

The other Galkantas leads FSU to NWIT win

By LANCE LAHNERT
Special to The Democrat

AMARILLO, TEXAS — Nancy Galkantas took a familiar place at the start of Florida State's game against Brigham Young Friday night.

The bench.

But the 6-foot-1 junior, who scored just 45 points the entire season, left that familiar place long enough to score 18 points, leading FSU to a 75-71 victory over Brigham Young in the semifinals of the National Women's Invitational Tournament.

The victory puts the Lady Seminoles into tonight's championship game at 10 against Oregon State, a 76-61 winner over Illinois State in Friday's other semifinal.

At 8 p.m., Illinois State will play Brigham Young for third place, with earlier contests matching Southern Mississippi and Pepperdine for seventh place, and DePaul and Temple playing for fifth place.

Galkantas, the year-older sister of FSU leading scorer

Sue — who averaged 20.9 points a game but is injured and isn't playing in this tournament — took over her sister's place on the court.

From the forward spot, instead of her usual center position, Galkantas canned seven of nine field goal attempts and all four of her free throw attempts.

"With Sue out, I was pretty motivated," said Galkantas, who transferred to FSU this season after two years at Denver.

"I'm not surprised I could score 18 points. But I am happy that I came through finally and am playing better."

However, Galkantas was not the only hero for FSU. Guard Sunnie O'Neal, a 5-7 ball of hustle, came off the bench to contribute 10 assists, eight points and lots of defensive scrambling all over the floor.

When you stop going down the list of individual heroes, which included Glenda Stokes with 17 rebounds and several key outlet passes, it was a team effort that gave FSU its chance for its first-ever NWIT title.

"Nancy and Sunnie came off the bench and did a great job," said FSU coach Janice Dykehouse. "This is the best thing that could happen. We've lost all those people, and we had other people come in and contribute."

The Lady Seminoles could have quit early in the game. BYU, running as it did in Thursday's victory over DePaul, jumped out to a 12-4 lead with 14:53 left in the first half.

But after an FSU time out, the Lady Seminoles responded with five straight baskets to take a 14-12 lead that put the game into a see-saw battle. There were 10 ties before halftime. FSU wound up on the top with a 38-37 halftime lead on a short shot by Galkantas with three seconds before intermission.

The Lady Seminoles never gave it up.

Beating BYU at its own fast-paced transition game, FSU outscored the Lady Cougars 14-2 in the opening four minutes of the half, which gave FSU a 52-39 lead.

In that spurt, FSU's O'Neal twice drove the length of the floor for layup baskets, and Meg Fahey, who scored 14

points, added two baskets.

The Lady Seminoles increased that lead to 17 points with 6:39 remaining. But a late rally by BYU cut the score to 71-67 with just a minute remaining.

But FSU, outscored 8-4 over the final minute, held off the Lady Cougars with four clutch free throws by guard Lynn Marnie to give FSU the big victory.

"I think our chances are good against Oregon State," said Galkantas. "We came out here with the idea of having fun and just playing our best."

"And I think we're playing well."

BRIGHAM YOUNG (71)

Jones 0 2-2 2, Cravens 9 0-1 18, Weston 1 0-0 2, McBride 11 0-0 22, Marchant 0 1-2 1, Vreeken 7 1-1 15, Battistone 4 0-1 8, Whetten 1 1-1 3. Totals 33 5-8 71.

FLORIDA STATE (75)

Burroughs 3 1-2 7, O'Neal 4 0-1 8, Paigui 1 0-0 2, Oliver 5 0-0 10, Fahey 6 2-4 14, Marnie 2 4-4 8, N. Galkantas 7 4-4 18, Stokes 4 0-2 8. Totals 32 11-17 75.

Fouls — BYU 17, FSU 15. Halftime score — FSU 38, BYU 37.