

Gamecocks scratch FSU

By David Whitley

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LOUISVILLE, Ky. — So much for that.

Florida State's hopes of a Metro Conference title were flattened — and their dreams of an NCAA bid also severely damaged — by South Carolina on Friday night.

The Gamecocks beat FSU 86-85 in the first round of the Metro. The win improved South Carolina's record to 15-13 and moved it into the today's semifinal against Memphis State.

The loss dropped FSU to 18-10, and sent them back to Tallahassee to see what the post-season holds.

It came down to a driving one-hander by Pee Wee Barber with four seconds left. It missed, but Tony Karasek got the rebound and went up trying to win the game. South Carolina's John Breckenridge blocked it, and that was that for FSU.

"I can definitely say that he hit me, but we were getting hit all night and they weren't calling it. That's part of the game," Karasek said of the block.

The two teams split their regular-season series, but Friday night's game was nothing like the first two. The Gamecocks were supposed to be in trouble if FSU could get them into a fast-paced game. The Seminoles got the pace they wanted, but not the result.

The man who kept South Carolina running was forward Terry Dozier, who scored 38 points to set a tournament scoring record. While he was hot, Barber was not.

FSU's guard had been sizzling of late, but on Friday he made only four of 14 shots. LaRae Davis bombed in 27 to offset that, but it wasn't quite enough.

"We thought that if we had a high-scoring game, we could beat them pretty badly," said Randy Allen. "But with Dozier's effort and way the other players are capable of scoring, we just couldn't stop them."

Jerome Fitchett had 15 points for FSU, Barber finished with 14 and Allen had 10. Michael Foster had 15 and Terry Gould 14 to aid Dozier's virtuoso performance.

The Seminoles had an early 11-point lead, but they hit a drought with 10 minutes left in the first half. The Gamecocks got ahead by six, but FSU caught back up

early in the second half. From then on, you had the feeling it was just a matter of who got the big basket at the end.

That was especially true after Michael Foster's four-point play with 4:17 left gave the Gamecocks a 72-71 lead. It went back and forth from there, with Dozier's free-throw shooting and driving ability haunting FSU.

Tony Shaw made a baseline jumper with 40 seconds left to give the Gamecocks an 84-83 lead. FSU called a timeout, but threw the ball away on the inbound play.

Foster was fouled with 31 seconds left, but he missed the front

end of the one-and-one to give the Seminoles a reprieve and set up the final shot.

"You go with the guy who got you there," was coach Pat Kennedy's thinking behind letting Barber take the last shot.

Barber was supposed to drive and kick the ball out to LaRae Davis if he didn't have a shot. Jerome Fitchett and Karasek were supposed to head in for the rebound.

It worked to perfection, until Breckenridge's hand got in the way.

Kennedy admitted that the loss probably did in the Seminoles' NCAA chances.

"We're still alive, but by a long shot," he said. "I think an awful lot depends on what happens around the country this weekend. I'm just hoping the Good Lord shocks me on Sunday, and we get one back on the good side."

SOUTH CAROLINA (86)

T. Dozier 14-22 10-11 38, Martin 3-10 5-5 11, Foster 5-8 1-2 15, Shaw 5-9 4-5 14, Gould 2-3 2-6 6, Abboushi 0-0 0-0 0, Vernau 0-0 0-0 0, P. Dozier 1-3 0-0 2, Breckenridge 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 30-55 22-29 86.

FLORIDA STATE (85)

Allen 4-7 2-2 10, Fitchett 4-5 7-7 15, Choice 2-2 4-5 8, Barber 4-14 5-6 14, Davis 8-15 5-6 27, McCloud 2-7 0-0 4, Hunter 1-3 0-0 2, Karasek 2-5 1-2 5. Totals 27-58 24-28 85.

Halftime score—S. Carolina 44, Florida St. 40. 3-point goals—S. Carolina 4-6 (T. Dozier 0-1, Foster 4-5). Florida St. 7-14 (Barber 1-5, Davis 6-9). Fouled out—Martin, Allen. Rebounds—S. Carolina 31 (T. Dozier 11), Florida St. 31 (Karasek 9). Assists—S. Carolina 16 (T. Dozier, Foster, Shaw, P. Dozier 3 each), Florida St. 17 (Barber 9). Total fouls—S. Carolina 20, Florida St. 27.