

The Gipson gang tramples Tampa

By Gerald Ensley
Democrat staff writer

Playing with intensity on defense and poise on offense, the Florida State men's basketball team exploded out of the gate Monday with a season-opening 89-52 victory over Tampa.

A crowd of 4,119 spectators in the Tallahassee-Leon County Civic Center watched the Seminoles improve on an 83-70 victory over the Spartans last season. Tampa, a Division II national-playoff participant last season, is 0-2 after giving Purdue a strong fight Saturday before succumbing 76-72.

FSU received all the points it needed from its pair of big men, 6-foot-10 Al Gipson and 6-8 Randy Allen. Gipson scored 33 points — two short of his career high — and Allen added 20. Gipson, with an all-round performance that included four blocks, three

FAMU opens home season, 4D

steals and an assist, tied teammate Granville Arnold for game rebounding honors with 11.

"I hope to play a game like this every night. I was getting bumped a lot but was still getting my shot off," said Gipson, who was the leading scorer in the Metro Conference last season with an average of 20.2 points a game. "I think the main thing was that we played great defense. Last year, Al (Miller, the Spartans' leading scorer) gave us lots of problems."

Miller scored 20 points Monday, eight of them coming in the final 10 minutes, after FSU already held a 31-point lead. The only other Spartan in double figures was freshman Nate Johnston with 10 points.

See GIPSON, 4D

"I'm very pleased. We played very well. We did the things we've been doing in practice," said FSU head coach Joe Williams. "The big key to the game was rebounding. Last year, they outrebounded us. Tonight, we did a lot better."

With Allen grabbing seven rebounds and reserve David Speights getting eight, the Seminoles mounted a decisive 47-23 rebounding edge over Tampa. Just as crucial were the 13 steals FSU snatched, with guards Joe Farrar and Dean Shaffer joining Gipson with three apiece.

"We played very poorly," said Tampa head coach Richard Schmidt. "We were able to hang with them for a while playing poorly. But we couldn't get anything going and just ran out of gas."

"Are they (FSU) a better team than last year? I don't know. Gipson seems to be a better player. Other than that, I didn't see a great deal of difference."

FSU trailed only once in the game, after Tampa's John Jones scored the game's first basket. But, climbing quickly to a 4-point lead, FSU went up by as many as 14 points in the first half before settling for a 34-26 lead at halftime.

Miller hit the first basket of the second half, to draw the Spartans to within 6. But that was as close as they would get the rest of the game. In an approximately 6-minute run in the second half, ending with 11:10 to go in the game, FSU outscored Tampa 27-4 — Gipson scoring 10 during the run — to mount a 65-34 lead. FSU's lead never dropped below 30 points the rest of the way, with the final margin of 37 points the biggest of the night.

Of much encouragement to FSU coaches was the play of senior point guard Joe Farrar, who moved into the starting lineup with the graduation of three-year starter Tony William.

"I thought Joe played very well," said Williams. "He did a great job on defense, made some big plays and ran the team very well."

Equally impressive was Arnold, whose 11 rebounds and game-high seven assists were career highs. Arnold, a spot starter in his previous two seasons, was asked what the 37-point victory proved.

"I think we're a lot better," he said, comparing the win with last

season's 13-point victory over essentially the same batch of Spartans. "We're fired up about the season. In practice, we're ahead of where we were when we finished the season last year."

"We're playing very well. If we keep playing like this, we're going to be hard to stop."

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FSU's Shaffer injured his Achilles heel midway through the second half, and did not return to play. He was limping after the game. Team trainers said they would have to wait to determine the severity of the injury.

Apparently seriously injured was Tampa's Todd Linder, who fell flat on his back while attempting to block a shot. Tampa officials, who had to help Linder off the floor, said the 6-6 sophomore had reinjured his previously hurt lower back muscles.

Tampa (52)

	FG	FT	Rb	Asst	S	Min	TP
Linder	0-0	1-2	2	0	0	25	1
Miller	10-20	2-4	6	1	2	35	22
Johnston	3-6	4-4	5	0	1	30	10
Jones	3-8	1-2	3	1	0	33	7
Sawney	1-4	0-0	0	1	0	12	2
Aplin	0-1	0-0	1	3	1	14	0
Olsen	3-4	0-0	3	0	2	24	6
Hurley	0-2	0-1	1	0	0	7	0
Cohen	0-1	0-0	0	1	0	4	0
Balley	1-4	2-2	1	0	2	13	4
Morse	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	3	0

Florida State (89)

	FG	FT	Rb	Asst	S	Min	TP
Allen	10-16	0-4	7	2	0	33	20
Arnold	3-5	3-3	11	7	1	30	9
Gipson	16-27	1-3	11	1	3	31	33
Shaffer	2-3	0-0	2	5	3	17	4
Farrar	2-7	0-0	3	4	3	28	4
Myrick	3-4	0-0	2	2	2	23	6
Martin	1-2	0-0	2	0	0	5	2
Carter	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	4	0
Fitchett	0-3	0-0	1	0	1	9	0
Speights	1-2	7-9	8	0	0	10	9
Mabry	1-2	0-0	0	0	0	10	2

Halftime score: Florida St. 34, Tampa 26; Fouled out: None; Technical fouls: None; Attendance: 4119.