

# Seminole nine wins Metro convincingly

By BOB BLANKENSHIP

Executive sports editor

MEMPHIS—Florida State's baseball team played so well here over the weekend that it revived sports' most famous cliché.

"We put it all together," said Woody Woodward. "Now it's just a matter of keeping it together for the Regionals."

With that, Woodward took his Metro Conference champions home to await today's expected bid to the NCAA championships after turning back gutsy Tulane 11-1 in the league finale here Sunday.

"I'm going to be standing right by the telephone," Woodward said. "I'm pretty certain that the call will come through."

FSU officials said the bid was expected sometime around mid-afternoon today.

Even though the Metro champ doesn't get an automatic bid, everyone from commissioner Larry Albus on down figured it would be a major upset if the Seminoles were overlooked after hiking their record to 37-13.

The Seminoles stumbled just once here, being forced into a Sunday doubleheader by scrambling Tulane, who bounced out of the losers' bracket and forced the tournament down to its final game.

But the Green Wave, winners of five straight games after losing to the Seminoles on opening day, ran out of miracles and pitchers at about the same time.

After beating the Seminoles 4-3 Sunday, Tulane had to turn to sophomore shortstop Barry Butera to open on the mound in the title game.

"We just exploded," said Woodward, describing the Seminoles awesome start.

**THEY JUMPED** on the fast-balling righthander for seven runs in the first two innings. Included in that explosion were a two-run triple and solo home run by Joe Hicks, and a two-run homer by Ben Curry.

That's all it took for the aroused Seminoles to lock up the title after playing their "best baseball of the season."

"We've reached our peak at the right time," said Woodward.

True. The Seminoles got outstanding pitching, hitting and defense — even in the one game they lost.

In the three-day tournament, they outscored the opposition 40-13, out-hit the opposition 51-29, committed just five errors, and got a 2.00 earned run average from the pitching staff in the five games.

"That's outstanding baseball," said Woodward.

Brooks Carey, saved for the final game, went the distance against Tulane, scattering just four hits in a clutch performance.

The Florida State hitting stars for the weekend came down to Terry Kennedy, voted the co-Outstanding Athlete of the weekend with FSU golfer Kenny Knox, and Joe Hicks.

Kennedy ripped 10 base hits in 21 trips to the plate, including two home runs and two doubles, to drive in seven runs in five games. Hicks went eight-for-21 and drove in nine runs for the weekend. Tulane, which came into the tournament seeded No. 1 with a 28-8 record, won three games Saturday and even won the admiration of Woodward on Sunday afternoon.

"I'M HAPPY and I'm pleased with our ball club," said Woodward, "but you've got to give tremendous credit to Tulane."

The Green Wave got an outstanding pitching performance from Vince DeGrouetta in the opener here Sunday, shutting the Seminoles out over the last seven innings. He allowed the hard-hitting Tribe only three hits in those seven innings.

Still, the Seminoles had a chance to win it all when they loaded the bases with one out in the bottom of the

ninth. A line drive out to second base by Mark Coulter and a groundout by Bruce Huff ended the threat.

But, the Seminoles, not ones to pass up two opportunities in the same day, jumped on the little shortstop turned pitcher with a vengeance in the second game.

Chip Bifano, who opened every Florida State game here by getting on base and scoring, naturally got it started.

Tamely enough, he walked.

Then, the Waves' centerfielder dropped the first of two fly balls, and Carlos Lezcano was safe at second with Bifano moving to third.

Hicks hit one to the fence for a triple and the circus was underway.

Coulter drove in Hicks with a single and scored ahead of Curry's fifth home run of the season and second of the tournament.

If that wasn't enough, the centerfielder opened the door again in the second by dropping Bifano's fly ball.

A wild pitch later, Lezcano got him home on a groundout before Hicks unloaded his 10th home run of the season and the team's 61st.

Tulane					Florida State				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Foto cf	2	0	1	0	Bifano 2b	4	2	0	0
Br. Butera rf	4	0	0	0	Lezcano cf	4	1	0	2
Ba. B'ra p-ss	3	0	0	0	Hicks 3b	5	3	3	3
Stokes 3b	4	0	0	0	Kennedy c	5	0	2	1
Cab'srs 1b	4	1	1	1	Coulter rf	4	1	1	1
Maher c	4	0	2	0	Mobley dh	3	0	1	0
Retif lf	4	0	0	0	Curry 1b	4	2	1	2
Gaudet ss	1	0	0	0	Benda ss	4	2	3	0
Comrado 1b	1	0	0	0	Huff lf	3	0	0	1
Babin 2b	2	0	0	0	Carey p	0	0	0	0
Lukvch 1b	1	0	0	0	Schimchak rf	1	0	0	0
Frngvs p	1	0	0	0	G. Jones ss	0	0	0	0
Hebert p	0	0	0	0	McGlone dh	2	0	1	0
Barnett p	0	0	0	0					
Falk p	0	0	0	0					
TOTALS	31	1	4	1	TOTALS	38	11	12	10
Florida State						520	002	110	-11
Tulane						000	001	000	-1

E—Foto 2, Curry. DP—Tulane 1, FSU 1.  
LOB—Tulane 6, FSU 5. 2B—Maher, Kennedy 2, McGlone, Benda. 3B—Hicks. HR—Cavecerias, Hicks (10), Curry (5). SB—Huff. SF—Lezcano, Huff.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Carey (W, 6-3)	9	4	1	1	3	8
Ba. Butera (L, 0-1)	2	4	7	3	1	2
Francingves	4	4	2	2	0	2
Hebert	1	2	1	1	0	1
Barnett	1	1	1	1	1	0
Falk	2	0	0	0	0	1
WP—Butera, Francingves. PB—Maher. T—2:48. A—600.						

Florida State					Tulane				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Bifano 2b	3	2	2	0	Foto cf	4	1	1	0
Lezcano cf	4	0	3	0	Br. Butera rf	4	0	0	0
Hicks 3b	4	1	1	1	Ba. Butera ss	4	0	1	1
Kennedy rf	4	0	1	1	Stokes 3b	2	2	0	0
Coulter 1b	4	0	0	0	Cabec'as dh	4	1	2	0
Mobley dh	4	0	2	1	Maher c	2	0	1	1
Huff dh	1	0	0	0	Melito 1b	3	0	1	2
Benda ss	4	0	0	0	Gaudet 2b	1	0	0	0
McArdle lf	3	0	0	0	Comardo ph	1	0	0	0
McGlone c	4	0	1	0	Babin 2b	2	0	0	0
McLeod p	0	0	0	0	Retif lf	4	0	0	0
Smith p	0	0	0	0	DeGr'tola p	0	0	0	0
L. Jones p	0	0	0	0	Hebert p	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	36	3	10	3	TOTALS	31	4	6	4
Tulane						020	001	100	-4
Florida State						210	000	000	-3

E—Ba. Butera. DP—Tulane 2, Florida State 1. LOB—Tulane 6, Florida State 12. 2B—Cabeceiras, Lezcano. 3B—Maher. SB—Foto 2, Bifano 2, Lezcano 2. S—Melito.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
DeGr'tola (W, 9-2)	8	10	3	2	6	7
Hebert	1	0	0	0	1	0
McLeod	5 1/3	5	3	3	4	5
Smith (L, 5-3)	2 2/3	1	1	1	1	4
L. Jones	1	0	0	0	0	1

Save—Hebert. WP—DeGrouttola. T—250.