halftime.

A valiant second-half effort brought the Seminoles to within four points with 8:34 to play. But the Seminoles couldn't get the ball when they had a chance to cut the margin to two points, and could get no closer.

The loss, FSU's second in a row, left the Seminoles with a 10-14 record overall and a 2-9 record in the Metro Conference. The Seminoles, last in the Metro (behind 3-9 Southern Mississippi), have three regular-season games remaining, all against Metro opponents.

Louisville is 14-12 overall, and fifth in the Metro with a 5-6 record.

FSU forward Randy Allen led all scorers with 24 points. Manuel Forrest and Billy Thompson led Louisville with 20 points each.

FSU made only 44 percent of its shots from the floor — compared to Louisville's 51 percent, and was out-rebounded by a 47-33 count.

FSU was introduced to a chorus of boos, in recognition of the second-half fight between the two teams in their previous meeting in Tallahassee.

Though FSU players seemed unbothered by the jeering of the crowd of more than 18,000, things went poorly for the Seminoles from the start.

Missing their first five shots, turning the ball over three times and called for three fouls, FSU scored only once in its first 10 trips down the court. And that lone basket, by Al Gipson, came on a goal-tending call against Louisville's Billy Thompson.

Most dismal was the play of guard Dean Shaffer, who suffered a dislocated finger on his shooting hand Monday in practice and began the game with his index and middle fingers taped. In addition to turning the ball over twice, Shaffer missed all six of his first-half shots.

Meanwhile, Louisville opened up red-hot. Led by Forrest, who scored 16 first-half points, the Cardinals bolted to leads of 7-0 and 19-2 in the first eight minutes of the half.

FSU briefly narrowed that margin to 13 points before another Cardinal spurt, spearheaded by Louisville reserves Mike Abrams and Herbert Crook, pushed the Cardinals to the first of five 21-point leads they would own in the first half.

The first of those came with 4:18 to play; the last with 2:34 to play.

But FSU rallied in the final minutes. Led by forward Randy Allen, who had 14 first-half points, and reserve Jerome Fitchett, who had eight, the Seminoles closed to 15 points, 49-34 with 33 seconds to play in the half.

Louisville worked the ball around for the final shot of the half, getting it from reserve guard Gary Jeter, as he hit a 20-footer with two seconds in the half for a 51-34 Louisville halftime lead.

FLORIDA STATE (72)

	FG	FT	Rb	Asst	S	Min	TP
Myrick	4-9	0-0	9	3	2	33	8
Allen	10-19	4-5	8	0	2	39	24
Gipson	4-12	4-5	6	0	1	32	12
Farrar	5-13	2-2	3	5	0	38	12
Shaffer	3-11	0-2	1	9	3	32	6

Fitchett	3-3	2-4	2	0	0	19	8
Carler	1-2	0-0	2	0	0	6	2
Mabry	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	0
Team			2				
Totals	30-69	12-18	33	18	8	200	72

LOUISVILLE (83)

	FG	FT	Rb	Asst	S	Min	TP
McSwain	2-6	1-2	8	3	1	23	5
Forrest	8-13	4-4	6	1	2	32	20
Sumpter	1-6	3-7	11	2	2	32	5
Hall	7-11	0-0	2	5	0	33	14

Thompson	8-11	4-4	8	4	0	33	20
Crook	3-11	1-2	8	1	0	21	7
Abram	2-3	4-4	2	3	0	20	8
Jeter	1-2	2-4	0	2	0	5	4
West	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	0
Team			1				
Totals	32-63	19-27	47	21	5	200	83

Halftime: Louisville 51, FSU 34; Totals fouls FSU 24, Louisville 21; Fouled out: Myrick, Gipson, Shaffer (FSU); Technical fouls: none; Att: 19,004.