

By JIM CHITWOOD

Democrat Sports Writer

GASTONIA, N.C.—Florida State's Scrappy Seminoles tied the ribbon on their fifth NCAA District 3 baseball championship with a 5-4 victory over Mississippi State's stubborn Bulldogs here last night.

The Seminoles now head for the College World Series in Omaha, Neb., June 12 as representatives for the Southeast. It will be FSU's fifth shot at the elusive national title.

Righthander Mike Slade handcuffed Mississippi State's strong-hitting Bulldogs on five hits, but it took a clutch relief performance by lefty Mac Scarce in the ninth to preserve the Seminoles' slim margin of victory.

Big Ron Cash and lanky John Grubb keyed a 10-hit FSU attack with two singles each, while alert base-running accounted for eight stolen bases—a new NCAA national record.

But the Bulldogs' Phil Still, who ripped opposing pitchers all through the tournament, was unstoppable once again.

He banged a solo home run over the centerfield fence in the second inning, doubled in a run in the sixth, and scored himself in the seventh.

Slade fanned seven Bulldogs and walked four to run his record to 7-1 before running out of gas in the ninth.

Mississippi State starter Jim Eichmeier allowed seven FSU hits, struck out six and walked the same number, before Mike Crawford relieved him in the eighth.

The Seminoles tagged Crawford for three hits and an unearned run which proved decisive.

The victory was the third straight for FSU in the tournament.

FSU converted two Bulldog errors into a pair of unearned runs and a 2-0 lead in the first inning.

Dick Nichols started the inning with a walk, took second on a passed ball and reached third on State catcher Fred Villing's error.

Greg Schnute popped to first, but John Grubb tapped a slow roller to the first baseman who bobbled the ball while Nichols scrambled home and Grubb was safe at first.

Cash followed with an infield hit to short, and Grubb took third on Larry Cocks' fly ball, and scored on the front end of a double steal.

MSU's Still closed the gap in the top of the second with a

home run over the 390-foot sign in centerfield. It was the junior third baseman's third homer of the tournament.

The Bulldogs wasted two

more hits — both singles in the third, and FSU also failed to make the most of a scoring chance in its half of the inning.

With one out, Slade doubled to right, took third on a wild pitch, but was stranded when Nichols grounded to second with the infield drawn in, and Schnute struck out.

The Seminoles had another opportunity in the fourth when shortstop Greg Gromek walked and Doug Kasimier singled to right.

Slade laid down a drag bunt, forcing Gromek at second, but Nichols walked to load the bases before Schnute flied to left, ending the inning and the threat.

FSU exploded for two runs in the fifth.

Grubb and Cash singled back-to-back, and Cocks lined a hit to left, scoring Grubb. Harry Saferight's fielder's choice forced Cocks at second, and Cash went to third.

That was it, however, as

Gromek walked, Kasimier fanned, and Slade walked to load the bases before Nichols' flied to right.

Mississippi State came storming back with two runs in the sixth when Ted Milton walked and Still rifled a double to center, bringing home the runner.

After Yilling struck out, Bobby Davis rapped a hard grounder to short for a base hit, and Gromek's throwing error permitted Still to dash home.

In the bottom of the frame Schnute led off with a bunt single. Grubb flied to center and Schnute stole second and then third. But Eichmeier got Cash on strikes, and Cocks to fly to left, ending it.

Bulldog pinch-hitter Sammy Milner was hit by a pitch to start the seventh, went to second on Bobby Crowell's fielder's choice grounder. Slade, however, got Dave Phares to pop to second, and Milton grounded to the same spot.

Saferight opened the Seminole seventh with a single to center, but Gromek hit into a double play. Kasimier singled to center before Slade struck out.

Florida State picked up a run in the eighth when Nichols reached first on rightfielder Davis' error, stole second and went to third while Cash was grounding out. Grubb followed with an RBI single to right, driving in what proved the big run.

Mississippi State refused to quit, however. The Bulldogs used a pair of walks and three singles for a ninth inning run.

Pinch-hitter Tommy Mims and Owen started the inning with walks, but Proffitt struck out. Croswell then singled to right, loading the bases.

Phares' fielder's choice forced Mims at the plate, and with two out, Milton's bunt single scored Owen, and that was it.

Mississippi State had rolled into the finals Saturday afternoon with an 8-4 victory over Maryland, which ousted the Terps from the tournament.

Gene Henderson and Frank Yilling broke a 4-4 deadlock with solo homers in the seventh and eighth innings before Ted Milton belted a three-run double in the ninth to ice things.

With the Bulldogs ahead 5-3 in the eighth Maryland threatened closing the gap with a single run. Henderson, the Mississippi State righthander, prevented the Terps from making it two when he cut down the runner at the plate, taking the throw from the outfield after a single had scored the first run.

Miss. State				Florida State			
	ab	r	h		ab	r	h
Croswell ss	4	0	1	Nichols 2b	3	2	0
Phares cf	5	0	0	Schnute cf	5	0	1
Milton lf	4	1	1	Grubb rf	5	2	2
Still 3b	5	2	2	Cash 3b	5	1	2
Yilling c	4	0	0	Cocks lf	5	0	1
Davis rf	4	0	2	Saferight c	3	0	1
Voss 1b	3	0	0	Gromek ss	2	0	0
Mims ph	0	0	0	Kasimier 1b	4	0	2
Owen 2b	2	1	1	Slade p	3	0	1
Eichmeier p	2	0	0	Scarce p	0	0	0
Milner ph	0	0	0				
Proffitt p	1	0	0				

Totals 34 4 7 Totals 35 5 10

Mississippi State 010 002 001—4

Florida State 200 020 01x—5

E—Croswell, Voss, Gromek, Davis.

RBI—Grubb 2, Still 2, Cocks. DP—MSU

1; LOB—MSU 8, FSU 12.

2B—Slade, Still, HR—Still, SB—Nichols,

Grubb 2, Cash 2, Saferight, Schnute 2,

S—Croswell.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Slade (W-7-1)	8	3	5	2	4	10
Scarce	1	2	1	1	1	1
Eichmeier (L-1-2)	6	7	4	2	6	6
Proffitt	2	4	1	0	0	2

HBP—Milner 1 by Slade. WP—Eich-

meier. PB—Yilling. T—2 50.