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By Gerald Ensley Democrat staff writer

It was a ho-hum yawner of a basketball game.

Ho-hum for the Florida State Seminoles who ramrodded their way past Florida International 97-43 Monday night in the Tallahassee-Leon County Civic Center.

A yawner for the Florida International Sunblazers who spent most of Monday morning waiting for a plane in the Miami airport, then never shrugged off their lethargy in a game that bordered on embarrassing.

FSU, with a game Wednesday at Jacksonville, is 2-1. Florida International, a Division II team, is 5-2.

FSU never trailed in the game. Scoring the first 13 points, and substituting freely, the Seminoles led 50-17 at halftime. FSU scored the first eight points of the second half, and led by the final margin of 54 points as with 4:08 to go. FSU played everyone on the team – except for guard Dean Shaffer, who sat out to rest his ailing Achilles tendon – with even freshmen Tony Carter and Terry Martin playing eight minutes apiece.

"I got them up at 6 this morning. I think it's pretty obvious that they were flat," said Sunblazer head coach Rich Walker, whose team could not leave Miami until 10:30 a.m. because of fog in Tampa, the plane's first stop. "We played as bad as you can possibly play.

Walker, disgust registering on his face from midway through the first half, did find a ray of sunshine in his team's beating.

See MEN, 2D

Men

From 1D

"I think this will help us. It will help the players get ready for what they had to do," Walker said with a smile. "Losing to FSU was no big deal. Everybody expected us to lose. What we have to do is beat the people we're supposed to.

"We're a much better team than we showed. And we're going to be much better at the end of the season. I wish we could have given the Tallahassee fans a better show. But these things happen. There's no way I'm down on the guys."

FSU head coach Joe Williams was equally calm about his team's effort. "The one thing they (FIU) were doing well was push Al (Gipson). That's something we need to work on because we're going to see a lot of it," said Williams.

"We also got a chance to run our offense in a game. That's always a good rehearsal because a game is different than practice. Getting the continuity of your offense down is good in any situation."

FSU had six players score in double figures, led by Gipson's 19 points. Gipson, whose 32 minutes of playing time led all Seminoles, also was the game's top passer with five assists.

Granville Arnold, who led all rebounders with nine (and is now averag-

ing 11 per game), had 16 points. Freshman Jerome Fitchett scored his first points of the season, joining Randy Allen with 12 points apiece. Maurice Myrick and David Speights each had 10 points.

Sunblazer star Patrick McDonald, unable to get into his rhythm, connected on only two of 16 shots, and three free throws, for seven points. Six-foot-8 forward Hector Rodriguez led Florida International with 11 points, and Mark Hollin had nine.

Florida International

	FG	FT	Rb	Asst	s	Min	TP	
Cabrera	1-4	2-2	3	1	0	27	4	
Hollin	4-11	1-2	5	1	1	33	9	
McDonald	2-16	3-4	- 4	2	0	30	7	
Laz	1-8	0-0	4	0	0	.24	2	

Rodriguez	3-11	5-6	5	2	0	30	11
Roberts	1-2	0-0	2	0	0	20	2
Kantzy	2-13	0-2	3	0	0	21	4
Quintaires	1-3	2-2	0	0	0	14	4
Payne	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	1	0
Totals	15-69	13-18	31	6	1	200	43
Florida	State						
	FG	FT	Rb	Asst	s	Min	TP
Allen .	5-8	2-3	9	1	0	24	12
Arnold	6-11	4-5	9	4	0	30	16
Gipson	8-12	3-8	7	5	0	32	19
Myrick	4-7	2-4	7	1	2	22	10
Farrar	2-6	0-0	6	2	1	20	4
Mabry	1-5	2-2	0	4	2	19	4
Fitchett	6-7	0-0	6	0	0	23	12
Carter	3-4	1-1	2	0	1	8	7
Speights	5-6	0-0	7	2	1	14	10
Martin	1-1	1-1	1	ō	0	8	3
Totals	41-67	15-24	56	19	2	200	97

Halftime score: Florida State 50, Florida Inter. 17; Fouled Out: Florida Inter. — McDonald; Technicals: None; Total Fouls: Florida Inter. — 19, Florida State — 17; Attendance: 3405.