

# Seminoles surge past Cincinnati

By David Whitley

Democrat staff writer

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — The joke among Cincinnati followers was that Coach Tony Yates left his car in short-term parking at the airport.

He knew he wouldn't be gone more than one game.

For one half on Friday night, that looked like it might turn out to be a bad move. Then Yates' team started playing like it was expected to, as did Florida State and George McCloud.

FSU's point guard scored a career-high 34 points to lead the Seminoles to an 84-74 win. The Seminoles survived their first — and perhaps biggest — game of the Metro Conference Tournament.

The win was big because it might have put them into the NCAA tournament for the first time in eight years. FSU felt 19 wins was the key, and Friday night's did it.

The key word in the preceding paragraph is might. Nobody can be sure whether the selection committee will deem FSU NCAA-worthy when it makes its final decisions Sunday.

"I do," said Coach Pat Kennedy. "With the strength of schedule, I think our 19-9 record has got to be strong to the committee."

One thing is certain — FSU has to be hoping the first half of Friday's game isn't still fresh in the committee's mind come Sunday.

The Seminoles played like they'd just loaded up on some of the mysterious 75-cent hotdogs sold at the Mid-South Coliseum. Missed shots and turnovers were the rule. FSU fans were certainly thankful

In finishing the year 11-17, the Bearcats solidified their position as the Alexander Haig of the Metro conference race. The disappearance of Roger McClendon's shooting ability left them with one legitimate weapon, center Cedric Glover. He's good, but Akeem Olajuwon would have a hard time carrying the rest of Bearcats into the respectable zone.

"I don't think it was sluggishness; we were just overanxious," said guard Tharon Mayes. "We just wanted to get into the semifinals."

The first half reached its nadir for FSU when Tat Hunter, a player who misses a dunk about as often as Queen Elizabeth wears Cubic Zirconias, finished off a fastbreak with a one that clanged long off the rim.

Jackson came back and hit a 3-pointer to give Cincinnati a 28-24 lead with 2:06 left. Fortunately for FSU, the Bearcats' offense vanished for the rest of the half. That allowed the Seminoles outscore them 6-0 to take a 30-28 lead.

FSU opened the second half in the same way, outscoring the Bear-

cats 6-0. That served as the handwriting on Cincinnati's crumbling wall.

FSU looked like a different team than the one that slugged up

His 34 points tied two other players for the third-highest total in Metro tournament history. Dawson added 14 points, Mayes had 12 and Hunter 10.

Glover had 25 for the Bearcats, including 10 of their first 14 in the second half. He wasn't nearly enough once FSU and McCloud got rolling.

"We got off to a slow start in the first half," said McCloud. "Coach Kennedy told us at halftime to relax, move the ball around and things would fall into place."

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Cincinnati	M	FG	FGA	FT	FTA	R	A	PF	TP
Banks	26	4	8	2	6	5	1	2	10
Jackson	31	5	13	4	7	9	3	4	16
Glover	38	11	16	3	4	7	0	2	25
Givens	28	0	1	0	0	2	5	2	0
McClendon	36	4	11	0	0	0	5	4	9
Robinson	16	2	5	0	0	2	1	5	4
Shorter	11	0	2	0	2	1	3	2	0
Ruehl	7	2	3	0	0	2	2	2	5
Starks	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
Ellison	1	2	4	0	0	1	0	1	5
May	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Flynn	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Totals	200	30	64	9	19	36	20	28	74
Team Rebounds—5.									
Florida State	M	FG	FGA	FT	FTA	R	A	PF	TP
Fitchett	25	0	1	2	3	5	1	2	2
Dewson	35	6	14	2	3	6	4	3	14
Hunter	33	5	8	0	1	7	3	4	10
McCloud	36	10	16	10	12	6	1	3	34
Mayes	29	4	6	3	3	2	3	3	12
Johnson	13	0	0	2	2	1	1	1	2
Polite	10	1	2	0	0	1	0	4	2
Mitchell	4	0	1	2	4	2	0	1	2
Boyd	12	2	3	1	3	1	3	0	6
White	3	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Totals	200	28	52	22	31	32	16	21	84
Team Rebounds—1.									
Cincinnati	28 46—74								
Florida State	30 54—84								
3-point goals: UC 5-15 (Jackson 2-4, McClendon 1-5, Shorter 0-1, Ruehl 1-2, Ellison 1-3); Florida State 6-11 (McCloud 4-6, Mayes 1-3, Boyd 1-2).									