

Marshall Defense Frustrates FSU

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Playing a quick and disciplined defense that frustrated Florida State for something close to 30 of the 40 minutes, Marshall University was an impressive basketball team as it won 71-59 here last night.

The Huntington, W. Va., outfit terminated a Tully Gym winning streak of the Seminoles that had extended to 14 games. Jacksonville U. was the last to beat Florida State in its cozy home arena (84-72).

And you'll have to go back to 1967 when Florida State beat Memphis State 55-51 for the last time the Seminoles scored so few at home. Princeton held the Seminoles to the same total

earlier this season, but that was on the road, a 61-59 victory for the Tigers in the Marshall Invitational.

Only Saturday the Thundering Herd had halted an 11-game home winning run of Stetson (86-67).

One fact well measures the defensive worth of Marshall — Reggie Royals, the Seminoles' leading scorer, played all save six minutes but got no points at all.

Marshall, now 19-6, looked like a team thoroughly deserving of an invitation to the NCAA playoffs. Any small chance the Seminoles had left of getting such a bid apparently vanished with this loss but Hugh Durham's squad,

now 17-8, still may receive a bid to the National Invitation Tournament.

When Marshall ran off to a 24-12 lead with 9:47 left in the first half, it seemed the Seminoles were through. But as Benny Clyde moved off the bench into the thick of action, it was Marshall that became suddenly frustrated, and the

Seminole rallied to a 30-29 halftime lead.

Then the Seminoles yielded three easy baskets to the visitors at the start of the second half and led only twice after that.

Not as tall overall as the Seminoles, Marshall got 16 and 15 points out of its two 6-8 guys, Randy Noll and Wayne

Smith, as well as 16 from 6-3 Mike D'Antoni.

Lawrence McCray topped the Seminoles with 21 while Otis Johnson managed 13. While scoreless, Royals did s n a r e a game - high 12 rebounds as the Seminoles controlled the boards 51 to 38. Clyde grabbed 10 rebounds — including seven in the final eight minutes of the first half and scored seven points. (Greg Grady, the Seminoles' 6-9 freshman who has not been playing well of late, saw no action in this one.)

Hot at the start from the floor, then awfully cold, Marshall hit on just 36.8 per cent of its first - half attempts, as compared with 60.7 in the final

20 minutes. The Seminoles, by contrast, sank a weak 34.1 per cent after intermission. Overall Marshall went 47.0 per cent, the Seminoles a poor 37.8.

"We played the way we wanted to play in the second half," said Bob Daniels, first - year coach of Marshall. "In the last five or six minutes they played to us. In that second half we played as well as we can.

"Some old Marshall hands may dispute me, but this to me is one of the two better victories Marshall has ever had on the road." He said a recent 106-103 triumph at Oral Roberts was the other.

"When the season started," Daniels continued, "we thought we would be playing three teams — South Carolina, Oral Roberts, Florida State — that would overpower us no matter how well we played." (South Carolina, on its home floor, was the only one of the three to beat the Herd, 88-71).

Florida State jumped in

front on a quick layup from the tip by Dennis Burke, but Marshall quickly tied it, moved ahead 14-8 after four minutes. With 9:47 to go in the half it was 24-12. The Seminoles went six playing minutes without a point.

Then the game turned around, with Marshall going scoreless for almost eight minutes. With the score 24-12, McCray, Larry Gay, Clyde, Johnson, Otto Petty, then Clyde again accounted for six baskets that tied it 24-24 as the clock showed 2:41 left in the half.

Marshall managed a free throw for a 25-24 lead. McCray tied it 25-25. D'Antoni put the Herd back up 27-25 at 1:08. Then Clyde and McCray hit 2-pointers for a 30-27 FSU lead with 28 seconds showing. Smith hit shortly before the buzzer to cut it to 30-29.

SOON AFTER halftime Smith got a layup, D'Antoni a steal and a layup. After McCray scored, D'Antoni got another easy bucket on a fast break for a 35-32 Marshall lead. McCray again got the Seminoles to within a point but Marshall kept the pressure on.

It was 46-41 when Otis Cole provided a lift, hitting two shots from outside, then stealing the ball and streaking for a layup to bring the Seminoles to within 48-47. Petty then grabbed a rebound and pounded downcourt for a layup that brought a 49-48 FSU lead.

A layup by Johnson gave the Seminoles their last lead, 51-50, with 9:05 remaining.

Marshall then reeled off five straight points, never let the Seminoles back closer than two. At 57-55, Marshall got seven straight for a 9-point lead, 64-55, with 3:05 to go.

School was out. Marshall fattened its lead on free throws.

MARSHALL	FG	FT	RB	A	PF	TP
Noll	8-18	0-0	11	1	0	16
James	4-8	1-2	6	3	2	9
Smith	7-12	1-2	10	1	4	15
D Antoni	6-11	4-6	4	7	3	16
Collins	4-11	2-2	3	3	2	10
Imperi	0-1	0-0	0	0	1	0
Hickman	0-0	1-2	0	0	1	1
Austin	0-1	0-0	1	0	0	0
Bachelor	2-4	0-0	0	0	1	4
Mannefeld	0-0	0-0	1	0	1	0
TEAM			2			
TOTALS	31-66	9-14	38	15	16	71
FSU	FG	FT	RB	A	PF	TP
Cole	4-11	0-0	4	2	4	8
Royals	0-7	0-0	12	0	3	0
McCray	10-21	1-2	9	0	1	21
Johnson	6-10	1-2	8	2	1	13
Burke	1-0	0-0	0	2	0	2
Petty	3-11	0-0	1	6	4	6
Clyde	3-10	1-1	10	1	2	7
Gay	1-4	0-1	5	1	2	2
TEAM			2			
TOTALS	28-74	3-6	51	14	17	59
Marshall				29	42	71
Florida State				30	29	59