

# Weariness overcomes FSU women

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Playing with less intensity than a group of laid-back California surfers, a fatigued Florida State women's basketball team was defeated 95-83 by Mississippi Valley State in the consolation game of the AIAW Region 3 tournament Saturday night at the Tallahassee-Leon County Civic Center.

Delta State, 23-13, played Georgia Southern (26-3) for the region championship late Saturday night.

The loss, which in all probability ended the FSU season, gave the Lady Seminoles a record of 26-9. The Mississippi Valley State Delta Devilettes, who may yet gain an at-large bid to the next round of AIAW regionals, are 28-8.

"As Jackson Browne would say we were running on empty," said FSU assistant coach Dennis McNelis. "We shot our wad last night (in a three-point loss to Georgia Southern). We were playing on borrowed energy."

McNelis' point was evident from the start of the game. Never ahead, never closer than three points at any time, FSU trailed by eight to 12 points most of the first half before closing to within six points (52-46) at halftime.

Five minutes into the second half, a Meg Fahey layup pulled FSU to within three points (58-55). But the Devilettes, behind the superb offensive showing of Ramona McCastle, who scored 31 points from all over the floor, regained momentum, pushed to a 13-point lead with 9:24 to play and coasted to the victory.

"They were a good team," McCastle, the 22-year-old mother of a 10-month-old son, said of FSU. "But we kept our heads together and did what we had to."

"I felt I had to do more of my part on offense. Last night (in 66-56 loss to Delta State) I didn't do much on offense (18 points). I was kind of hot tonight, but we play as a team. The credit doesn't all go to me."

McCastle, to be sure, received plenty of help from her teammates, three of whom also scored in double figures, including 16 points by Mary Stallings who displayed a deft touch from 20 feet.

FSU, in turn, placed three players in double figures. Sue Galkantas, who scored in double figures for the 57th time in 59 games over her two-year career, led the Lady Seminoles with 23 points, followed by LeeVayn Oliver and Fahey who scored 17 points apiece. But the Lady Seminoles, whose 26 victories this season represent one less victory than the two previous seasons (14-15 and 13-22) combined, just never got it going against Mississippi Valley.

"We had to play so hard last night, they were just too tired," said FSU coach Jan Dykehouse. "I knew the girls weren't not playing hard on purpose, they just couldn't. They (Mississippi Valley) was faster than us to begin with and with the shape we were in, they were a step ahead of us."

all night."

Devillette coach Jessie Harris, who explained how he had developed a high post play to pick off McCastle's defender as a special move for this game, expressed the belief that his team should now gain one of seven at-large bids to the next round of the regionals. Those bids, which will be awarded today at 3 p.m., will complete a 16-team field, which includes the nine regional winners, that will play at four sites to cull out four teams that will travel to Philadelphia March 26 for the national tournament.

"I'd say that an at-large bid looks good after this win," said Harris. "FSU was one of the few teams ahead of us (in the AIAW listings) with a better record, so I think we definitely deserve a bid."

FSU's Dykehous was a little grim-

mer in her assessment of the Lady Seminoles' chances for a bid.

"I'd call our chances slim, slim, slim," said Dykehouse.

The chances for any of the Region 3 teams besides the champion gaining a bid took a bit of a drop with games played in other regions this weekend. Highly regarded Arkansas and East Tennessee were upset in their respective regions according to Delta State coach Frances Garmon, who is a member of the five-person national committee that will decide the at-large bids.

"We'll take a close look at everything," said Garmon. "We'll look at who they played, who they beat and so forth. We realize a lot of good teams can have a bad game and go out in the first round.

"I personally feel that any team that makes their regional finals should get strong consideration."

#### **FLORIDA STATE (73)**

O'Neal 2 4-4 8, Paigut 1 0-0 2, Burroughs 2 0-0 4, Oliver 8 1-4 17, S. Galkantas 8 7-12 23, Fahey 8 1-2 17, Marnie 2 0-0 4, Stokes 3 2-2 8. Totals 34 15-24 73.

#### **MISS. VALLEY ST. (95)**

Harvey 0 0-0 0, Brisco 3 2-2 8, McKnight 5 0-0 10, McCastle 12 7-9 31, Stafford 3 6-10 12, Stallings 7 2-2 16, Young 4 1-2 9, Jones 4 1-2 9. Totals 38 19-27 95.