

# Tulane dumps FSU plans in Metro final

By BOB COHN  
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Some of the ardent Florida State baseball fans who sit behind the first base dugout at Seminole Field had made hotel reservations for Starkville, Miss.

Cancel the reservations.

Tulane, not FSU, is going to the NCAA South Regional, which probably will be hosted by Mississippi State.

Ken Francingues, pitching with two days rest, and a heart as big as New Orleans, extricated himself from precarious difficulties as the Green Wave beat the Seminoles 5-2

Sunday to win the Metro Conference baseball tournament.

It was the second straight year that FSU lasted until the tourney's final day, needing to win twice. Again, the Seminoles didn't win once.

While the team from bayou country gets an automatic NCAA berth, FSU must sit by the phone and hope it gets a call from the NCAA selection committee.

The Seminoles could have been spared some telephone-watching had they cashed in on some big opportunities to beat the Wave and force a single-game playoff.

But Francingues, a junior right-

hander who was named the outstanding baseball player and the outstanding athlete of the entire tournament, refused to buckle under pressure.

His first challenge came in the last of the third, his team up by a 2-0 score. With one out, David Mobley walked and Craig Ramsey singled. The top of the FSU order was next.

But Francingues got Bruce Huff to ground out, sending the runners to second and third, then whiffed Don DeLoach on a 3-2 pitch.

The FSU heartbreaker happened the following inning, when the Seminoles loaded the bases with none out,

and failed to produce a run. Facing Jeff Ledbetter, Ronnie Traylor and Mobley, Francingues got a strikeout, a short fly ball and a strikeout.

"We had him on the ropes, and we had the right guys up," FSU Coach Dick Howser said. "That was the turning point right there. We could have broken the game open."

The only thing that may have been broken was the Seminoles' spirit, yet they managed to score twice the next inning to cut the Wave lead to 4-2.

But again, opportunity knocked for more runs, and the 'Noles failed to answer. With runners on first and second and none out, Don Milner hit

into a doubleplay and Mike Fuentes fanned.

Suspect baserunning may have contributed to the outcomes in both innings.

In the fourth, Milner was on first and Craig Patterson on second when Fuentes roped a single to centerfield. Patterson, thinking shortstop Bill Vogt had a chance to spear it, hesitated at second, and could get only to third base. That was as far as he got.

Then in the fifth, DeLoach was on first and Huff on third when Patterson smacked a single over second baseman Bill Gaudet, scoring Huff.

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DeLoach, playing it cautious, was not off at the crack of the bat. He made it to second, finally touching third when Milner hit into the doubleplay, and remaining there when Fuentes struck out.

"They have to use their own judgment out there and sometimes it's not very good," Howser said. "I wish we could have been a little more aggressive on the bases."

Still, Howser wouldn't point to that as the major contributor to the 'Noles second straight loss to Tulane, which won all four games it played. He credited Francingues, and the way he handled the Seminole batsmen.

With the score still 4-2, FSU (43-15) put single runners on in the sixth and seventh with fewer than two out, but they never crossed the plate. In the ninth, trailing 5-2 now, DeLoach and Huff walked with two out. But Patterson, the tying run, hit a sharp grounder that was a game-ending force play.

Francingues (pronounced, FRAHSANG) allowed 10 hits — all singles — in posting his 13th win of the year against one defeat. He beat Cincinnati with a complete game on the tournament's opening day Thursday. The only blemish on his record was an early season-loss to the Seminoles.

Francingues said before the game that he planned to keep ahead of the FSU hitters, a strategy he stuck to most of the way.

"I just didn't want to walk anybody," he said. "I just wanted them to hit the ball. Our defense played a super game again."

Fuentes, who managed a hard single and a scratch hit in four trips to the plate, said he thought the Seminoles were too eager at bat.

"When we get behind, we press too hard," he said. "Everyone looks to hit the longball. We go for it, instead of being selective. We start swinging at bad pitches."

The wildness hurt. Tulane (35-11) took a 2-0 lead in the third inning after Holloway walked the first two men. Brian Butera grounded to Patterson at second, who flipped to DeLoach for the force. But DeLoach's return throw to first sailed over Miller's head, allowing Bill Gaudet to score the first run.

Holloway dug the same hole for himself in the fourth, again walking the initial two hitters. Catcher Craig Ramsey eased the situation by picking Ken Retif off second base, but Joe Morse's double, an infield out and Karl Scheuremann's pop fly single made it a 4-0 game.

The all-tournament team was selected by media representatives and tournament officials after the game. Chosen from FSU were outfielders Huff and Fuentes, second baseman Patterson and designated hitter Ledbetter.

TULANE				FLORIDA STATE			
	AB	R	H BI		AB	R	H BI
Sch'mann rf	3	0	1 1	B.Huff rf	4	1	1 0
Butera lf	4	1	0 0	DeLoach ss	4	0	1 1
Stokes 3b	5	0	2 0	Patterson 2b	5	0	2 1
Melito 1b	4	1	2 2	Milner 1b	4	0	1 0
Cab'eras lf	4	0	0 0	Fuentes cf	4	0	2 0
Relif dh	2	0	0 0	Ledbetter dh	4	0	1 0
Vogt ss	3	1	0 0	Traylor lf	4	0	0 0
Morse c	4	1	1 0	Mobley 3b	3	0	0 0
Gaudet 2b	3	1	1 1	Ramsey c	3	1	2 0
Totals	32	5	7 4	Casey ph	1	0	0 0
				Totals	36	2	10 2
Tulane				002	200	100	— 5
Florida State				000	020	000	— 2

E — Stokes, DeLoach, Traylor, Mobley.  
DP — Tulane 1, FSU 1. LOB — Tulane 8,  
FSU 10. 2B — Morse. 3B — Stokes. HR —  
Melito. SB — Gaudet.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Tulane						
Fran'gues (W, 13-1)	9	10	2	2	3	8
Florida State						
Holloway (L, 5-5)	8	6	5	4	7	4
Smith	1	1	0	0	0	0

WP — Francingues. HBP — Relif (by  
Holloway). U — Russell, Rountree, Rey-  
nolds, Anderson, Norris, Stapleton. T — 2:07.  
A — 2,122.