

Rattlerettes trip FSU 87-86

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At Gaither Gym Wednesday, and for the third time this season, Florida A&M's women's basketball team piddled along for most of the game, only to stage a stunning comeback in the final minutes and snatch defeat from the jaws of victory.

The victim this time, before 2,117 screaming fans, was hated-rival Florida State. The Lady Seminoles, 16-3, had entered the contest smugly confident after some impressive wins. FAMU, however, found them ripe for an upset.

The Rattlerettes, 10-2, clawed back from a 19-point second half deficit and shocked FSU 87-86 on a tip-in by Greensboro's Cynthia Lee with three seconds left.

Lee's shot capped a remarkable rally, one that was aided by a near-total collapse by FSU down the stretch. Once the going got tight, the Lady Seminoles lost their composure and all but gave the game away.

The Lady Seminoles weren't helped any by the crowd, which was firmly behind FAMU and let it be known late in the game.

"We could not have won without the fan support," said Rattlerette coach Mickey Clayton. "As a matter of fact, without the fan support, we would be just another team."

With the crowd going bananas and FSU teetering along the ropes, FAMU roared back into control in the last minute. After the Lady Seminoles' Sue Galkantas threw the ball away, Havana's Rosa Hudgins sank a 15-footer to give FAMU an 85-83 lead with 33 seconds left.

Strains of *I'm So Glad I'm From*

FAMU began to emanate from the crowd, but the celebration was a bit too early, though understandable. Hudgins gave FAMU only its second lead of the game, the first being at 6-5.

FSU called timeout after Hudgins' shot to plot its strategy. Afterwards, losing coach Jan Dykehouse said, "we wanted to run the clock down to about five seconds and get the last shot. We didn't want them to have time to come down and get a shot off."

Unfortunately for the Seminoles, things did not go that way. Lisa Foglio, who had 19 points, saw an opening and took it with 14 seconds showing. Her driving layup put FSU ahead 86-85, but the Rattlerettes had plenty of time left.

FAMU took a timeout to plot its strategy. "We wanted to get the ball inside to Rosa Hudgins," Clayton explained. "If that wasn't available, we wanted Cynthia Lee to shoot from outside."

The final play didn't exactly work that way for FAMU, but Clayton isn't complaining.

Hudgins got loose for a straight-away 10-footer, but the ball bounded off the rim and into the hands of Lee, who had outjumped two Lady Seminoles. Lee put it back up and in.

FSU wasn't able to get a shot off in the remaining three seconds and the final buzzer was drowned out by the 500 or so folks who mobbed Lee at midcourt.

"It just came off and I tipped it in," said Lee, a freshman. She scored 12 of her 15 points when the Rattlerettes

needed them most, during the final nine minutes. But none of her baskets were bigger, she said, than the last one.

During FAMU's last timeout, "I couldn't really hear what was happening, there was just so much noise. I just crashed the boards and came up with the ball."

Sybil Rivers scored 24 points and grabbed 15 rebounds to lead FAMU. Brenda Fogle, who sank five straight in the first half, scored 22. Hudgins had 15.

The Lady Seminoles, who suddenly found themselves in serious foul trouble just before FAMU launched its comeback, were sparked by Galkantas' 26 points and 10 rebounds. Foglio added 19; LeeVayn Oliver 17 and Sunnie O'Neal 11.

"We made too many mental errors," said a disconsolate Dykehouse. "Before we came over here, we told

them anything can happen at FAMU. They definitely had the homecourt advantage."

FSU really began to fall apart with just over six minutes to go. FAMU had sliced the Lady Seminoles' 19-point lead to 13 and the crowd was beginning to roll. FSU, which had to this point beaten FAMU at its own run-and-shoot game, suddenly became tentative and even went into a semi-stall. The tactic backfired, however. Turnovers and missed foul shots — "we missed enough foul shots to win the game," Dykehouse said — led to three straight FAMU baskets, and suddenly FSU led by only six, 74-68.

"We lost our composure," Dykehouse admitted. "But we were in foul trouble, too."

The Lady Seminoles were indeed in foul trouble, with Stokes (4), Oliver (4) and Galkantas (3) having to play conservatively during the final eight minutes.

FSU almost held on. It forged an 80-70 lead with 3:21 left, but FAMU would not give up. Stokes fouled out with 2:12 to go, taking away the Lady Seminoles' rebounding and defensive ace.

Again taking advantage of steals and missed turnovers, FAMU cut FSU's lead to 84-79 with 1:29 to go. Lee turned in a three-point play to make it an 84-81 contest and Hudgins sank a jumper after a steal to make it 84-83.

Hudgins and Lee then combined in the final seconds to seal the victory.

FLORIDA STATE (86)

O'Neal 5 1-2 11, Foglio 9 1-2 19, Burroughs 0 0-0 0, Gray 0 2-2 2, Oliver 7 3-5 17, S. Galkantas 10 6-8 26, Fahey 1 1-2 3, Lassefer 0 0-0 0, Marnie 3 0-0 6, Stokes 0 2-4 2. Totals 35 16-25 86.

FLORIDA A&M (87)

Lee 7 1-1 15, Fogle 8 6-7 22, Williams 1 0-0 2, Burton 2 0-0 4, Rivers 8 8-13 24, Hudgins 7 1-2 15, Reilly 2 0-0 4, Crawford 0 1-2 1, Mack 0 0-0 0. Totals 35 17-25 87.

Halftime score: Florida State 42, Florida A&M 33.