

FSU makes it look easy, beating Jacksonville 88-72

By Gerald Ensley
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Sometimes ballgames, like bad movies, last about twice as long as they need to.

Wednesday's 88-72 victory by the Florida State men's basketball team over Jacksonville was just such an example. The first 20 minutes were all FSU needed to make its point and delight connoisseurs. The final 20 minutes merely satisfied regulations.

Making seven of their first eight shots, outrebounding the smaller Dolphins 23-13 and kicking the fast break into gear, the Seminoles raced away to a 22-point lead (47-25) at halftime. And though Jacksonville managed to cut that mar-

gin to 13 points twice in the final two minutes of the game, the outcome was never in doubt. Only the eventual end of the game was of interest in the second half, as the two teams dragged through a deluge of 38 free throw attempts (64 for the entire game).

The victory was FSU's third in a row — after a nine-game losing streak — and lifted the Seminoles to 10-12 on the season. The Dolphins are 13-11. The victory was FSU's second over Jacksonville this season; FSU beat the Dolphins 61-60 in December.

"I have to commend Florida State. I know they've had some problems this season but they have undoubtedly put their act together," said Jacksonville assistant coach

Greg Blatt. "The big difference between this game and the last one was that Florida State took it to us in the first half. They were very aggressive and we lost our composure."

Blatt was in charge of Jacksonville on Wednesday, in place of head coach Bob Wenzel, who was hospitalized last week with a cerebral aneurysm. According to a report handed out by Dolphin sports information director Gary Izzo just before the game, Wenzel underwent surgery Wednesday afternoon. The surgeon, Dr. Walter Grand, said after the operation: "Coach Wenzel is alert and in stable condition and is replying to all commands."

—See GAME, 3D

"It affected us a little," said Jacksonville star Otis Smith said of Wenzel's absence. "But the only difference between this game and the last one (against FSU) was that we played badly."

Smith and reserve guard Cleveland Williams led the Dolphins with 19 points apiece, as Jacksonville recovered from a first half in which it shot 32 percent from the floor to shoot 43 percent for the entire game.

FSU shot better than 50 percent (57 percent) for the third game in a row and had five scorers in double figures, led by center Al Gipson with 23 points. Guard Dean Shaffer, in addition to game-high totals of seven assists and four steals, scored a career-high 18 points. Maurice Myrick and Jerome Fitchett scored 15 apiece and Randy Allen, saddled early with foul trouble, added 12.

"We played very well in the first half," said FSU head coach Joe Williams. "We played very smart, very good defense. We did everything well. We wanted to play better in the second half. But we had such a big lead. Still, when Jacksonville did come back to cut it to 13 points, we got back under control and played smart."

After Allen hit a jumper to open the game, Jacksonville tied the score at 2-2 on a basket by Smith. It was bye-bye birdie after that, however, as FSU rang off eight straight points for a 10-2 lead with

15:50 to go in the first half.

Jacksonville rallied slightly to cut the margin to six points, 18-12, with 11:54 to play in the half. But FSU, paced by 10 first-half points apiece by Allen, Shaffer and Gipson, steadily pulled away, leading by double digits the final 10 minutes of the half.

The second half featured an incredibly sluggish and long first four minutes of play, dotted with 10 free throws. The sluggishness ended with a mild brouhaha when Shaffer fouled Jacksonville guard Ronnie Murphy as Murphy laid in a basket off the fast break.

Shaffer was whistled for an intentional foul, as he pushed Murphy's legs from under him while he was in the air. Murphy got up off the floor in full fury, and attempted to throw the ball at Shaffer. Instead, the ball hit Myrick, with Murphy being charged a technical foul. Still angry, Murphy exchanged words with the referee — who increased the penalty to a double technical foul and ejected Murphy from the game. Jacksonville's Danny Pearson hit the two free throws in place of Murphy, and Shaffer responded with four free throws at the other end.

That done — and FSU leading 59-37 with 15:52 to play — the teams settled down to play basketball, although most of the time was spent at the foul lines.

FSU eventually pushed to its largest lead, 25 points, with eight minutes remaining — connecting on 17 of 24 free throws in the second half. Jacksonville, taking advantage of the bulk of FSU's 15 turnovers, came to within 13

points, at 80-67, with 2:31 to play, and again, 82-69, with 1:57 to play — making 11 of 14 second-half free throws.

As promised, the Golden Girls — an FSU-students dance troupe that has been the subject of a recent controversy — performed at halftime of the game. The group received a minute-long standing ovation from the crowd of 3,842 at the Tallahassee-Leon County Civic Center when it made its appearance, and each woman was given a long-stemmed red rose by FSU booster Hank Mannheimer.

FSU now is on the road for two games, playing at Memphis State on Saturday and at Louisville the following Wednesday.

JACKSONVILLE (72)

	FG	FT	Rb	Asst	S	Min	TP
McDuffie	8-13	2-2	11	0	0	34	18
Smith	4-11	7-9	5	5	0	25	19
Kittles	1-5	0-2	2	0	0	28	2
Murphy	2-9	0-0	1	0	0	20	4
Pearson	2-7	2-4	3	1	0	24	6
Williams	7-12	5-7	4	1	2	25	19
Terrell	0-0	0-0	1	0	0	5	0
Hinton	1-5	0-0	1	2	1	14	2
Lewis	0-0	0-0	1	0	0	1	0
Nedaskay	0-0	2-2	2	0	0	10	2
Scott	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	2	0
Team			1				
Totals	27-63	18-26	34	9	3	200	72

FLORIDA STATE (88)

	FG	FT	Rb	Asst	S	Min	TP
Allen	4-10	0-0	7	1	1	20	12
Myrick	5-11	5-6	6	1	0	34	15
Gibson	8-14	7-9	7	0	1	32	23
Farrar	0-3	1-2	2	5	1	36	1
Shaffer	5-8	8-9	5	7	4	32	18
Fitchell	5-8	5-6	7	1	2	33	15
Mabry	0-0	2-4	0	0	0	1	2
Speights	1-4	0-0	4	0	1	11	2
Martin	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	0
Team			3				
Totals	30-58	28-34	41	15	10	200	88

Halftime: FSU 47, Jacksonville 25; Total fouls: Jacksonville 20, FSU 21; Fouled out: Allen (FSU); Technical fouls: Murphy (Jacksonville) ejected; Att: 3,842.