

Last-half spurt lifts Rattlerettes past FSU 77-61

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Florida State's Lady Seminoles had things under control for the first 10 minutes at Jake Gaither Gymnasium Tuesday night, but the final 30 minutes belonged to Florida A&M.

The Rattlerettes — trailing 32-20 with 4:39 to play in the first half — dominated the Lady Seminoles in the second half and cruised to a 77-61 victory.

FAMU's second straight victory over FSU improved the Rattlerettes' record to 11-8. Earlier, FAMU beat FSU 84-79 in overtime at Tully Gym.

THE VICTORY also stretched FAMU's winning streak to five games.

FSU is now 14-13.

FAMU scored eight straight points late in the first half to cut a 12-point Lady Seminole lead to five at 32-27. But FSU hung on and led by seven at halftime 36-29.

The Seminoles' lead, however, didn't last long.

FAMU outscored FSU 8-2 during the first four minutes of the second half, and took the lead on two foul shots by Sofia Hayward. It was FAMU's first lead since the beginning of the game.

FSU regained the lead at 40-39 on a jumper by Cherry Rivers. But it was the last time FSU led.

FAMU outscored the Lady Seminoles 20-0 during the next six minutes, taking a 59-40 lead.

FSU SCORED at 14:05 on Rivers' jumper and didn't score again until Karen Barrineau hit two foul shots with 7:31 left.

Barrineau's shots cut FAMU's lead to 17 at 59-42, too much for FSU to overcome.

The Lady Seminoles, however, didn't give up. They closed to within 10 at 65-55 with just under three minutes to play. But that was as close as the Lady Seminoles got.

It was a tough loss for FSU Coach Diane Murphy.

THE LOSS was tough for Murphy but sweet for FAMU Coach Mickey Clayton. Coming into the season he had hoped his team could beat FSU at least once. Last year, the Seminoles beat FAMU by 51 and 24 points, respectively.

Florida State (61) — Tinsley 0-1-1, Harper 3-1-7, Weigand 3-0-6, Golden 1-0-2, Barrineau 0-2-2, Shannon 0-0-0, Rivers 6-0-12, Arnold 8-2-18, Lappe 5-1-11, Edwards 1-0-2. Totals 27-7-61.

Florida A&M (77) — Goodman 1-0-2, Strickland 0-0-0, Buie 0-0-0, Hayward 4-2-10, Smith 1-0-2, Thomas 11-2-24, Tolbert 5-1-11, D. Walker 1-1-3, Farmer 6-0-12, D. Campbell 3-1-7, Howard 3-0-6. 35-7-77.

Halftime: Florida State 36, Florida A&M 29.