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A technical-foul call against scoring ace Russ Banko with 6:33 to play and Florida State trailing 51-44 helped lift the Seminoles to a most difficult 62-61 victory over University of California at Santa Barbara in a basketball thriller here Saturday night.

It was a definite assist in opening the door for late heroics by Billy Peacock and Jim Lytle.

Two sensational driving lay-ups by Lytle pulled the Seminoles from behind to a 59-57 lead with 1:59 left, and they stayed in front the rest of the way.

It was Florida State's fourth triumph in six starts, and makes a trip to Tampa for an invitational tournament a bit more pleasant ride. The Seminoles play VMI in the first round of the tourney about 9:15 Monday night, following an opening match between Auburn and Columbia.

California, now 2-4, was in it all the way with a sticky defense and considerable poise.

Minus starting guard Darrel Stewart, who nurses a knee injury, Florida State managed to pull ahead early but the Gauchos moved in front 10-9 and didn't trail again the rest of the half, though FSU tied it at 14-14, 16-16, 25-25 and 29-29.

California took a 30-29 advantage into intermission on 6-9 Charlie Hess' lone point of the evening.

The Seminoles broke out vigorously in the late going, soon took over 33-30 on buckets by Peacock and Lytle.

But the Gauchos bounced back, regained the lead at 40-38 and kept it until Lytle's late work.

A 3-points play by 6-8 Dick Hallett, a splendid all-round player, gave California its broadest margin at 51-44.

Then Banko, trying to block

Lytle's futile lay-up attempt, drew a foul call and protested too vigorously when his number was called.

Sophomore Lytle, 8-for-8 at the foul line during the evening, stepped up and sank three free throws that cut the Gauchos' lead to four.

But moments later the aroused Banko — who along with Hallett got 20 for the evening — dropped in two field goals that put the Californians back up by six at 55-49.

Whereupon, Peacock got warm. In short order, he slapped in three 2-pointers from far out and FSU trailed by only two.

With his mama and papa among the 1500 in the stands, following an all-night drive from Indiana, here came the swift Lytle, dribbling through and potting those two crucial lay-ups, the last one underhanded.

Gary Schull, held to two field goals for the night, added two free throws, shortly after an offensive foul call against the visitors, and FSU had a rather safe 61-57 lead with 1:10 left.

After Banko added two free ones, Peacock was fouled and dropped in a point for 62-59 with 13 seconds remaining.

In the last seconds FSU players retreated from the California basket and permitted Banko an easy lay-up as they avoided the possibility of a foul that could have brought a tie.

Lytle led FSU's scoring with 20 points. Peacock got 16. Schull 11.

Bryan Murphy, the littlest Seminole at 5-10, helped keep the Seminoles in contention early. He had only eight points, but every shot he attempted went in, and he had

a couple of early steals that enlivened the Tribe.

With Hallett pulling 15 off the boards, California out-rebounded FSU 43-37. Schull led the Tribe with eight recoveries.

FSU hit 42 per cent of its shots from the field, California 39 per cent.

U. C. S. B.	FG	FT	Reb.	PF	TP
Banko	8-19	4-5	4	4	20
Hallett	7-14	5-7	15	0	20
Peterson	3-8	3-3	7	6	9
Demmelaler	0-2	1-1	1	2	1
Cobb	1-3	0-0	2	3	2
Kochl	0-1	0-0	0	0	0
Wood	0-3	0-1	0	1	0
Grant	2-4	2-2	2	1	6
Hiles	1-4	0-0	0	1	2
Hess	0-0	1-2	1	0	1
Pope	0-0	0-0	2	1	0
Team			9		

TOTALS	22-56	17-24	43	17	61
FLA. STATE	FG	FT	Reb.	PF	TP
Biggs	0-2	0-0	2	1	0
Schull	2-9	7-9	8	2	11
Danford	1-3	0-0	1	2	2
Lytle	8-10	0-0	3	1	20
Peacock	7-13	2-3	1	4	16
Phillips	2-4	1-1	4	3	5
Murphy	3-3	2-2	4	1	8
Fairchild	0-1	0-0	1	2	0
Bloodworth	0-2	0-0	2	0	0
Glenn	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Team			11		

TOTALS	21-55	20-25	37	17	62
U. C. S. B.			30	11	61
Fla. State			29	11	62