

FSU trips Valdosta for Martin's 100th

By ROBERT MASHBURN
Democrat sports writer

VALDOSTA, Ga. — Florida State closed its regular season with a milestone victory Sunday, leaving the Seminoles full of confidence heading into their second season.

FSU trimmed Valdosta State 5-3 for its 100th victory in two seasons under Coach Mike Martin. The Seminoles finished the regular season 49-20 and now turn their attention to surpassing last year's record 51 victories.

They'll get their first shot in the Metro Conference tournament this week at Seminole Field. FSU plays St. Louis University Thursday at 7 p.m.

"We've had a great No. 1 season," said Martin. "We're playing good baseball and we've got a lot of confidence going into our second season."

"The 100th win is a big thing for me but I'm even happier for the players who have been here the last two years."

The Seminoles' confidence showed on the field Sunday when they combined solid pitching and timely hitting to complete a 3-0 road trip that included two wins over Georgia Southern.

FSU starter Allen Swindle got off to a shaky start but settled down and pitched six innings to improve his record to 5-1. Hard-throwing Jamey Shouppe of Chattahoochee came on and blew away the Blazers over the final three innings, striking out five en route to his fifth save.

"It was another fine pitching performance," said Martin. "We only took Allen out because Jamey need the work to get ready for the Metro. Allen had thrown only about 95 pitches. He was in excellent shape to

have finished the game."

Shouppe needed the work because he hadn't pitched in 10 days.

"I haven't been down about not pitching because we haven't needed it," said Shouppe. "When the starters are pitching as well as ours are, you can't be unhappy about sitting."

"I felt a little rusty but my arm was lively, so I was throwing hard and I got them to swing at a few bad pitches."

Offensively, Chris Cawthon stretched his consecutive-hit streak to six before grounding out in the seventh. He was four-for-four Saturday against Georgia Southern and Sunday he finished with three hits in four at-

bats. He has nine hits in the last three games and has boosted his batting average from .240 to .280.

"I changed my swing a little, trying to keep my hands in more so I don't get jammed," he said. "It also helps to play in the outfield instead of just being the designated hitter. You get to run around and catch a few balls and you just feel like you're in the game more."

"It's amazing the way the whole team is coming together. We started slow, but the way we are playing now shows what kind of team we have. We're peaking at just the right time."

Valdosta State strung together three straight hits to open the game and take a 1-0 lead. Blazer catcher Seo Torres led off the second with a home run, but Swindle settled down and stayed out of trouble until the Blazers pushed across another run in the sixth.

FSU took the lead with three runs in the third inning. Lionel Martinez walked and Don DeLoach doubled to score Martinez. Mike Fuentes flied to right, Joe Licata walked and Jeff Ledbetter delivered a run-scoring single to center. With two out, Cawthon singled in Licata with the go-ahead run.

Mark Lacy produced the eventual winning run in the fifth when he blasted a towering 375-foot homer to left. Cawthon then walked and scored on a double by Rick Figueredo.

The game was the 1,400th in FSU baseball history and left the Seminoles just three victories short of 1,000.

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Virginia Tech, as expected, drew the No. 1 seed Sunday for the Metro Conference baseball tournament.

Memphis State was seeded second and Florida State third. Tulane, Louisville, St. Louis and Cincinnati complete the seedings.

The tournament begins Thursday with three games: Tulane (34-24) vs. Louisville (36-45) at 3 p.m. at Florida High, Memphis State (43-7) vs. Cincinnati (11-27) at 3 p.m. at Seminole Field, and Florida State (49-20) vs. St. Louis (20-29-2) at 7 p.m. at Seminole Field.

Virginia Tech (45-7) receives a first-round bye and will play the Tulane-Louisville winner Friday. Five games are scheduled Friday, three Saturday and the championship game Sunday in the double-elimination tournament.

The Metro champion receives an automatic berth in the NCAA tournament.

FLORIDA STATE VALDOSTA STATE

	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Martinez 2b	3	1	1	0	Johnson cf	5	1	3	0
DeLoach ss	4	1	2	1	Soss 3b	5	0	2	0
Fuentes cf	5	0	1	0	Keigher dh	3	0	1	1
Licata lf	3	1	1	0	Roche rf	4	0	0	0
Ledbetter 1b	4	0	1	1	Powell ss	4	0	1	0
Lacy dh	3	1	1	1	Torres c	3	2	2	1
Barineau dh	1	0	0	0	Vunovich 1b	3	0	1	0
Cawthon rf	4	1	3	1	Taylor 2b	4	0	1	0
Huff pr	0	0	0	0	Roszell lf	4	0	1	1
Ystrzmski rf	0	0	0	0					
Figueredo 3b	3	0	1	1					
Ramsey c	5	0	0	0					
Totals	34	5	11	5	Totals	35	3	12	3

Florida State 003 020 000—5

Valdosta State	110 001 000-3
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E—DeLoach. DP—FSU 1. LOB—FSU 13.
Valdosta State 8. 2B—DeLoach, Figueredo.
HR—Torres (5), Lacy (9). S—Torres, Keigh-
er. SB—Johnson 3.

IP H R ER BB SO

Florida State

Swindle (W, 5-1)	6	10	3	3	1	5
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Shouppe (\$, 5)	3	2	0	0	0	5
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Valdosta State

Raff'berger (L. 7-4)4 1/3	8	5	5	5	2
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Dixon	12½	2	0	0	2	0
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Drew	3	1	0	0	2	1
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WP—Dixon, Drew. HBP—by Dixon
(Ledbetter). T—2:55. A—800.