

Seminoles still are winless in the Metro

By Gerald Ensley
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NEW ORLEANS — Somewhere there is an oasis. But it wasn't in the Crescent City on Monday, as the Florida State men's basketball team continued its winless march through the desert.

Shooting your basically torrid 63 percent from the floor — and making 20 of 24 free throw attempts — the Tulane Green Wave sent FSU tumbling to its seventh loss in a row with a 64-61 conquest.

The skid equals FSU's worst since Joe Williams became head coach in 1978, matching a seven-game losing string in 1981-82. The Seminoles, losers of nine of their last 10 games, are 7-10 overall and winless, at 0-6, in the Metro Conference.

Tulane is 10-8 overall and 3-4 in the Metro.

Despite the loss, FSU actually played better than it has since a loss to Virginia Tech four games ago. And, for only the second time in 1985, the Seminoles made more than 50 percent of their field goal attempts, making 51 percent of their shots Monday. Not since connecting on 64 percent of their field goal attempts in their lone 1985 victory, over Division III St. Joseph's of Maine, have the Seminoles shot better than 50 percent in their last 10 games.

However, with the officials calling a rather one-sided game especially in the first half, FSU went to the free throw line only seven times, making three.

"We had our chances. This was a big step forward," said FSU head coach Joe Williams, who refused comment on the officiating (the Metro Conference has a standing fine of \$1,000 for coaches who criticize the officiating). "One of the things we did better was move the ball around to get good shots."

Again, FSU center Al Gipson played a fine game, leading all scorers with 22 points. Coupled with the 27 points he scored against Southern Mississippi, Gipson is now just 55 points short of joining Mitchell Wiggins as the only Seminoles to score 1,000 points in only two seasons. Also in double figures for FSU were Dean Shaffer, with a career-high 17 points (although he made only eight of 19 shots from the floor), and Maurice Myrick with 12.

Tulane was led by 6-10 center John Williams with 20 points and 6-7 senior forward Clyde Eads with 17 — including his first-ever dunk at home (giving him three for his career). Eads, and freshman guard Marcus Hamilton who had 12 points, were especially effective shooters. Eads, a native of Tampa, connected on seven of 11 field goal attempts, and Hamilton hit five of eight. Williams was five of 12 from the floor and hit all six of his free throws.

"I want to think it's because we're spending more time working on our shooting and our offense. And the fact that I've settled in on a lineup," Tulane head coach Ned Fowler said of his team's hot shooting.

"The shots they gave me are the shots I like, the shots I practice," said Eads.

The game began promisingly for FSU, as Gipson hit three straight baskets and the Seminoles jumped to a 6-2 lead — the biggest lead they've enjoyed in a game since Virginia Tech.

But Tulane — aided throughout the half by some

rather generous officiating — climbed back into the fray quickly. A basket by Hamilton and a pair of free throws by Williams — when the refs ruled that Gipson had fouled him on what appeared to be a blocked shot by Gipson — tied the score 6-6.

Gipson's fourth basket of the game lifted FSU to an 8-6 lead — the last lead FSU would enjoy in the game.

Five straight points by Eads — the first of them on a free throw after Gipson, still angry over the unallowed block, was assessed a technical foul — pushed Tulane to a 11-8 lead.

FSU closed the margin to 11-10 on a jumper by Myrick. But Tulane, led by a pair of Williams jumpers from the baseline, rang off six straight points for a 17-10 lead.

FSU rallied briefly on a pair of baskets by Dean Shaffer to come to within five points, at 19-14. But runs of four and eight unanswered points by Tulane, sandwiched around baskets by Gipson (who had 10 first-half points) and Shaffer, lifted Tulane to its largest lead of the half, a 13-point margin at 31-18.

Jumpers by Farrar and Myrick, at the buzzer, brought FSU to within nine points, 31-22, at halftime.

Playing deliberately on offense, FSU began to climb back in the second half. Led by a couple baskets apiece by Gipson and Shaffer, FSU drew to within two points twice in the first six minutes of the

half, the last of those coming with 14:31 to play and the score at 36-34 in Tulane's favor.

But FSU could get no closer the rest of the game. Twice, Tulane moved to eight-point leads before twice, FSU cut the margin to four points.

With 5:15 to go, Tulane pushed back to an eight-point lead, at 54-46, and began to spread its offense out. FSU began fouling, and with all four of Tulane's missed free throws coming in the final 3:15, FSU kept making runs at the Green Wave.

Unfortunately, the runs were too little — as FSU made only one of five shots at one point — and then, finally, a little too late. Shaffer made one of two free throws with six seconds to cut the score to 64-59 before Gipson connected on a jumper with one second for the final margin.

"I thought we played hard. We were more patient than we have been," said Myrick, whose seven rebounds led FSU. "Tulane is better than they were last year. They really shot well. Of course, it seems everybody always does against us."

FSU is now off until Saturday when it travels to Columbia to play South Carolina.

Florida State (61)

	FG	FT	Rb	Asst	S	Min	TP
Farrar	1-4	0-0	0	8	2	35	2
Myrick	6-10	0-0	7	4	2	40	12
Shaffer	8-19	1-2	4	5	1	38	17
Allen	3-6	2-4	3	0	0	27	8
Gipson	11-17	0-1	5	1	2	40	22
Fitchett	0-1	0-0	0	1	0	13	0
Mabry	0-0	0-0	0	3	0	7	0
Totals	29-57	3-7	23	22	7	200	61

Tulane (64)

	FG	FT	Rb	Asst	S	Min	TP
Dominique	1-1	5-6	0	7	2	40	7
Hamilton	5-8	2-2	5	6	1	40	12
Johnson	2-2	3-4	9	0	2	24	7
Eads	7-11	3-3	1	0	0	40	17
Williams	7-12	6-6	4	1	1	40	20
Aughburns	0-1	1-3	2	2	0	16	2
Totals	22-35	20-24	23	16	6	200	64

Halftime score: Tulane 31, FSU 22;
Fouled out: Farrar, Gipson (FSU);
Technical fouls: Gipson (FSU); Total fouls:
FSU — 21, Tulane — 13; Attendance: 3753.