

Special To The Democrat

GASTONIA, N. C. — Florida State's Seminoles did everything associated with winning a baseball game here yesterday except score enough runs, and today they found themselves in the District 3 losers' bracket with four tough victories between them and a championship.

The second - ranked Seminoles were to play East Carolina in a second round game at 1:30 today.

Should FSU win this afternoon it would play again at 9 p. m., against the loser of a 6 p. m. game between North Carolina and Mississippi State.

North Carolina dealt East Carolina a 7-1 setback in Thursday's second game.

Mississippi State played the spoiler's role Thursday with a 4-3 victory, a game which the Seminoles threatened to break open in almost every

inning. However, the flood-gates held and Coach Fred Hatfield left Sims - Legion Park muttering under his breath.

Florida State out-hit the Southeastern Conference champs, 11-5, a total which included a home run—Jim Lyttle's 13th, and three doubles, two by Gary Sprague. Except for home plate, every base in the ballpark was familiar territory to the Tribe all afternoon.

The crucial moment came in the seventh inning when catcher Frank Portera inserted his burly form between FSU pitcher Wayne Vincent and the plate, tagged him for the out, and choked off a Seminole uprising which had started with runners on second and third with none out.

Vincent had led off the inning with a single and Sprague followed with a ringing double which bounced off the fence 363 feet from home

plate. With the Bulldog infield pulled in close, Lyttle grounded out, second to first, for the first out.

Randy Brown hit what ordinarily might have been a base hit to right, but Mississippi State's Russ Gatlin was also fudging and made a knee-high catch of the soft line drive. Vincent headed home after the catch, but first baseman Gary Washington made a swift relay to

Portera and Vincent was nailed.

The Bulldogs grabbed a 4-0 lead before FSU could scratch. They did it on a two-run homer by center-fielder Del Unser in the third, then scored single runs in for the first out.

Otherwise, Vincent was untouchable and bested his hometown rival Ken Tatum of Birmingham, Ala., even though the FSU starter ab-

of sorbed his second loss of the
ave year against 11 victories. Ta-
was tum and Vincent are former
American Legion Junior
teammates.

any Tatum was pulled after Spra-
r," gue's blow in the seventh, aft-
ies er FSU had jumped back
ng with three runs in the sixth.

act Sprague led off the sixth
he with a single, then Lyttle pok-
th ed a home run to the oppo-
id site field, 345 feet over the
re left field fence.

h Brown followed with a slash-
ing double to right, but Pete
S. Sarron popped to third. Tom
ll Thomas walked to keep things
moving. Dick Fernandez forc-
ed him at second, with Brown
moving to third before Mike
Martin drove home the final
Seminole run with a single.

l Sprague doubled again with
two out in the ninth, but Lyt-
tle flied to left to end the
game.

Both teams made top level
fielding plays which changed
the complexion of the game.

Tom Thomas made a run-
ning over - the - shoulder
catch of Don Bell's drive to
left in the first, and Mike
Martin saved some bases with
a similar catch of Mike
Burns' sacrifice fly in the
fifth.

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Shortstop Bell was the outstanding glove man for Mississippi State. He started a double play which stopped a Seminole rally in the second, and made several other outstanding plays during the game.

Danny Walker's pitching and Charlie Carr's hitting carried North Carolina to victory. The ninth-ranked victors, Atlantic Coast Conference champions, got all the runs they needed in the sixth inning, scoring two.

Carr's bases-loaded single in the three-run seventh was a key.

Junior Marvin Stringfellow was to be on the ground for the Seminoles.

East Carolina was expected

to pitch an unbeaten lefthander, Dennis Burk. He has a 5-0 record, and four of the triumphs were shutouts.

If the Seminoles come from behind it will probably be because the FSU pitching staff appears to be somewhat deeper than that of any of the other three teams.

"If we can get nine innings out of Stringfellow and have Vincent ready to go again Saturday night, we could be in good shape," said Hatfield.

Florida State came back through the losers' bracket in 1963 and again last year to win the championship.

FLA. STATE				MISS. STATE			
	ab	r	h		ab	r	h
Sprague	5	1	3	Bebl	4	1	0
Lytle	5	1	1	Unser	4	2	2
Brown	4	0	2	Portera	4	0	2
Sarren	4	0	1	Washington	4	0	0
Thomas	2	0	1	Burns	3	1	0
Fernandes	4	0	0	Beasley	4	0	0
Martin	4	0	1	Gallin	3	0	0
Lawrence	3	0	1	Field	3	0	1
Stringfellow	1	0	0	Tatum	1	0	0
Vincent	4	0	1				
Totals	35	3	11	Totals	30	4	5

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RBI—Lytle 2, Martin, Unser 2, Burns, Field. E—Bell, Sarren, Lawrence, Unser. DP—MSU 2, LOB—MSU 6, FSU 8. 2B—Field, Brown, Sprague 2. HR—Unser, Lytle. SF—Burns..

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Tatum (10-2)	6	10	3	3	1	5
Vincent (L, 1-2)	8	5	4	3	2	6
Passau	3	1	0	0	1	1

HBP—Tatum by Vincent. T—2; 15. A—500. Tatum faced two batters in 7th.