

# FSU 'still at war' despite rejection

Special to the Democrat

LAFAYETTE, La. — Florida State's basketball team lost a big battle then won a small one here Thursday, but as far as Coach Hugh Durham is concerned, the war is still on.

After being rejected by the NCAA when post-season tournament invitations were handed out Thursday afternoon, the Seminoles went out and truded past Southwestern Louisiana 68-65 at Blackham Fieldhouse Thursday night.

"It's a disappointing and frustrating thing," Durham said, "and we feel sorry for ourselves right now. But in two or three weeks we might be in New York winning the NIT, with everybody slapping everybody on the back.

"And that wouldn't have been possible if we had lost tonight."

The Seminoles, now 21-5, went through the motions well enough to win their eighth straight, and have now won 16 of their last 17. All of which makes the disappointment that more intense.

"When we came out here," Durham said, "I thought we were going to get a bid. There was no question in my mind that we deserved it."

But Durham and his team sat around the motel Thursday afternoon and waited for the good news that never came.

"We sat and we waited," he said. "First we heard that Marquette was invited and they accepted. Then Nevada-Las Vegas, then Notre Dame. We didn't think about the game all day."

Those three teams, along with Virginia Tech, accepted four of the five bids offered to independents. The fifth is still undecided, but the NCAA selection committee has clearly stated that it will

go to the second place team in the Big 8 or Western Athletic Conference, or independent DePaul (19-8).

Obviously upset, Durham refused to say anything about the committee's selections.

"We're 21-5," he said, "but I'm not going to say anything right now. At a time like this, you're liable to say something that you shouldn't, and I don't want to do that. I just want a few days to think it over."

He expressed special regret for the three Florida State seniors — Greg Grady, Zach Perkins, and Larry Warren — who will play their final game Saturday night in Dayton.

"I really feel bad for our seniors," he said. "The school will always have another year, another chance. But these players don't."

"We're supposed to be men, but there are some times in your life when disappointment hits you. We're really down, but we don't want people to feel sorry for us. This is something we can handle among ourselves — on our own."

The team's disappointment was all too obvious in their play on the court. A team that the Seminoles had crushed 110-70 earlier this season in Tully Gym never trailed by more than 10 in this meeting.

"We were flat," stated Durham. "I'm pleased that we won the game, but not with our performance. We just couldn't get untracked."

The Ragin' Cajuns threw up a pesky, aggressive defense that kept the numbed Seminoles in check most of the night. Grady, who has played so well of late, was limited to just two points, and the only Seminoles in double figures were outside-shooting David Thompson

and Carlton Byrd.

"We didn't handle their pressure well at all," said Durham. "We could have drawn fouls taking the ball inside, but we took the easy way out and just jacked the ball up from the outside.

"In the first half, we didn't play as a team. We executed much better in the second half."

A pair of clutch free throws by Byrd with 34 seconds to play clinched the victory. The two shots put FSU on top 65-59, and the charging Cajuns just didn't have enough time left after that.

Thompson and Byrd finished with 14 each, while Herbie Allen, Harry Davis, and Warren had eight apiece. Davis also pulled down 13 rebounds.

The Cajuns won the rebounding battle 45-37.

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**FSU 68 SWL 65**

FSU	FG	FT	REB	A	PF	TP
Allen	3-7	2-2	2	1	4	8
Thompson	6-15	2-2	4	2	2	14
Byrd	6-9	2-2	0	3	4	14
Grady	1-3	0-0	6	0	4	2
Perkins	2-3	1-4	4	1	1	5
Smith	0-0	0-0	1	0	2	0
Harris	3-4	0-1	1	0	5	6
Smalls	1-6	1-2	0	1	1	3
Warren	4-9	0-0	3	5	1	8
Davis	4-6	0-1	13	2	2	8
Team			3			
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>30-62</b>	<b>8-14</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>68</b>

SWL	FG	FT	REB	A	PF	TP
J. Mitchell	4-5	3-9	4	1	4	11
Myer	0-1	0-0	1	0	0	0
P. Mitchell	6-10	0-1	2	1	3	12
Lyles	6-12	4-6	3	6	4	16
Cleveland	0-4	1-2	0	0	0	1
Johnson	1-1	0-0	2	0	1	2
Ripka	0-1	0-0	2	1	0	0
Crews	7-13	3-7	11	0	4	17
Wilkins	1-8	1-2	13	2	2	4
Robinson	1-1	0-0	2	0	0	2
Team			5			
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>26-56</b>	<b>13-27</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>FSU</b>				<b>30</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>SWL</b>				<b>27</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>65</b>