

Seminoles storm past Cincinnati

By Gerald Enaley
Democrat staff writer

The good Dr. Jekyll showed up rather than the bad Mr. Hyde, as the schizophrenic Florida State men's basketball team defeated Cincinnati 86-60 Wednesday night before a season-low crowd of 2,541 in the Tallahassee-Leon County Civic Center.

The victory lifted FSU to 11-15 overall and 3-10 in the Metro Conference. It also pushed the Seminoles into a tie with Southern Mississippi for seventh place in the conference. Cincinnati, 14-12 overall, clung to third place in the conference with a 7-6 record.

Up and down all season, the Seminoles turned in one of their best overall efforts Wednesday. They shot 62 percent from the floor, connected on 28 of 36 free throws and out-rebounded the Bearcats 36-29.

The 62-percent field goal shooting was made even more noticeable by Cincinnati's poor shooting. The Bearcats hit 32 percent in the first half, 40 percent for the game.

"We shot poorly and Florida State shot very well. They made some big-time shots," said Cincinnati head coach Tony Yates. "Overall, that was probably the poorest we've played all year, at least for that period of time. We've had some games where we didn't play well in both halves. But we played poorly about 30 or 35 minutes tonight."

"We were effective at the beginning. But then it was all downhill."

FSU's Jerome Fitchett and Randy Allen led all scorers with 23 points apiece, a career high for Fitchett. Fitchett was seven-of-seven from the floor before missing a long-range bomb in the game's final seconds.

Al Gipson, though he scored only 14 points, was very effective for the Seminoles, making seven of eight field goal attempts, grabbing a game-high nine rebounds and generally making things tough in the middle for the shorter Bearcats.

"When Al plays as well as he played tonight, it opens things up for the other players," said FSU head coach Joe Williams. "I thought several things happened tonight: Al was very good, especially on defense and on the boards. Our defense was aggressive, especially Joe (Farrar) and Maurice (Myrick), who kept (Cincinnati point guard Derrick) McMillan from scoring and from running their offense."

"I guess the main thing was everybody played real well as a team."

Cincinnati was led in scoring by forward Kenneth Henry with 13 points and guard Roger McClelland with 12. McMillan, who scored 22 when the Bearcats beat FSU back in January, was held to only six points.

FSU trailed only briefly, with the largest of those deficits being a four-point Cincinnati lead, 12-8, with 14:32 to play in the first half. The teams were even, at 16-16 with 11:33 to play in the first half, before a three-point play by Allen gave the Seminoles a 19-16 lead. Cincinnati's Myron Hughes scored on a fast-break layup to cut the score to 19-18. The Seminoles then took off.

Scoring 18 unanswered points — 10 of them coming from the free-throw line — the Seminoles burst to a 37-18 lead with 2:18 to go

in the half. All bets were off from that point on.

The Bearcats did manage to whittle FSU's lead to 15 points at halftime, 41-26. And the Bearcats did manage to draw to within 11 points in the first three minutes of the second half. But with Gipson, Allen and Fitchett proving nearly unstoppable, FSU steadily drew away. Over the final 10 minutes, the Bearcats got no closer than 16 points, and twice in the final minutes FSU moved to as much as a 28-point lead.

Reserves for both teams played the final three minutes. All the Seminoles wound up scoring except starting senior forward Maurice Myrick — by his reckoning the first time that has happened in his FSU career — and reserve center Terry Martin.

FSU finishes its regular season Saturday afternoon with a game against Metro opponent South Carolina in the civic center.

CINCINNATI (40)

	FG	FT	Rb	Asst	S	Min	TP
Henry	4-5	5-6	4	0	0	25	13
Hughes	4-10	0-0	6	0	1	23	8
Heim	0-4	0-0	4	0	0	24	0
McClelland	5-11	2-3	3	2	2	36	12
McMillan	2-8	2-3	3	2	0	29	6
Stittend	1-1	0-2	1	0	0	11	2
Wilson	0-3	0-0	0	1	0	7	0
Thompson	1-5	0-0	3	2	1	15	2
Shorter	2-3	1-2	0	2	0	7	5
Keckman	2-5	0-0	1	1	0	7	4
Sachsepsk	2-2	0-0	0	0	0	6	4
Glover	2-2	0-2	4	1	0	16	4
Ruehl	0-2	0-0	0	1	0	4	0
Totals	25-62	10-18	29	12	4	200	60

FLORIDA STATE (84)

	FG	FT	Rb	Asst	S	Min	TP
Allen	7-12	9-9	7	1	1	36	23
Myrick	0-4	0-2	5	3	0	32	0
Gipson	7-8	0-1	9	3	0	33	14
Shaffer	3-7	4-4	2	9	3	26	10
Farrar	4-5	3-3	2	4	1	25	11
Fitchett	8-9	7-10	6	0	1	32	23
Mabry	0-0	2-2	1	1	0	5	2
Speights	0-0	2-3	1	0	0	3	2
Carlier	0-1	1-2	1	0	0	5	1
Martin	0-1	0-0	1	0	0	3	0
Team			1				
Totals	29-47	28-36	36	21	4	200	86

Halftime: FSU-41, Cincinnati 26; Total fouls: Cincinnati 25, FSU 16; Fouled out: none; Technical fouls: Cincinnati bench 7; Attendance: 2,541.