

Seminoles come up just short

*Florida State fights
back in the second half
but loses by 3 to
Clemson in the Atlantic
Coast Conference.*

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So close, but still no cigar.

That was the story for Florida State women's basketball team, which pulled within 2 points with 28 seconds to play, but lost 67-64 to Clemson on Monday night.

FSU (6-17 overall, 2-10 Atlantic Coast Conference), lost its fourth straight game at the free-throw line. In the final seconds of the game, Clemson (16-6, 6-4) hit three of four free throws for the victory.

"To be honest, I'd like to pull out some wins," FSU senior guard Allison Peercy said. "It's disappointing to lose by 3, or by 20."

After Tara Saunooke hit two free throws with 26 seconds to play to make it 66-62, Carla Williams rebounded the ball for the Seminoles and passed it to Peercy, who drove to the basket and to pull FSU within 66-64 with 15 seconds to play.

Three seconds later, Williams fouled Clemson's Stephanie Ridgeway.

"We had to foul them to get the ball back and tie it up," said FSU coach Marynell Meadors. "It's a gamble you have to take to stop the clock."

But Clemson made its free throws. Ridgeway went to the line and made one of two free throws to make it 67-64 with 12 seconds to play.

"Fouls hurt us in the end," said Williams, who was called for three fouls in the closing minutes. "We should have put in a few more free throws. When you look back at the end, you see all the simple things you should have done in the end."

FSU shot 73.1 percent from the foul line (19 of 26 to Clemson's 21 of 29 for 72.4 percent).

Neither team shot well. Clemson hit 21 of 58 while the Seminoles made just 19 of 56.

Peercy led FSU with 20 points. Williams had 11 points and eight rebounds. Tanisha also had eight rebounds.

Saunooke led Clemson with 20 points. Ridgeway scored 17 and Laura Cottrell had 12.

FSU trailed by as many as 14 points in the first half, but fought back to within 38-33 at halftime.

"It's tough to lose a close game at home," Williams said. "We'll try harder and harder, and something will come out of it."

CLEMSON (14-4, 4-4) — Salzer 2-3 2-4 4, Ridgeway 5-13 7-9 17, S. Davis 0-1 1-2 1, Thomas 2-8 0-0 4, Saunooke 7-17 2-2 20, Kidd 1-3 1-2 3, Cottrell 3-4 6-8 12, Rayton 0-0 0-0 0, J. Davis 1-1 0-0 2, Stinson 0-4 3-2 2. Totals 21-58 21-29 47.

FLORIDA STATE (8-17, 3-18) — McLin 2-12 1-2 5, Williams 2-3 7-8 11, Taylor 0-0 0-0 0, Percy 7-12 4-7 20, Hampton 1-4 0-0 3, Cobbins 0-0 2-2 2, Rickman 4-12 3-3 13, Moorefield 3-7 3-4 7, Pedersen 1-3 0-0 3. Totals 19-54 19-26 44.

Halftime—Clemson 28, Florida State 23. 3-point goals—Clemson 4-10 (Ridgeway 0-1, Saunooke 4-9), Florida State 7-17 (McLin 0-2, Percy 3-5, Hampton 1-1, Rickman 3-8, Pedersen 1-1). Fouled out—Williams. Rebounds—Clemson 45 (Cottrell 14), Florida State 37 (Williams, Moorefield 8). Assists—Clemson 6 (Salzer 2), Florida State 10 (Percy 4). Total fouls—Clemson 21, Florida State 20. Technical fouls—None.