

Lady Seminoles win to give Reynaud her 399th victory

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VOLLEYBALL

Florida State volleyball coach Cecile Reynaud got one step closer to the 400-win mark Saturday with a victory over the Lady Blazers of the University of Alabama-Birmingham.

Despite a sluggish start that saw the Lady Seminoles drop the opening game 13-15, the strong net attack of Gabrielle Reece and Vicki Zinkil set the pace for a comeback to sweep the next three games 15-6, 15-11 and 15-10 for Reynaud's 399th victory.

"We did start a little slow," Reynaud said. "We've had a few people sick and we've had mid-terms to deal with, just like every other college in the country, but I think the South Florida match last night took a lot out of us."

Friday night's loss to the Lady Bulls snapped FSU's 17-match win streak, and ended the Lady Seminoles quest for their best start ever.

The Lady Seminoles, now 21-3 on the year, can look to capture Reynaud's 400th career win Wednesday at Memphis State.

"It's mentally tough to come back after a match like that where they dug and blocked everything we hit at them," Reynaud continued.

In the first game, the Lady Blazers did the same thing, taking a 5-0 lead before a Twanna Walker block gave FSU a scoring chance. The Lady Seminoles pulled within one at 5-4, and again at 7-6 before tying at 8. From there, it was a point-for-point battle until the Lady Blazers took a 13-12 lead and pushed on for the 15-13 win.

The second game was quite another story. The Lady Seminoles opened a 4-0 lead and raised it as high as 8-2 before the Lady Blazers could inch any closer. Four more points were all they could get, as the Lady Seminoles took the service at 12-6 and quickly tacked on the three needed for the win.

In game three, FSU looked to expand its advantage, as the Lady Seminoles ran up a 6-0 lead on only their second service. The Lady Blazers didn't fold, however, and

battled back to within three at 7-10. They got as close as 11-13, but the Lady Seminoles exhibited their best attack of the match and took the 15-11 win.

Game four was also a tough battle. Though FSU took an 11-8 lead, neither team could gain any headway for almost 10 minutes before the Lady Seminoles made several crucial digs and went up 13-8.

The Lady Blazers continued to hang tough, forcing the Lady Seminoles to go through four servers before taking the winner at 15-10.

Reece and Sonia Trevino led the Lady Seminole attack with 12 kills each, followed by Zinkil with seven. Trevino also led the team with four service aces and 12 digs, followed by Maggie Philgence with nine digs. Nancy Gaspardarek set the attack with 30 assists.

The Lady Blazers were paced by Melissa Cobb and Julie Myers, who each had 12 kills. Cobb also had a game-high seven service aces, and Meyers also had six digs to lead the Alabama-Birmingham squad. Leading setter was Tammy Robertson with 33 assists.