

Seminoles Jarred By South Florida

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TAMPA---Florida State's second disaster in two years in Hixon Center was not much more than two minutes old last night when the battle lines began taking shape for the second meeting between South Florida and the Seminoles.

"I think we'll win at our place," offered Seminole Coach Hugh Durham.

"I'm already thinking about what might happen when we go up there after what happened last year," offered South Florida Coach Bill Gibson.

Neither coach was necessarily trying to skirt the issue at hand — namely South Florida's 77-71 victory over the Seminoles — but their thoughts could be an indication of the direction this young series is taking.

The Seminoles, as history recorded, lost a stunning 95-94 overtime decision here last year, and rebounded for a 118-84 "revenge" victory in Tully Gym later in the season.

A lot of people — in addition to the two coaches — seemed to sense a lot more than just another basketball game is going to be at stake when the two meet in the future.

For the record, the series is all even at 2-2, and it doesn't take a genius to figure out where each team has won.

And, it didn't take a genius to figure out the Seminoles flat got beat here last night by a better team than the one that did it to them a year ago.

"Give them credit," said Durham. "They hit their shots and they played good defense. . . but I'm very disappointed in our offense and I'm really disappointed in our defense. It was the weakest defense we've played all year."

The Seminoles, 9-4, permitted five Brahmanas to score in double figures and had only three a three-man punch to counter it.

Ed Davis and Ric Butner, as expected, led the Brahmanas, 9-5, with 15 points each, while Glenn DuPont chipped in with 13 and Leon Smith and Doug Alpin followed with 10 each.

The Seminoles responded with Larry Warren scoring 19, Zach Perkins 18 and Greg Grady 13. The trio also took 52 of the Seminoles' 80 shots.

The Seminoles lost the rebounding battle 50-47, as Grady took down 13, Perkins 12, Warren 11.

The Brahmans, bombing from long range late in the game, hit 60 per cent of their second-half shots, and 50 per cent for the night, while at the same time forcing the Seminoles into shooting their poorest (37.5 per cent) of the season.

"We just didn't show any maturity with our offense," Durham pointed out. "Our patterned offense broke down and we threw up a lot of poor percentage shots. They don't look like poor percentage shots if you make them, but if you don't, and you don't have people in position for rebounding. . . well, then they're poor percentage shots."

The Seminoles fired off 80 shots, just 10 less than their season high against Wisconsin-Milwaukee when the Seminoles were running with the ball.

But, South Florida rarely let the Seminoles run in this one limiting them to only fastbreak field goal all night — and enticed the Seminoles into doing much but the poor percentage shots.

"Our defense made the difference," said Gibson. "We really got after them."

Mostly it was the Brahmans forcing the Seminole point-man out of the pattern, while, at the same time, the Brahmans were opting for the long shots and making them.

During one five-minute stretch in the second half, when the lead swapped hands nine times, the Brahmans hit seven of nine shots from 18 feet and on out, and Gibson took note of the feat.

"We hit the clutch baskets," he pointed out. "And that put us in command. . . even though I thought our offense was in control the entire second half."

The Brahmans, up by a point (37-36) at halftime, came out of a rapid-fire barrage with a three-point lead, then kept going, while the Seminoles cooled off and the Brahmans built a seven-point lead with six minutes to go.

From then on, the Brahmans were very content to slow things down offensively, and mark time with a zone defense, while the Seminoles staggered to the finish.

The Seminoles, however, did cut the margin to four with two minutes left, and had the ball

for a real challenge before a shot refused to fall and a turnover on Grady's fifth foul with 53 seconds left dashed the last hope.

A super play by Warren, who stole a rebound and then scored on a fall-away jumper, had gotten the Seminoles back to the four-point deficit.

Warren had mostly been responsible for keeping the Seminoles close in the first half, after the Tribe lost a five-point lead. He scored all seven Seminole points in a four-minute span that kept the Brahmans from opening more than a four-point lead.

The Brahmans, whose 40 per cent first-half shooting, reflected five missed layups, seized the lead for good at 55-54 with 10:41 left in the game on a deep corner shot by Davis.

The Seminoles had led by three a minute earlier, but were outscored 10-4 during the cooling off period the last four minutes.

DuPont and Davis hit two long shots each and Smith another in The Brahmans' pull-away.

"It was a great team victory for us," said Gibson. "I think it's just the continuation of the way we started playing at Duke last week."

The Seminoles definitely were not up to their past three performances in any phase of the game. They'll try to regain the touch Saturday night in Tully Gym against Hofstra.

Meanwhile, they'll have to live with this defeat for a long time.

FSU	FG	FT	Reb	Assists	Fouls	Pts
Byrd	2-6	0-1	0	1	0	4
Grady	6-12	3-5	13	2	5	15
Mann	1-1	0-0	0	0	0	2
Chassee	0-0	0-0	1	0	0	0
Perkins	8-21	2-2	12	1	4	18
Harris	2-6	1-2	3	4	1	5
Smalls	3-14	0-0	2	2	4	6
Warren	8-19	3-5	11	3	4	19
Davis	0-1	2-4	0	2	4	2
Team			3			
Totals	30-80	11-19	50	15	22	71
So. Fla.						
	FG	FT	Reb	Assists	Fouls	Pts
Smith	5-11	0-1	1	6	3	10
Reccord	4-6	0-1	4	1	4	8
Alpin	5-11	0-0	3	7	2	10
Greene	1-4	0-1	3	1	1	2
Dunn	1-8	0-0	6	1	2	2
House	1-2	0-0	2	0	1	2
DuPont	5-5	3-7	4	2	1	13
Davis	5-10	5-5	9	3	3	15
Butner	7-10	1-2	7	1	3	15
Team			7			
Totals	34-67	9-17	52	22	20	77
Halftime: So. Fla. 37, FSU 36						