

# 'Noles power into semifinal

By BOB COHN  
Democrat sports writer

Florida State used four home runs to beat Cincinnati 13-3 Friday at Seminole Field and advance in the Metro Conference baseball tournament.

Today, FSU sends Jim Riley to the mound against Tulane and Joe Tkac at noon at Seminole Field in the only winners' bracket game.

It was a typical performance by the slugging 'Noles, a show that — in its normalcy — paled in comparison to the fate that befell two other teams on a broiling afternoon.

Virginia Tech started the day in the winners' bracket and ended it making plans for a premature ride home to Blacksburg, Va. The second-seeded Gobblers dropped an agonizing 4-3 decision to Tulane, then were eliminated when Memphis State, a loser Thursday, beat them 5-1.

Louisville was a victim of shocking circumstances, blowing a 10-7 lead in the bottom of the ninth to lose 11-10 to the No. 7-seeded St. Louis Billikens. The Cardinals go home after two losses.

Cincinnati, meanwhile, recovered from its FSU defeat and beat upstart St. Louis 5-4, but not before some ninth-inning theatrics in that one. The Billikens are gone from the tournament.

The Seminoles (42-13) snapped out of the dormant hitting state of last

weekend's season-ending series with Georgia Southern.

First baseman Don "Meatloaf" Milner set the mood with a three-run, first inning homer off Bearcat loser Jim Martini, and shots by Mike Fuentes, Don DeLoach and Jeff Ledbetter followed.

Milner had three hits and served notice that he may be free of the physical problems that have bothered him most of the season.

"I just need two or three more games like this," said Milner, who strained the ligaments in his right wrist early in the year and has seen his average stay under .300. "Then we'll go on to the regionals and if I do good, I'd say my season was salvaged."

Milner, who plays with the wrist tightly bandaged, hit his seventh homer of the year to help get the 'Noles off to a 4-0 start against Martini. But the Cincy ace — 9-2 with a 2.63 ERA entering the game — settled down, retiring 11 straight hitters from the second inning to the sixth.

Milner led off that frame with a double and scored when Fuentes rammed his 15th homer of the year. That made the score 6-1, and it changed again in the eighth when Ledbetter and Ronnie Traylor each produced run-scoring doubles.

DeLoach cracked a two-run homer in the ninth (FSU was the visiting (Please see BASEBALL, page 6B)

team) and Ledbetter hit his 12th of the year with two on to cap a five-run inning. Named to the All-Metro team this week, the freshman drove in five runs in all.

The Seminoles were more than generous to their pitcher, Dick Wiggins, who had a no-hitter until Brian Templeton doubled leading off the fifth. The righthander pitched his usual economical game — 80 pitches — before leaving after the eighth.

One of the runs came on a homer by Bearcat catcher Bill Fitzpatrick. He duplicated the act with a drive off Rick Hatcher, pitching the ninth in relief.

Wiggins, now 11-3, was steamed when he failed to make that All-Metro team. He said before the game he had to "prove some things to some people." Afterwards, he was still looking to change some minds.

"I didn't have my good stuff today," Wiggins said. "I didn't pitch as well as I can, but I still only gave up five hits and two runs. But I'd like to get another shot."

That thought occurred to FSU Coach Dick Howser. He said that although Wiggins would not pitch today, he might Sunday. No one is even considering not playing after today.

"Wiggie is the kind of guy I want to use in a tough game," Howser said.

"He'll be right there. It just depends on what happens."

What happens is that the winner of the FSU-Tulane game can relax until Sunday. The loser has no such peace, playing again at 3 p.m. at Seminole Field against the survivor of the Cincinnati-Memphis State clash.

# at Seminole Field

FLORIDA STATE					CINCINNATI				
AB	R	H	B	I	AB	R	H	B	I
B.Huff rf	4	1	1	0	Cliett dh	5	1	1	0
DeLoach ss	4	2	1	2	Braun ss	4	0	0	0
Patterson 2b	4	2	1	0	Kuz'ici 3b	3	0	0	1
Milner 1b	5	3	3	3	Deffinger lf	4	0	0	0
Casey 3b	0	0	0	0	Templeton rf	4	0	1	0
Fuentes cf	4	3	2	2	Fitzpatrick c	4	2	2	2
Ledbetter dh	4	2	2	5	Cusumano cf	4	0	1	0
Traylor lf	5	0	1	1	Britt 1b	4	0	1	0
K.Huff lf	0	0	0	0	Bartee 2b	4	0	1	0
Mobley 3b-1b	4	0	1	0					
Emerick c	4	0	1	0					
Bartlett c	0	0	0	0					
Totals	38	13	13	13	Totals	36	3	7	3

Florida State 400 002 025 — 13

Cincinnati 000 001 101 — 3

E — Patterson, Mobley, DeLoach. LOB — FSU 3, Cincy 7. 2B — Milner, Ledbetter, Traylor, Templeton, Bartee. HR — Milner, Fuentes, Ledbetter, DeLoach, Fitzpatrick 2. SF — Ledbetter, Kuzniczci. SB — DeLoach, Fuentes 2, Patterson, B.Huff.

## IP H R ER BB SO

Florida State						
Wiggins (W, 11-3)	8	5	2	2	0	3
Hatcher	1	2	1	1	0	1

Cincinnati						
Martini (L, 9-3)	9	13	13	13	3	2

WP — Wiggins. HBP — B.Huff (by Martini). U — Stapleton, Reynolds, Russell. T — 2:10.