

FSU women lose to 'Bama

By GERALD ENSLEY
Democrat sportswriter

Maybe it was midweek blahs or post-Mardi Gras blues. Maybe the biorhythms were down.

Whatever it was, Wednesday was not a good day for the Florida State women's basketball team, which lost 64-61 to Alabama in Tully Gym.

The loss snapped a six-game winning streak for FSU, 21-4. Three of those losses have come to teams from Alabama (including Alabama-Birmingham and Auburn). Alabama is 14-10.

"We never got it going," said FSU coach Janice Dykehouse. "We were flat. We weren't running. We weren't attacking. We were passive."

For all their relative somnolence, the Lady Seminoles almost never appeared in danger of losing — until they lost.

Though Alabama briefly held a series of one-point leads in the first half, FSU led by four points at half-time (30-26). Alabama came back to tie the game 36-36 with 15:24 to play. But FSU then pushed to a pair of eight-point leads before the game dissolved into a foul-shooting contest in the final four minutes.

In that span, which began with FSU holding a four-point lead, the lead changed hands three times before Alabama canned its last eight free-throw attempts, four of them in the final 24 seconds, to grab the victory.

If there is blame to be assigned for the Lady Seminoles' defeat, it probably could be pinned on freshman forward Brenda Cliette and senior point guard Lynn Marnie.

Cliette missed a team study hall Monday, and, in accordance with team policy, spent the first half of the game on the bench. Her 14-point, 9-rebound average took a dip as she scored only six points and pulled down four rebounds in a desultory second-half performance.

"Coach has her rules, and she can't change them for me. I disobeyed the rules, and I have to pay for it," said

Cliette. "I never got going. I was never in it."

Marnie, who played 16 minutes, the most she has played since spraining an ankle more than a month ago, had a dreadful game. Replacing freshman starter Lahna Wood for most of the second half, Marnie committed a game-high seven turnovers. Most of them came in the final minutes as she attempted to force passes into a well-stacked lane. She did score four points.

"Even if Lynn has more turnovers, she creates more assists than Lahna," said Dykehouse of Marnie, who has 93 turnovers this season, second on the team only to leading scorer Sue Galkantas' 94. "We were trying to get the ball inside and get their big girls in foul trouble. Lahna wasn't getting it inside in the first half."

Alabama, with three starters 5-foot-10 and taller, indeed did create problems inside for FSU. Paced by 6-2 Carol Smith, who led Alabama with 15 points and eight rebounds, the Crimson Tide tied FSU in rebounding 38-all. But 21 of those came in the second half, as Alabama shut off all the FSU "big" players except for Galkantas, who scored a game-high 23 points.

"We tried to take away Galkantas, but she hurt us, especially in the first half," said Alabama coach Ken Weeks. "We made a lot of mistakes until the end. But I guess the biggest thing is that we played under control."

FSU plays its final home game Saturday at 1:15 p.m., against Florida in the Civic Center.

ALABAMA (64)

Timmerman 6 2-2 14, Kelso 4 2-3 10, Leonard 1 0-0 2, Rushing 3 2-2 8, Hillard 3 1-4 7, Bryant 0 0-0 0, Smith 5 5-10 15, Crumpton 3 2-2 8, Dubose 0 0-0 0. Totals 25 14-23 64.

FSU(61)

Baker 0 0-0 0, Stokes 2 2-4 6, Wood 0 0-0 0, Oliver 5 0-0 10, Foglio 6 0-0 12, S. Galkantas 9 5-7 23, Cliette 2 2-4 6, Marnie 2 0-0 4, N. Galkantas 0 0-0 0. Totals 26 9-15 61.

Halftime score — FSU 30, Alabama 26.
Technical fouls — none. Fouled out — Hillard (Alabama), Stokes (FSU). Attendance — 200.