

ATLANTA, Ga.—In foul trouble early and rather luckless at the end, Florida State lost a 77-76 basketball thriller to Georgia Tech here last night.

The loss, leaving the Seminoles 14-8, put a crimp in FSU hopes for a post-season tournament bid.

Trailing 75-74, Florida State had the ball with 40 seconds to play.

The Seminoles dribbled and passed deliberately, waiting for a shot in the last 10 seconds. Finally Bobby Lovell fired one. It went in the basket and then ricocheted out.

Gary Schull plucked the rebound for the Seminoles, passed to Lovell, who again shot. And again the ball went in, then out.

This time Tech's tall Jim Caldwell took the rebound. Tech called timeout with three seconds left.

When Tech passed the ball in, FSU immediately registered a foul. Pres Judy sank two free

throws to put Tech up 77-74 with two seconds to go.

Then Tech players drew off to one side and deliberately allowed FSU an easy basket, on a long pass to Jerry Shirley down deep, as the gun sounded. Tech was avoiding any chance of a foul call on the shot that might have permitted FSU to tie and send the game into overtime.

Shirley was a considerable factor for the Seminoles from start to finish of the nip-and-tuck duel. He put in 23 points, pulled off a game-high 16 rebounds. Florida State outbounded the Yellow Jackets, now 13-10, by a 39-31 margin.

Tech's biggest lead was five points, which it held a couple of times. At halftime Tech was in front 39-37.

FSU's Ron Malmgren drew three fouls in the first eight minutes, taking to the bench with 12:17 left before intermission. He started the last half, but again went to the bench when he got his fourth foul with 13:03 to go, stayed out until the final minute.

Schull, limited to eight points, had three fouls with 2:35 to go in the first half, was taxed with his fourth as the clock showed 11:30 to play in the second half. He got back in with 5:54 to play.

Tech had lost starter Ron Scharf on fouls with 14:09 to play.

Fouls were much of the story. FSU drew 23, Tech 16. Tech sank 21 of 28 free-throw attempts, FSU just 10 of 15. FSU had a 16-14 margin in field goals the first half, a 17-14 spread in the second but Tech hit a hot 53.8 per cent of its field tries, FSU 49.3 per cent.

