

A late zone defense, a deep freeze and Tom Baxley pushed Florida's basketball team to a 52-50 triumph over Florida State here last night in a ding-dong lulu.

Baxley, a 5-10 guard, tore up the Seminoles with a winning basket in the final two seconds.

With 26 seconds to go Cal Huge had hit one from the corner to deadlock it for FSU 50 - 50.

Florida took the ball out of bounds. Baxley coolly dribbled around, waiting for a last - seconds shot. With about five seconds to go he started his big move, dribbling in just to the left of the foul line, twisting and letting one fly. It ripped through.

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For all practical purposes, that was all she wrote.

But FSU had managed to call timeout with the clock showing just one second. Finally the Seminoles threw the ball from out of bounds in to Pete Rogers. He turned and heaved a desperation 70 - footer as the gun sounded. No good.

Fantastically hot from field range in the first half (14 of 21), the Seminoles were incredibly cold after 3½ minutes of the second half, by which time they had managed to collect on 19 of their first 26 shots.

For 11 minutes and 47 seconds FSU made not one point. Meanwhile, Florida worked itself from a 43 - 39 deficit to a 50 - 43 lead. FSU missed at straight field goal shots.

FSU's frigid spell coincided with a Florida switch from a man - to - man defense to a zone. The Gators also started a determined — and rather successful — freeze once they got two points ahead, 45-43.

It was a 32-31 game, Florida's favor, at halftime. The score was tied five times in the first half, three times in the second.

Florida's rebounding was a significant difference. The Gators, sparked by Monty Highley's 11 grabs, out - did FSU on the boards, 40 - 24.

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Richard Peek, the 6-11 center from Pensacola, led UF scoring with 15 points, followed by Baxley's 14, Highley's 10. Florida to hit 22 of 44 floor shots, an even 50 per cent. FSU, after that sensational start, finished with 22-for-45, for 48.8 per cent.

Huge and Bobby Lovell with 12 points apiece, led FSU scoring. Rogers and Gary Schull had 10 each.

Brooks Henderson, UF's top notch guard, left the game with 10:51 to go with an eye injury after a collision with Lovell under the basket, and did not return. Henderson had thrown a defensive blanket around Pete Gonzalez, who wound up scoreless.

It started with FSU rushing ahead 6-2 as Schull made four quick points.

Florida rebounded for a 9-8 lead. On another Schull basket FSU regained the driver's seat at 11-10 and pushed it to 21-16, biggest margin of the night for the home team.

The Gators started slicing, got seven straight points, went ahead 23-21.

The Seminoles were in front 32-31 on a Jerry Shirley shot with 34 seconds left in the half. Florida waited for a last-seconds shot, as it did so successfully later. The shot missed but Highley tipped in the rebound for a 32-31 UF lead at intermission.

With Rogers hitting three quick field goals in the second half FSU dashed back in front 39 - 36.

Schull extended it to 43-39 with 16:35 to play, and that was to be FSU's last basket for almost 12 minutes.

Both teams played miserably

for awhile. Then baskets by Peek, Highley and Dick Tomlinson pushed the Gators to a 45-43 lead and UF started its freeze with about 9:39 to go.

Gonzalez finally broke it up by fouling Baxley at 6:25. Baxley made a point, Paul Morton added two on a tip-in, and Highley got a field goal to stretch things to 50 - 43.

Bill Peacock, held out of action most of the way because of Florida's man-to-man defense, had gone in when Florida switched to a zone with about 10 minutes left. Peacock finally ended FSU's long dry spell by putting in a long one with the clock showing 4:48. That narrowed it to 50-45.

Back into the freeze went Florida. Not so successfully this time. Baxley lost the ball out of bounds with 3:43 to go. Huge hit a foul shot with the clock showing 3:28.

Again Florida lost the ball out of bounds. Huge put one in, cutting it to 50 - 48 with 2:49 left.

With 2:03 to go, Florida lost the ball on a "palming" call against Morton.

FSU missed on that opportunity. But Peacock stole the ball as he and Gonzalez double-teamed Baxley. Peacock was fouled, but missed. UF's Lanny Sommese was called for walking with 41 seconds left.

Huge hit his shot from the baseline to tie it 50-50.

Then Baxley won the game.

It was FSU's first home loss after six victories here, left the Seminoles with a 7-8 chart. Florida is now 8-4.

FLORIDA	FG	FT	RB	PF	TP
Tomlinson ..	2—4	0—0	6	4	4
Hightley	5—7	0—2	11	1	10
Peck	6—12	3—4	5	2	15
Baxley	6—9	2—2	1	1	14
Henderson ..	2—10	1—2	3	1	5
Morton ...	1—2	1—2	8	2	3
Poore	0—0	1—2	0	0	1
Sommese ..	0—0	0—2	0	1	0
Totals	22—44	8—16	34	12	52
Team Rebounds	— 6				

Florida State	FG	FT	RB	PF	TP
Huge	4—8	4—5	5	2	12
Rogers	4—8	2—2	1	2	10
Schull	5—9	0—2	5	1	10
Gonzalez ..	0—2	0—0	4	2	0
Lovell	6—10	0—2	5	2	12
Peacock	1—4	0—1	1	0	2
Shirley	2—4	0—0	3	2	4
Totals	22—45	6—12	24	11	50

Florida	33	19—32
Florida State	32	18—30