

# Cards down FSU

By Gerald Ensley  
Democrat staff writer

In some ways it was among the best games the Florida State Seminoles have played this season.

Unfortunately for FSU, it was the best game Milt Wagner has played this season. Louisville's senior guard scored a season-high 27 points Wednesday night and led the 18th-ranked Cardinals to an 85-64 victory over FSU.

The loss, in front of 7,198, the second-largest Civic Center crowd of the season, moved FSU's record to 7-6 and 1-1 in the Metro Conference. Louisville is 10-4 overall and 2-1 in the Metro.

FSU hustled from start to finish, playing heads-up defense and pursuing loose balls and rebounds. But FSU's downfall was shooting; the Seminoles made only 38 percent of their field-goal attempts, matching their season low previously attained in a 45-point loss to North Carolina. Taking nine more shots from the floor than Louisville, the Seminoles just couldn't connect with consistency.

Forward Randy Allen led FSU with 15 points but hit only five of 16 shots. Guard Pee Wee Barber, who passed out a game-high eight assists, had 13 points on five-of-15 shooting from the floor.

"We got the shots we wanted. We just missed them," said Barber.

"We missed a lot of easy shots around the basket. I mean a lot of shots," said FSU head coach Joe Williams. "When we get to where we hit those, we'll be a good team."

Like Louisville. Led by Wagner's 13-of-15 performance, the Cardinals made 53 percent of their field-goal attempts.

"I felt pretty good in warmups. Then I hit my first jump shot and it was all downhill from there," said Wagner.

FSU led only once in the game: 2-0. Louisville then raced to an 8-2 lead and pushed it into double digits before the game was six minutes old.

Steadily increasing its lead, behind Wagner's 13 first-half points

and the strong inside play of Billy Thompson and Pervis Ellison, Louisville moved to a 20-point lead (41-21), with 3:11 left in the first half.

FSU then rallied. Barber fed Allen twice for baskets, Allen added a free throw and Raleigh Choice grabbed a rebound and scored to cut the Louisville lead to 13 points, at 41-28, with 1:44 to play in the first half.

Then with Louisville guard Jeff Hall looking to head coach Denny Crum for instructions, FSU forward Jerome Fitchett stole the ball from Hall and passed to Barber, who was fouled attempting to shoot. Barber sank one of two free throws, and FSU had closed to within 12 points at halftime, 41-29.

"Except for that one little stretch at the end of the first half, that's about as well as we've played on the road," said Crum, whose team has suffered all four of its losses on the road or at neutral sites.

FSU, though, wasn't through. With LaRae Davis sinking a basket from the corner to open the second half, FSU began the final 20 min-

utes with a 10-3 run, including six straight points, to draw to within five points of the Cardinals, at 44-39.

That run, however, did not distress Crum.

"Basketball is a game of spurts. A lot of people say you ought to call a timeout at a time like that. But my contention is that when you have a big lead, let the other team run its stretch out. Eventually, they'll get tired, and you'll have a spurt of your own," said Crum.

That's exactly what happened. FSU stopped Louisville on its next trip down court, and then Jerome Fitchett drove the lane, looking to dunk the ball. Up in the air, he was harassed by a tangle of Louisville arms, and bounced the ball off the backboard. No foul was called.

Louisville pushed the ball up court, and Hall hit a jumper from the baseline. Wagner then ripped off six straight points — a layup, a dunk, a hook — to complete an eight-point Louisville run, and move the lead to 52-39.

"I was fouled but I'm not complaining," said Fitchett of the key play. "The refs were letting us play out there. They let a lot of things go."

FSU, continuing to hustle, could make little headway. Six straight

points by Davis cut the Louisville lead to nine points (69-60), with 4:24 to play. But the Cardinals responded with 10 straight points — all on free throws as FSU fouled while it desperately chased the ball — and eventually ended the game with a dunk by reserve Kenny Payne for the final margin, which was the largest of the game.

"I thought we were very sharp, ready to play," said the ever-unflappable Crum, whose team's losses have all come to teams ranked in the Top 20.

"I think there were some good things out there," assessed Williams. "We played four juniors, two sophomores and two freshmen. For us, this week is do or die. Southern Miss is coming in Saturday. We've got to go out and build on what we do well this week."

Southern Mississippi, a Metro Conference opponent, plays FSU in the Civic Center on Saturday night before the Seminoles take off on a four-game road trip.

#### LOUISVILLE (85)

	FG	FT	Rb	Asst	S	Min	TP
Crook	2-6	5-6	10	4	0	34	9
Thompson	3-9	6-6	10	3	0	30	12
Ellison	4-9	5-6	5	2	0	34	13
Wagner	13-15	1-2	4	3	1	38	27
Hall	6-10	4-4	2	1	0	31	16
Kimbrow	0-5	2-2	1	0	0	16	2

Payne	2-4	0-0	2	0	0	4	4
McSwain	1-1	0-1	2	1	0	8	2
Walls	0-0	0-0	0	1	0	2	0
West	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	2	0
Robinson	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	0
Team			4				
<b>Totals</b>	<b>31-59</b>	<b>23-27</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>85</b>

#### FLORIDA STATE (64)

	FG	FT	Rb	Asst	S	Min	TP
Allen	5-16	5-5	2	1	2	37	15
Fitchett	5-11	0-0	7	1	4	39	10
Choice	5-8	2-4	5	0	0	32	12
Davis	5-6	2-2	2	3	1	20	12
Barber	5-15	3-4	3	8	3	36	13
Hunter	1-6	0-0	7	0	0	17	2
Mateer	0-2	0-0	0	0	0	9	0
McCloud	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	1	0
Mabry	0-3	0-1	4	1	0	9	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>26-68</b>	<b>12-16</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>64</b>

Halftime: Louisville 41, FSU 29; Total fouls: Louisville 16, FSU 23; Fouled out: Allen, Davis (FSU); Technical fouls: none; Attendance: 7,198.