GASTONIA, N. C.—Defending champion Florida State edged Auburn 4-3, then exploded for a 12-4 victory over Wake Forest yesterday, to goin the finals of the District 3 NCAA baseball tournament.

In other games, Atlantic Coast Conference champion Wake Forest slipped past Southern Conference champ West Virginia 4-3, and Southeastern Conference titlist Auburn was ousted from the double - elimination meet by WestVirginia 2-1.

FSU will be idle until Saturday, meeting the winner of tonight's West Virginia - Wake Forest game. If the Tribe loses Saturday, another game will be played that night. If FSU wins that's it!

The Seminoles are 24-10 now. Wake Forest is 26-10 and West Virginia is 30-2, while Auburn bowed out with 17-11.

Auburn opened the morning game's scoring in its half of the second inning. Mailon Kent reached first on an error by shortstop Woody Woodward, was sent to third on Vic Svetley's single. Kent crossed home plate when pitcher George Nichols singgled.

FSU knotted athings in the bottom of the fourth, when Wood-ward walked, went to third on George Rountree's single, came

home when Buddy Teagle hit into a double play

Neither team scored until FSU/s half of the sixth. Rountree singled, scooted to second on Teagle's sacrifice bunt. Bill Williamson whacked a home run. 393 feet over the center field fence, bringing Rountree in ahead of himself.

The Tribe made it 4-1 in the seventh. Dave Dahlen, blasted a triple against the night file I d fence. He scored when Woodward, flied out to deep right field.

Auburn changed pitchers after Dahlen scored, and the Seminoles were retired in order in the remainder of the sixth, and in the seventh.

In the eight, Auburn got going. Jim Bachus, and Kent
cracked singles back - to - back.
Dink Hair bit a hard shot between shortstop and second Diving to a flat stop on his stomach,
Woodward flipped the ball to second baseman Jim Reed for a
double play, but Bachus scored.

The next Tiger up — Larry Dempsey — tripled, and it was

then that Woodward's sharp fielding on the double play proved crucial.

In the hinth pinch hitter
Jimmy Crysel was hit by a pitch.
Peeges Gathert ran for him Jan
Marin cause to be, and Teagle
missed the catch on the first
pitch Gilbert took third, accred
when Martin hit a sacrifice fly.

Pitcher Al Beccaccio, who had started for the Seminoles, struck out the next Tiger. Jim Barfield singled, and Coach Danny Litwhiler replaced Beccaccio with sophomore Martin Howell.

Next man up was Bachus, who already had two hits for the day. On the second pitch, the Tiger blasted a soaring slam that appeared on its way out of the park. With his back against the left field fence, Dahlen snared the ball and the game was over.

Credited with the win — FSU's fifth in as many meetings over Auburn — was Beccaccio, now 11-1. The Tigers had a 10-8 margin in hits. Teagle picked off two Tigers attempting to steal second early in the game, and Auburn didn't try it again.

Florida State wasted no time against Wake Forest — one of the few teams to defeat the Seminoles earlier this year. The Seminoles scored three runs in the

The Descens broker like the scoring column in the tairs when pitcher Jerry Pardue — the lead of man — he a borne run, Wako added two mere in the fifth when Bill Scripture's double sent a pair of runners home

The game remained ued until the seventh. Teagle led off with a home run to put the Tribe ahead 4-3. Williamson and Larry Johnson picked up back-to-back singles and Reed walked to load the bases

Mike Augustine belted a low drive down the third base line that went between the third baseman's legs, allowing Williamson to score.

Rount se welked and Williamson and Johnson satisfied to load the bases Descon Ed Mandy walked Thomas northe Rountres borne Reed apped a ball to the shortstop who made an error and Williamson made borne

Augustine — ESUa b a t i n g leader — got his first hit of the tournament a single driving in Johnson and loading the bases. Mandy struck out the next Seminole batter. Woodward walloped a grand slam into left center, and the Tribe led 12-3.

Wake scored a token run in the ninth, when Woodward fnade a throwing error

Thomas went the route for the Tribe. It was his ninth win in 11 starts. FSU out hit the Deacons 11-9.

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