

Blazers burn FSU

By BOB COHN

Democrat sports writer

It's called "women's basketball," but Valdosta State proved Thursday night there is no need to qualify it. Just call it basketball . . . the way it is meant to be played.

In the finale of the Tully Gym four-game basketball carnival, known officially as the Region III Intercollegiate Basketball Tournament quarterfinals, Valdosta demonstrated the sport's finer points in a 104-49 dismantling of the FSU women.

In earlier games, Delta State defeated Alabama 74-61, Fort Valley beat South Florida 83-71 and Mississippi won over Talladega 83-59.

The how and why of the FSU-Valdosta contest are simple. Valdosta runs well, passes well, shoots incredibly and does not play defense. The Lady Blazers play "steal the ball." It is also rumored that they put on their shorts two legs at a time.

THE LADY Seminoles controlled the opening tap and little else. Once Valdosta got the ball, Susan Taylor, its fine, 5-foot-9 sophomore forward, sank the first bucket, a soft 15-footer. Then junior guard Cathy McCurdy decided to top that with a 17-foot jumper. Not at all satisfied, McCurdy came right back with a steal and lay-up to make it 6-0.

Junior Guard Shirley Silsby gave FSU its first score on a 12-foot pop to make it 6-2, but then it was literally "off to the races" for Valdosta.

Employing a fast break that would do the old Boston Celtics proud, the Blazers ran, and ran and ran some more to a 50-35 lead at halftime.

FSU was not playing all that badly, hitting on 42 per cent of its shots from the field. But Valdosta was taking no prisoners, making good on 23 of 32 shots for an awesome 70 per cent.

Taylor had 14 points, mostly the result of steals from Valdosta's all-court press. Center Coretta Bloom shot from all over for 12, and McCurdy, another catalyst of its swarming defense, scored 10 points.

THE LADY Seminoles were keeping things fairly respectable on the three-pronged offense of Cherry Rivers, Jackie Arnold and Rose Harper, who combined for 28 of the team's 35 first-half points.

Valdosta came out gunning in the second half as if it were 15 down instead of ahead. After five minutes, it was 63-39 and climbing, and looks that said, "Why us?" could almost be detected on the faces of the FSU players.

If statistics mean anything, and in this case, the final score says it all, here are some: Valdosta *improved* its first half shooting percentage, finishing at 71 percent for the game. Bloom, the center, shot 14 for 17, or 80 per cent. Rebounds were Valdosta, 48, FSU, 24. No need to continue.

Valdosta State

	FG	FT	Rb	Asst	PF	TP
Durham	1-3	0-0	3	1	1	2
McCurdy	5-5	0-0	3	8	1	10
Christie	4-7	1-2	3	3	4	9
Ruche	2-5	0-0	3	3	1	4
Bloom	14-17	1-3	10	3	2	29
Boykin	1-2	0-0	0	1	0	2
Chason	5-7	2-3	8	3	1	12
Taylor	11-15	1-1	5	2	4	23
Johnson	2-3	0-3	5	0	3	4
Sumers	4-5	1-2	5	3	0	9
Team			3			
Totals	49-69	6-14	48	27	17	104

Florida State

	FG	FT	Rb	Asst	PF	TP
Davis	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
Silsby	1-3	0-0	2	1	2	2
Harper	5-12	0-0	0	2	4	10
Ruffo	0-3	0-0	2	0	1	0
Weigand	1-2	0-0	1	0	1	2
Gailey	0-3	0-0	1	0	2	0
Arnold	4-16	1-3	3	0	4	9
Collins	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
Hartzell	0-3	2-2	2	0	0	2
Barrineau	3-9	3-7	q5	0	3	9
Rivers	6-11	1-2	7	1	2	13
Harstvedt	1-3	0-0	1	0	0	2
Team			0			
Totals	21-65	7-14	24	4	19	49

Halftime: Valdosta 50, FSU 35.

Officials: Keaton, Skinner.