FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JANUARY 6, 2000

NO. 3 NC STATE EDGES FLORIDA STATE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL, 62-58
Despite 23 points from April Traylor, Seminoles fall just short of upset.

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. -- Florida State came from 12 down and trailed by just two points with 23.1 seconds to play, but the Seminoles fell 62-58 to No. 3 NC State in Atlantic Coast Conference action Thursday night at the Tallahassee-Leon County Civic Center. Florida State's April Traylor led all players with 23 points. The Wolfpack remains perfect at 13-0 overall and 4-0 in the ACC while FSU falls to 7-5 overall and 0-2 in the league.

The Seminoles played patient ball in the first half. NC State got on the board first, but Florida State stayed right with the country's third-ranked team for the first 10 minutes of the game and took a 15-14 lead with just over 10 minutes to go in the first half. The Wolfpack responded with a 6-0 run to take their largest lead at that point at 20-15 with 6:40 remaining. The Tribe did not get rattled and fought back to tie the game at 20-20. The remaining 4:28 of the half saw both teams go on streaks. It was NC State's turn first as the Wolfpack built a 27-20 advantage on seven straight points. The Tribe closed out the half with their own 7-0 run and tied the game at 27-27 at the break. FSU had the advantage in nearly every statistical category, including 19-13 in rebounding. The Seminoles had the edge in shooting, 37 to 31 percent. April Traylor led FSU with nine points while Brooke Wyckoff had seven boards. NC State's Tynesha Lewis led the way with seven points and Summer Erb had three rebounds.

The first three minutes of the second half saw two ties and two leads changes and then the Wolfpack made a run. With the score tied at 31-31, NC State rallied for seven straight points to go up 39-31 at the 15:51 mark. FSU pulled to within 40-38 three minutes later, but allowed the Wolfpack to score the game's next 10 and fell behind by 12 -- NC State's largest advantage. The Wolfpack would find out that no lead is big enough as Traylor practically took over for the Seminoles and scored nine of her game-high 23 to help cut the NC State lead to just two at 54-52 with 4:39 remaining. The Tribe would tie the game at 56-56 with 2:15 to play and 58-58 a minute later. With 47 seconds to go and trailing 60-58, FSU's Angela Sutton missed two free throws to tie the game. The Seminoles had another opportunity to tie with 20 seconds to play, but the Wolfpack forced a turnover. FSU had to foul and NC State hit two free throws for the four-point win.

NC State had three players score in double figures with both Kaayla Chones and Tynesa Lewis scoring 17 points. Chones also led the Wolfpack with eight rebounds.

"Florida State came out and played a really great game and played really hard," NC State Head Coach Kay Yow said. "I know they (the Seminoles) are coming off a disappointing loss at Wake Forest on Monday. We were in the opposite situation, coming off an emotional win over an arch-rival. I thought when the game started, FSU was a lot more ready than we were. The FSU coaches did a great job in preparation for this game. FSU outrebounded us -- which may be the first time this season, which just

shows the kind of effort and hustled they had. ACC competition is hard on the road and I feel very fortunate to come out of here with a win."

Aside from Traylor, Wyckoff was the only other FSU player to score in double figures. She had 12 points and a game-high 10 rebounds for her first double-double of the season. FSU outrebounded NC State, 33-30.

"I'm really proud of this team," FSU Head Coach Sue Semrau said. "To be in a position to beat the 3rd-ranked team in the country shows the strides that we've made. But we're certainly not satisfied. NC State is a great basketball team. They have size, speed, experience -- everything they need to be successful."

FSU will host Virginia on Sunday, January 9th at 2 p.m. while NC State will host Maryland on Sunday.

--30