

FSU women take match with Gators

By Mark Anderson
Democrat correspondent

An aggressive defense that dug up several balls helped the Lady Seminole volleyball team win three straight games against the Lady Gators Tuesday night.

That defense contributed to a 15-11, 15-9, 15-11 victory in Tully Gym.

"Defensively, we've always had people who can dig the ball up," Florida State Coach Cecile Reynaud said. "With their intensity, they don't like to see the ball hit the floor.

"It seemed like we dug up more balls than they did."

Sparkling the offense was Joan Morris. She often came up with the big play and led the team with 15 kills. For the season, Morris leads FSU with 144 kills through 12 games.

She didn't think her play was the key to FSU's success, though.

"I think our passes were," she said, adding that the defense was equally important.

"We need to work on our consistency and serving," Morris added.

The Lady Seminoles did appear to suffer from inconsistent play and occasional bad serves.

In the first game, both teams played it close with Florida taking a 10-8 lead. However, Florida State called time out, and the Lady Gators netted the next serve. After winning the ensuing point, Morris put down a kill to tie the score 10-10.

Both teams traded points for an 11-11 tie. Then after Morris' thunderous spike gave FSU the ball back, the Lady Seminoles rolled off the next four points for the game.

Florida State relied on outstanding defense in the second game, such as diving for balls and blocks on spikes at the net.

After falling behind 3-0, FSU scored the next seven points with the defense and big kills. Florida scored the next two points to close to 7-5, but FSU scored six of the

next seven to make it 13-7 and then coasted to a 15-9 second-game win.

It looked as if the third game would be a blowout with FSU taking 6-0 and 10-1 leads. But the Lady Gators didn't give up. With a strong rally, Florida closed the gap

to 10-9. A Donna Krai service ace gave FSU a little breathing room at 11-9. However, Florida kept the pressure up to close to 11-10.

A netted ball by Florida made it 12-10. A clutch serve by Karyn Palgut extended the lead to 13-10.

Florida threatened again by closing to 13-11. But kills by Krai and Julie Todd gave the Lady Seminoles the victory.

"I thought they were better than we anticipated," Reynaud said.