

# Cold-shooting Seminoles fall to N.C. State

By Gerald Ensley  
Democrat staff writer

RALEIGH, N.C. — If the darkest hour is just before dawn, figure the Florida State men's basketball team for a rousing dawn — soon.

Because Saturday night, the Seminoles played their most sluggish, uninspired game of the season, and were defeated 72-66 by North Carolina State.

Never closer than four points in the second half, and trailing by as many as 14, the Seminoles were a victim of a typical problem for them this season: poor shooting. Though they connected on 58 percent of their field goal attempts in the first half, and finished the game shooting 48 percent, the Seminoles struggled throughout the second half. Over the final 6:30 — a period when they got no closer than the final six-point margin — the Seminoles made only six of 17 shots, and that only because they hit five of their last six shots in the game's final minute when the outcome was decided.

"We still have a problem. When we have to score down the stretch, we're not," said FSU guard Maurice Myrick. "Once we get over that hump, we'll be all right."

With FSU now heading into the meat of its Metro Conference schedule — including a game Wednesday against fifth-ranked Memphis State — clearing that hump must happen soon. The Seminoles have now lost their last four games, six of their last seven, and are 7-7. The last time FSU held a .500 record this deep into the season was the 1982-83 season when the Seminoles also were 7-7 en route to a 14-14 finish.

North Carolina State, winning for only the third time in seven games, is 10-5.

A crowd of 11,300 turned out in the Reynolds Coliseum to see the Wolfpack avenge a 74-71 overtime loss to FSU last season in the opening round of the National Invitation Tournament.

Following an emotional postgame appeal to his team for more effort and commitment the rest of the season, FSU head coach Joe Williams tiredly cited three factors for Saturday's loss: poor shooting, poor rebounding and an inability to stop the Wolfpack fast break.

"We missed a lot of easy baskets, little chip shots you have to make to win ball games," said Williams. "That was basically the key to why we lost. Plus we got outrebounded; They got a lot of offensive rebounds. And on defense, their rebounding led to several fast breaks that we just couldn't stop."

Overall, FSU was outrebounded by only three (32-29) — although, again, many of those Seminole rebounds came in the final few minutes when the Wolfpack had the game in hand. The Wolfpack did pick up

22 of their 32 rebounds under their own basket, though they actually scored on only a half-dozen fast break opportunities.

FSU did have a problem scoring, though. Guard Dean Shaffer led the Seminoles with 16 points, one below his career high. Randy Allen added 14, and Joe Farrar 10. Center Alton Lee Gipson, double-teamed as usual, connected on only five of 15 shots, scoring a total of 11.

Muscular (6-foot-7, 252 pounds) Lorenzo Charles led the Wolfpack with 23 points — three baskets coming on rim-shaking dunks. Ernie Myers added 15, with 11 of his points coming in the first half.

"Our game plan was to stop Gipson. We think once he catches the ball, he's a heck of an offensive player," said N.C. State head coach Jim Valvano.

"You can't stop everything. But we felt we had to stop Gipson, and let the other guys beat us. Sometimes they can beat you, sometimes they can't."

Saturday night, they couldn't. FSU led only once in the game — on the game's first basket, by

Shaffer. Though they let the Wolfpack get away to a six-point lead on two occasions, the Seminoles came back to within one point, 27-26, with 4:52 to go in the half.

North Carolina State pushed back to a seven-point lead three times, however, before settling for a six-point lead, 37-31, at intermission.

FSU cut the margin to four points on the first basket of the second half, again by Shaffer. But the Wolfpack, with FSU missing four shots during the run, streaked to a 10-point lead with 10:16 to play.

A dunk apiece by Allen and Cipson cut that lead to six points with 7:32 to go. But the Wolfpack, led by the fancy ballhandling of 5-7 point guard Spud Webb, began to run its spread offense, eating up big chunks of the 45-second shot clock on each trip down court.

Once the Wolfpack went to the spread, FSU's shooting declined in a hurry, as the Seminoles would race down court when they did get the ball and force up a quick shot. Between the 6:30 and 1:24 mark, the Seminoles made only one of 11 shots, and with 1:14 to go, the Wolfpack took its largest lead, 68-54.

Fouling desperately over the final minutes, the Seminoles sent

N.C. State to the free-throw line eight times in the final 2:09, with the Wolfpack connecting on nine of 14 free throws. Overall, N.C. State made 22 of 26 free throws — compared to FSU's six of 10.

"This was our most sluggish game," said Williams. "I don't know why."

"We're missing something. I don't know what it is," said Shaffer.

#### FLORIDA STATE (66)

	FG	FT	Rb	Asst	S	Min	TP
Myrick	3-6	1-4	8	7	1	31	7
Allen	7-11	0-0	6	1	0	39	14
Gipson	5-15	1-2	7	2	0	39	11
Farrar	5-10	0-0	3	3	0	30	10
Shaffer	6-14	4-4	0	5	1	29	16
Fitchett	3-4	0-0	2	2	0	22	6
Mabry	1-2	0-0	0	2	1	10	2
Team			3				
Totals	30-62	6-10	29	22	3	200	66

#### NORTH CAROLINA STATE (72)

	FG	FT	Rb	Asst	S	Min	TP
Pierre	1-3	1-3	7	1	0	26	3
Charles	8-13	7-11	4	0	0	37	23
McQueen	0-2	4-4	9	1	1	33	4
McMillian	3-5	0-0	7	6	1	25	6
Myers	7-12	1-2	2	1	3	22	15
Webb	4-6	2-5	1	7	3	29	10
Gannon	0-1	4-6	0	0	0	7	4
Bolton	1-1	3-4	1	0	0	5	5
Thompson	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	2	0
Jackson	0-0	0-0	0	1	0	1	0
Del Negro	1-1	0-0	1	1	0	11	2
Warren	0-0	0-1	0	0	0	2	0
Totals	25-44	22-36	32	18	8	200	72

Halftime: N.C. State 37, FSU 66; Fouled out: Myrick, Farrar (FSU); Total fouls: FSU 25, N.C. State 12; Techn. fouls: none; Att. 11,300.