

Last-second bucket buries FSU again

By Gerald Ensley
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Lightning may not strike the same place twice but it sure as heck can strike the same people more than once.

Burned Wednesday night — again — was the Florida State men's basketball team which lost 56-54 to South Florida when Doug Wallace's 15-foot shot from the baseline cleanly ripped through the net at the buzzer.

The last-second game-winner came exactly a week after Cincinnati beat FSU 63-62 on Brian Helm's basket at the buzzer and subsequent free throw. More ironically, it was less than a year ago that South Florida beat FSU 53-51 when Charlie Bradley sank a 25-foot jumper at the buzzer.

"They're snake-bit," South Florida head coach Lee Rose said of the Seminoles. "Same situation as last year, different player."

More disheartening perhaps was that South Florida ran exactly the same play as last year. Wallace in-bounded the ball to point guard Darryl Patterson, then moved to the post where he joined center Curtis Kitchen in setting a pick for Bradley, the game's leading scorer with 22 points.

The idea, just as it was last year, was that the point guard should penetrate as far as he could, then pass to either Bradley on the side near the key or one of the two players (Wallace or Kitchen) who moved to the corners.

"I was covered by (Maurice) Myrick, who covered me last year on the play," said Bradley. "So Cuda (Patterson, nicknamed after a barracuda) passed it to Doug, and it worked out perfect."

"I had a couple of seconds when I got the ball. It wasn't like I had to make a quick catch and shoot," said Wallace, who scored 12 points. "I had been shooting pretty confidently all night. It (the shot) felt good when I let it go."

FSU, which has lost all four games it has

played against South Florida since Lee Rose became the Bulls' head coach in 1980, is 7-4. South Florida is 9-3.

FSU led only three times in the game, including a short-lived 2-0 lead on a dunk by Randy Allen 52 seconds into the game. Some 31:14 later — after a South Florida-dominated first half that saw the Bulls take a 28-19 lead at halftime — the Seminoles took another two-point lead, 40-38, on a jumper by reserve point guard Thomas Mabry, with 9:54 to play in the game. About a minute later, after South Florida had tied the game, Allen grabbed a rebound and laid in a basket for a 42-40 FSU lead, with 8:35 to play.

South Florida then rang off eight unanswered points for a 48-42 lead, with 6:44 to play. But FSU, led especially by Joe Farrar, who scored seven of his team-high 16 points in the final five minutes, fought back to tie the game 50-50 with 4:34 to play.

A basket by Curtis Kitchen put the Bulls up 52-50, before a Farrar jumper tied the game 52-52 with 2:57 to play. Bradley hit a pair of free throws with 59 seconds remaining for a 54-52 South Florida lead, and the Bulls appeared on the verge of salting it away when Farrar fouled guard Arthur Caldwell (fouling out in the process) with 34 seconds.

But Caldwell missed, and Allen grabbed the rebound. Up court, Mabry, in for Farrar, drove the lane, dished the ball off to Jerome Fitchett, who dunked to tie the game 54-all. The Bulls brought the ball down court, called a timeout with eight seconds left, then ran their winning play.

One of the most disabling factors for FSU, which entered the game averaging 80.1 points a game, was the slow-down, deliberate style of play by South Florida. Time and again, the Bulls used almost every second of the 45-second shot clock; and, fighting hard

See FSU, 4D

on the boards, they allowed the Seminoles very few fast-break opportunities.

The Bulls' refusal to run and gun seemed to disconcert the Seminoles, especially in the first half when the Seminoles shot a frigid 27 percent from the field, often forcing shots.

"To me, that was the key factor," said Myrick. "They knew we had a good running game. We're used to pushing the ball up and down the court. They took that away from us in the first half."

The Seminoles also were hurt by the offensive play of center Al Gipson, who came into the game averaging a team-leading 20.6 points a game. Held without a field goal (0-for-6) for the first time in his two-season FSU career, Gipson connected only on a pair of free throws for a total of two points, a career low. It was only the third time in 42 games that Gipson has been held to less than double figures in scoring.

Gipson — uncharacteristically

— refused comment about his play, though he appeared to play rather lackadaisically.

"They played him pretty well," FSU head coach Joe Williams said of Gipson's sub-par night. "They played him real smart, kept him from getting open. They cut off our passes to him, and it had the effect they wanted. We had to go outside."

Outside, the Seminoles found mixed success. Point guard Joe Farrar led all Seminoles with 16 points, on seven of 15 shooting — scoring 14 of those points in the second half. Myrick added 10 points on four-of-11 shooting. But guard Dean Shaffer connected on only five of 15 shots for 10 points.

FSU next plays Louisville on Saturday at 8 p.m. in the civic center.

South Florida (56)

	FG	FT	Rb	Asst	S	Min	TP
Tonelli	1-2	2-2	1	1	1	27	4
Bradley	8-20	6-6	6	1	1	38	22
Kitchen	5-5	0-1	9	1	2	39	10
Caldwell	0-2	0-1	5	2	2	31	0
Wallace	6-13	0-0	5	0	1	29	12
Patterson	2-8	0-0	3	1	1	22	4
Jordan	1-2	2-2	0	0	0	11	4
Mainer	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	0
Sanford	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	2	0
Team			2				
Totals	23-52	10-12	31	6	8	200	56

Florida State (54)

	FG	FT	Rb	Asst	S	Min	TP
Allen	3-12	4-6	7	0	0	34	10
Myrick	4-6	2-2	4	1	2	38	10
Gipson	0-6	2-2	4	0	0	34	2
Shaffer	5-15	0-3	5	1	5	37	10
Farrar	7-15	2-3	6	1	4	35	16
Fitchett	1-1	0-0	5	0	0	13	2
Mabry	1-1	0-0	0	1	0	3	2
Speights	1-2	0-0	2	0	1	6	2
Team			2				
Totals	22-58	10-16	35	4	12	200	54

Halftime: South Florida 28, Florida State 19; Total fouls: South Florida 14, Florida State 14; Fouled out: Farrar (FSU); Technical fouls: none; Attendance: 5,176.