

GASTONIA, N. C.—Backed to the wall after its opening loss on Thursday, Florida State's baseball team won twice yesterday and stormed into the finals of the NCAA's district playoffs.

After ousting East Carolina in the afternoon, the Seminoles cut down Mississippi State 7-0 last night on a brilliant 3-hit pitching job by Eddie Howell, who had a no-hitter through six innings.

Florida State plays North Carolina, unbeaten in the playoffs, at 3 p.m. today. Should Carolina win, it's all over. If FSU wins a showdown game comes off at 7:30.

Florida State had scored three runs in the ninth inning, breaking a 3-3 tie, to eliminate East Carolina 6-3 in an afternoon game.

Mississippi State fell to the losers' bracket with a 5-4 defeat at North Carolina hands.

The Tar Heels got three runs in the seventh inning, two on errors, to erase a 3-2 deficit. After scoring a run in the eighth, Mississippi State loaded the bases with two away in the ninth but George McRae, ace Tar Heels relief pitcher, came in to stifle the bid.

Coach Fred Hatfield planned to pitch Marty Browns, junior lefthander with a 3-0 record, against North Carolina in the afternoon game. The Tar Heels were expected to counter with Mike Flanagan, sophomore righthander with a 2-1 mark.

If FSU wins, soph lefthander Wayne Vincent (11-2) will probably start the night game.

Howell, a senior lefthander from Sarasota, retired the first 19 Mississippi State batters he faced last night. Though he walked the first Bulldog in the sixth, he was promptly rubbed out via a double play.

First hit off Howell was a single through the box by Del Unser with one out in the seventh.

Boosting his record to 7-3 Howell walked only one, struck out 12. Only time he was in any trouble was the eighth. Two singles were sandwiched around an out. With those two on, Howell got the next two batters.

The Seminoles, meanwhile, were scoring regularly. They rapped out 10 hits.

It was Howell's 350-foot tripple that led to the first run. He led off the third with the three-baser, came home on Gary Sprague's single. Sprag-

ue stole second, went to third on Randy Brown's single, scored as Pete Sarron grounded out.

Dick Fernandez led off the 4th with a homer high over the 335-foot sign to increase the lead to 3-0.

Fernandez then led off the 6th with a walk, stole second, moved to third on an infield out, scored on a wild throw to first as Gary Lawrence drib-

bled one down the third-base line. Sprague's triple to left scored Lawrence. Then Sprague came in on a wild pitch to make it 6-0.

FSU got one more run in the 8th. Fernandez again walked. Mike Martin singled. Lawrence's grounder to short precipitated another wild throw following a bad hop, and Fernandez scored.

The Seminoles barely won the first game over East Carolina.

Five Pirates pitchers held FSU to six hits and allowed only one earned run, but five errors helped the Seminoles in the wild affair.

Hero No. 1 for the Seminoles was Bob Wolley, a seldom used utility man from Dunedin, who drove home Pete Sarron from second with the go-ahead run in the ninth with a line single to left.

Heroes No. 2, 3, 4 and 5 were Chuck Hawkins, Marty

Brooks, Gary Sprague and Dick Fernandez.

Hawkins and Brooks pitched in relief of Marvin Stringfellow, who lost a two run lead in the bottom of the eighth. Hawkins came on with two out and two on in that frame to get the last batter on an infield grounder and thus become the pitcher of record, his second win against two losses.

Brooks set the Pirates down in the ninth to preserve the victory.

Sprague ruined a no-hitter for Dennis Burke in the sixth inning when he led off with a single, advanced to second on an infield out, stole third and scored the tying run on Randy Brown's shallow fly to center.

The Seminoles were forced to come from behind for the second straight day when ECC first baseman Ollie Jarvis hit a leadoff home run in the first inning.

Fernandez doubled twice—FSU's only extra base hits, and one third of the team total — and scored each time.

The Seminoles went ahead in the top of the eighth when Fernandez led off with his first two-bagger and moved to third when the leftfielder dropped Sprague's long fly for a two-base error, giving FSU runners on second and third with none out.

Mike Martin hit a routine grounder to third and both baserunners glued themselves to the bags, but third baseman David Winchester threw wild to first and Fernandez scurried home with the tie-breaker. Sprague moved to third.

Brown lifted another fly to short center and Sprague was off and running with the catch, but the throw preceded him and he scratched back toward third. The rundown gave the Pirates their only double play, but Martin moved all the way around to third on the play.

Jim Lyttle then hit a line shot to the second baseman where he stood. The ball went into left field, almost taking the second baseman with it, and Martin scored. The official scorer called the shot an error.

East Carolina charged back in the bottom of the frame, on three singles and a walk which netted them two runs and chased Stringfellow. Tie game now, 3-3.

