

Southern Miss dials long distance to beat FSU

By Gerald Ensley
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HATTIESBURG, Miss. — If it had been an Alfred Hitchcock movie, it would have been called "Dial USM for Murder." And it would have been a long-distance call.

The University of Southern Mississippi repeatedly rang up baskets from distant area codes Saturday and defeated Florida State 102-96.

The defeat was FSU's second to Southern Miss this season and the seventh FSU loss in eight games, moving the Seminoles'

record to 8-12 overall and 1-5, last in the seven-team Metro Conference. On the road, FSU is 0-9 this season and 0-18 since beating Furman on Dec. 29, 1984.

Southern Miss, winning its fourth straight game, is 13-8 and 3-4.

As was the case when the Golden Eagles beat FSU 94-92 on Jan. 18 while shooting 64 percent from the field, Southern Miss shot extremely well, especially from long range. The Golden Eagles, averaging 45 percent for the season, wound up shooting 58 percent Saturday after a first half in which they shot 67 percent.

In that half, Southern Miss made its

Metro's Memphis State and Louisville are upset, 3F

first seven shots and held a lead of 8-0 before FSU had taken its second shot. Most effective was guard Kenny Siler, who scored 14 of his game-high 31 points in the first seven minutes.

Siler's total was a career high, making him the third Golden Eagles to record career-high point totals against FSU this season. In the January game between the teams, guard Michael Jett (30 points) and

forward Randolph Keys (27) had their best scoring games.

"I'm not enough of a witch doctor to answer that. They hit a lot of jumpers they probably wouldn't take normally," said FSU head coach Joe Williams in response to questions about Southern Mississippi's shooting success against FSU this season.

"We got on a roll," said Siler. "It wasn't because it was Florida State. It could have been South Carolina (which plays Southern Miss on Monday). We came into the gym fired up and ready to play."

In contrast to FSU,

"In the early going today, we were a

little tight and they made a bunch of long jumpers," said Williams. "Why were we tight? Because they made those jumpers."

Carelessness, not nervousness, was the reason offered by the Seminole players for Saturday's poor start and eventual loss. Now allowing an average of 81.5 points per game, the Seminoles are close to the school record of 81.9 allowed by the 1959-60 team.

"The problem is we didn't play any defense," said FSU point guard Pee Wee Barber, who had a team-high 21 points. "We didn't get a hand in their faces. We knew

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they were going to hit those shots, but we didn't get a hand up.

"We're working hard on offense. We're just not working hard on defense."

FSU countered on offense shooting 61 percent from the field, but much of that success came late in the game when the outcome was decided.

"I think Florida State is an outstanding offensive team, if the two games we've played against them is any indication," said Southern Mississippi head coach M.K. Turk. "It was another ball game in which we couldn't stop them, we just had to outscore them."

After racing to a 14-5 lead, Southern Miss allowed FSU no closer than seven points in the first half.

FSU opened the second half with five straight points, cutting the score to 52-46 with 17:54 to play. But the Golden Eagles pushed their lead up to 12 points, and FSU came no closer than eight until the final minute.

The Seminoles wound up with a 36-30 edge in rebounding. But the Golden Eagles made 15 steals to FSU's seven, and committed only 16 turnovers to FSU's 24. Numerous FSU rallies were stopped by crucial errors.

FSU's second unit played two minutes in the first half, one minute in the second half and had a net scoring deficit of two points. It was the third straight game Williams substituted entire units.

"So many times we got a loose ball or a rebound and Southern Miss would be there," said Williams. "We made so many 'almost' plays."

FSU next plays third-ranked Memphis State on Monday in Memphis.

FLORIDA STATE (96)

	FG	FT	Rb	Asst	S	Min	TP
Allen	7-13	0-0	5	1	1	37	14
Fitchett	7-9	0-1	8	0	0	32	14
Shaffer	2-5	1-2	3	3	0	18	5
Davis	6-11	2-4	5	7	3	35	14
Barber	8-14	5-9	3	8	2	37	21
Mateer	2-2	0-0	2	1	0	5	4
Choice	6-7	4-4	7	1	0	21	16
Hunter	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	3	0
McCloud	3-4	2-2	0	0	1	7	8
Carler	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	3	0
Mabry	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	2	0
Team			3				
Totals	41-67	14-22	36	21	7	200	96

SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI (102)

	FG	FT	Rb	Asst	S	Min	TP
Hamilton	3-9	0-0	5	3	1	22	6
White	9-13	2-2	7	4	1	32	20
Keys	8-12	3-4	5	4	1	36	19
Siler	10-16	11-13	3	3	4	35	31
Fisher	5-9	6-7	3	6	4	32	16
Brown	1-1	0-2	3	0	2	17	2
Jett	0-3	2-2	1	3	1	15	2
Hinton	2-2	0-1	1	0	1	8	4
Ginley	1-2	0-0	0	0	0	3	2
Team			2				
Totals	39-67	24-31	30	23	15	200	102

Halftime: S. Miss. 52, FSU 41; Total fouls: FSU 26, S. Miss. 23; Fouled out: Allen, Davis (FSU), White (S. Miss.); Technical fouls: none; Attendance: 2,554.