

Seminoles glide past Pacers

By David Whitley
Democrat staff writer

Realistically speaking, no one in the crowd of 3,060 showed up at Tuesday night's Florida State-Tennessee Martin game expecting to see a great show. Those who were unrealistic went home disappointed.

FSU beat Division II Tennessee-Martin 90-73 in a game in which the Seminoles accomplished what they were supposed to do — get the kinks out. FSU hadn't played in 10 days and had spent most of that time concentrating more on final exams than basketball.

The Seminoles played parts of the game as if their minds were still in the books. Their timing was off and the offense sputtered. But then that's why you schedule teams you figure to beat when you come off a break.

"Usually after a layoff, the first game is a little bit shaky," said Coach Joe Williams. "For the first game after finals we played pretty well."

That's especially true of point guard Joe Farrar, who scored 18 points and had seven assists while hitting eight of his 11 shots. The man on the scoring end of many of those assists was center Al Gipson, who put his prominent height advantage to good use, scoring 27 points and grabbing 10 rebounds.

Randy Allen added 16 points and nine rebounds, Granville Arnold 10 points and Maurice Myrick eight points for the 4-1 Seminoles.

Tennessee-Martin fell to 8-2 but they made the Seminoles work for it Tuesday night. The Pacers hung within upset distance until midway through the second half, when FSU's superior manpower finally took its toll.

"We played well, but for me to stand here and say we played the greatest we've ever played wouldn't be true at all," said Coach Tom Hancock. "They just wore us down physically. They had six, seven and eight guys jumping around on the boards. FSU's got a pretty nice team but I thought all that beat us tonight was their size. They just overpowered us."

FSU built a 40-31 halftime lead behind the play of Farrar, who continually pressed the ball upcourt and take hit open jumpers before the Pacers could get organized.

"It was just there. Coach tells me when I have my shot to shoot it," said Farrar. "They were about three to four feet off me and I just shot the 10- or 12-footer. That's in my range."

Gipson opened the second half with two baskets as FSU built a 13-point lead. The Pacers would not wilt, however, and scored eight straight points to keep the crowd interested enough to stick around. They did it with a balanced attack that had six players scoring at least eight points.

"They surprised me," said Myrick. "I didn't know they were that good."

They were good, but not good enough, or big enough, to stop Gipson. The 6-foot-11 senior muscled his way to 17 second-half points against Tennessee-Martin, whose tallest players were 6-7.

FSU played without guard Dean Shaffer, who has been bothered by an Achilles injury for the past few weeks. His status for Friday night's game against Pittsburgh in Orlando is questionable.

"We were a half-step slow in everything we did," added Farrar, who seemed to be just as happy to have finals out of the way as he was about Tuesday night's win.

"I tell you," he said, "I was just trying to stay in school."

Tennessee-Martin

	FG	FT	Rb	Asst	S	Min	TP
Cherry	3-5	2-2	8	0	0	37	8
Davis	6-11	3-4	6	1	0	29	15
Glass	3-9	2-4	5	1	0	28	8
Herrin	2-5	1-2	4	5	0	27	5
Kalls	5-10	0-0	2	0	1	27	10
Cooper	2-7	0-0	0	1	0	14	4
Meschede	4-9	1-2	2	2	1	23	9
Forbes	5-7	4-4	2	0	1	15	14
Totals	30-63	13-18	30	10	3	200	73

FSU

	FG	FT	Rb	Asst	S	Min	TP
Allen	7-15	2-3	9	2	3	35	16
Arnold	2-6	6-6	10	1	3	26	10
Gipson	12-20	3-4	10	0	1	38	27
Farrar	8-11	2-2	0	7	2	38	18
Myrick	3-9	2-2	3	2	1	26	8
Fitchett	2-5	1-2	7	2	1	27	5
Mabry	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	2	0
Speights	1-2	0-0	1	1	0	6	2
Carter	2-2	0-0	0	0	0	1	4
Martin	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	0
Totals	37-70	16-19	34	15	11	200	90