FSU opened the ninth with a pop to second by Tom Thomas. Pete Sarron started things rolling with a grounder to third and was safe on Winchester's second throwing error of the game. Joshua Potter, ECC's third pitcher, pitched wild, giving Sarron second, and setting the stage for some successful strategy by Coach Fred Hatfield.

Hatfield sent Wayne Vincent, a lefthanded batter, to hit for Hawkins against the righthanded Potter. The count reached 1-1, then Pirate Coach Earl Smith called southpaw Ted Whitley from the bullpen, and Hatfield countered with the righthanded-hitting Wolley, who took the called strike and smacked his single to left, driving in Sarron.

Fernandez followed with his second double, and Wolley moved to third. He was lifted for pinch-runner Chester Cole, who reached between the catcher's legs to score on Martin's fly to center.

Brown and Lyttle both

drew walks to force in the final run and Brooks did the rest with a skillful operation on the Pirates' batting order in the bottom half of the ninth.

FLORIDA STATE E. CAROLINA

AB				R				H			
ab				r				h			
Fern'dez, 2b	4	2	2	Jarvis, 1b	4	2	2				
Sprague, ss	3	1	1	Thorne, cf	4	0	0				
Martin, cf	4	1	0	L. Smith, ss	4	0	1				
Brown, c	3	0	0	Britton, rf	4	0	1				
Lyttle, rf	3	0	0	Narrom, c	4	0	0				
Newb'rne M	5	0	0	Gifford, 2b	2	0	0				
Law'nce, 3b	2	0	1	Hodge'k, ph	1	0	0				
Thomas, ph	1	0	0	Daddona, lf	4	0	0				
Sarron, 1b	4	1	0	Win'ter, rb	4	0	1				
Spring'w, p	3	0	0	Burke, p	2	0	1				
Vicent, ph	0	0	0	Snyder, ph	0	1	0				
Woodley, ph	1	0	1	La. Smith	1	0	0				
Cole, pr	0	1	0	Totals	34	3	6				
Totals	34	6	5								

Florida State 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 2 3—6
East Carolina 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 2 0—3

RBI—Martin, Brown, Lyttle, Woodley, Jarvis, Ly. Smith, Britton. E—Springfellow, Lawrence, Fernandez, Manchester 2, Daddona, Jarvis, Ly. Smith. DP—FSU 2. LOB—East Carolina 6, FS—Fernandez 2. HR—Jarvis. SB—Sprague. S—Sprague. SF—Brown, Martin.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Springfellow	7½	6	3	3	2	5
Mawkins (W, 2-2)	½	0	0	0	0	0
Brooks	1	0	0	0	0	0
Burke	7	3	3	1	3	2
Snyder	1	0	0	0	0	0
Potter (L, 2-3)	½	0	1	0	0	0
Whitley	0	1	1	0	0	0
Gelder	½	1	1	0	1	0

WP—Potter. T—1:50. A—340.

Miss. St. 0 0 1 1 1 0 0 1 0—4 5 2
E. Car. 0 0 2 0 0 0 3 0 x—5 11 2
Carroll, Chalmers (3), and Pot-
ter; Leonard, McRae (5) and Shaw.
HR—Chalmers, 5th, none eq.

MISS. STATE

FLA. STATE

	ab	r	h		ab	r	h
Bell, ss	4	0	0	Sp'g'e, ss	4	2	2
Unser, cf	4	0	1	Lyttle, rf	4	0	0
Portera, cf	4	0	0	Brown, c	5	0	1
Burns, lf	3	0	0	Sar'n 1b	4	0	2
Swan'n, 1b	3	0	1	Tho's, lf	4	0	0
Beas'ly, 2b	3	0	0	Fer'dz, 2b	2	3	1
Ham'tn, rf	2	0	1	Martin, cf	4	0	2
Seild, 3b	3	0	0	La'ce, 3b	4	1	1
Passeau, p	2	0	0	Howell, p	4	1	1
Patton, ph	1	0	0				
Totals	29	0	3	Totals	35	7	10

Miss. State 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0—0
FSU 0 0 2 1 0 3 1 0 x—7

RBI—Sprague 2, Sarron, Fernan-
dez, Lawrence. E—Seild, Bell. DP—
Miss. State 1, FSU 1. LOB—Miss.
State 3, FSU 8. 3B—Howell, Sprague.
HR—Fernandez. SB—Sprague, Law-
rence, Fernandez.

IP H R ER BB SO

Passeau (L, 2-2) 7 9 6 4 2 7
Edmondson 1 1 1 1 2 2
Howell (W, 7-3) 9 3 0 0 1 12
WP—Passeau. T—2:02. A—1200.