

Special to The Democrat

KENT, Ohio — Willie Williams' 17-foot jump shot at the buzzer saved Florida State the embarrassment of losing to win-starved Kent State here Thursday night.

As 4,184 sat in stunned disbelief, Florida State went nearly the length of the court in three seconds enroute to Williams' shot to score an 80-79 win after trailing almost the entire game.

Trailing 75-65 with 3:41 to go, the Seminoles parlayed a devastating press and some inspired play by Dave Cowens, who had been ineffective much of the evening, to a 76-75 lead with 43 seconds remaining.

Kent solved its scoring drought immediately as Bruce Burden dumped in a 20-footer but Skip Young countered from the same distance with 12

seconds left to give the Seminoles the lead.

Kent's Tom Lagodich popped in a 15-footer with four seconds left but the Seminoles got timeout and had the ball out on

the side at the far end of the court.

The clock had run out in the excitement but officials ordered it rebound to three seconds, a call which was disputed by most of those in attendance, before giving it out to Florida State. Young triggered it in and Williams got a relatively open shot.

The only other leads the Seminoles managed prior to the end of the game came early in the second half at 50-48 and 52-50 with about 15 minutes remaining. Kent led 40-35 at halftime after holding as much as a 14-point bulge at 28-14.

Seminole Coach Hugh Durham said afterwards that "we didn't shoot well (32 for 80) and we didn't play well."

"However," Durham added, "we kept trying and we came back to win — that's what it's all about."

"I admitted before the game that I was scared because if a team like Kent, which plays a deliberate style, gets up on you it is hard to catch them."

Durham said he felt his team was affected somewhat by coming into below zero temperatures on their arrival here Wednesday and then getting limited workout time at Kent because of scheduling conflicts in Memorial gym.

Cowens, who had six of the Seminoles' final fifteen points, had an off shooting night, hitting only four of 13. He finished with 15 points while Young, playing in his home state, had 21 and Williams had 23 to carry most of the load.

For Kent Lagodich, who had been in a slump, hit for 25 points and Burden did a commendable job in quarterbacking the Flash offense.

Florida State is now 17-2 and plays The University of Dayton on Saturday night. Kent is now 3-14 and on an 11-game losing streak.

FLORIDA STATE	FG	FT	TP
Williams	18-16	3-4	23
Harris	8-7	8-8	8
Cowens	4-13	7-13	15
Macklin	2-8	8-8	4
Young	9-15	3-4	21
Cable	8-2	3-4	3
Elizy	6-17	8-8	12
Gies	1-2	8-8	2
TOTALS	32-88	16-25	88

KENT STATE	FG	FT	TP
Feele	8-9	1-1	1
Burden	2-10	7-9	11
Lagodich	18-21	5-6	25
Wilson	3-6	3-4	9
Meyer	5-6	5-6	13
Evans	5-9	4-5	14
Hintz	8-8	8-8	8
Reasbeck	2-2	8-8	4
TOTALS	27-54	25-31	79

Florida State	35	45—	88
Kent State	48	49—	79