

Lady Brahmans Break Florida State Jinx

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The women in white finally did it; the South Florida Brahmans downed arch-nemesis Florida State.

Revengeing their two previous regular-season defeats, the red-hot University of South Florida girls basketball team held off a fierce second-half rally to capture an opening round 70-65 upset victory over Florida State in Thursday's Florida Division I double-elimination basketball tournament at USF.

The Brahmans blazed their way to an early 15-point lead with a scorching fast-break. But despite making less than half of their free throw attempts, the indefatigable Seminoles came roaring back late in the game to pull to within two points of the Brahmans.

"Last Saturday didn't really matter," said USF coach Joanne Rogers, referring to the overtime FSU victory in Tallahassee last week.

"We practiced all week just for this game. We saved all our new stuff for this game. The girls are really up for the tournament"

The third-seeded Brahmans will square off against top-seeded Florida today at 1 p.m. The Gators, led by Quientella Bonner's 17 points and 28 rebounds, took a 76-56 decision from the fourth-seeded Miami Hurricanes.

Thursday's losers will meet today at 10:30 a.m., with the winner moving on to the semifinal round to face the loser of the USF-Florida matchup today at 8 p.m.

Mary Ann York led the well-balanced Brahman attack with 17 points, and Laura Mooney added 16. Jennifer Merritt pumped in 12 clutch points, including the decisive field-goal that made 67-61.

On defense, Elaine Fant turned in a

superior intimidating game that included several blocked shots and 10 rebounds.

"I am looking forward to Florida," said Rogers, "I am looking forward to another upset. We are at our very best form, and we are going to be rough."

FLORIDA STATE (65) — Ruffo 4 1-2 9, Silsby 1 0-1 2, Harper 6 4-5 17, Weigand 1 0-0 2, Arnold 5 3-8 12, Collins 4 4-5 16, Barrineau 2 1-8 5, Rivers 1 0-0 2, Harstuedt 1 1-4 4, Totals 25 14-33 65.

USF (70) — Nicosia 0 1-2 1, Merritt 3 7-10 12, Fant 4 0-0 8, Furst 1 0-0 2, Mooney 8 0-0 16, York 5 7-10 17, Johnson 4 0-0 8, Garvey 2 2-2 6, Totals 26 17-24 70.

Halftime score: USF, 37-30. Total fouls: FSU 22, USF 28. Fouled out: Arnold, Rivers, Fant, Merritt. Technicals: FSU coach Batties, FSU bench, Mooney.

MIAMI (55) — Segall 8 4-11 20, Holland 1 0-0 2, Castineria 1 0-0 2, Grasenth 2 0-0 4, Rubin 1 0-0 2, Hartman 1 0-0 2, McCrystal 0 1-5 1, Foote 9 4-4 22, Totals 22 9-20 55.

FLORIDA (76) — Reutebuch 0 2-2 2, McKean 7 3-5 17, Giblin 1 0-0 2, Hoyt 5 2-3 12, Brookins 5 0-1 10, Fisher 5 0-2 10, Carroll 1 0-0 2, Fleming 1 2-2 4, Bonner 8 1-3 17, Totals 33 10-18 76.

Halftime score: F 37, M 26. Fouled out: Hartman. Team records: M 8-7, F 10-11.