

# Seminoles stay alive in Metro

By George Maselli  
Democrat staff writer

Showing again that they play their best on the brink, Florida State beat South Carolina 7-5 Saturday night to stay alive into the final day of the Metro Conference Baseball Tournament.

FSU Coach Mike Martin summed it up nicely.

"We accomplished a lot, but techni-

cally we just stayed alive," said Martin.

The Seminoles, 53-20, must win two more today to win the tournament. With that comes an automatic bid to the NCAA playoffs, and perhaps the right to host a regional.

To get to that point, the Seminoles will have to get past Virginia Tech at 2 p.m. and then whip South Carolina again at 5.

That was the exact scenario the

Seminoles used last year in coming out of the losers' bracket to win the title.

In this one, there were many heroes for FSU, including a crowd of around 4,000 that generated an electric atmosphere. But of all the heroes, 5-foot-7 freshman reliever Richie Lewis stood tallest. He overpowered the Gamecocks — who are now 40-19 after losing for the first time in the tournament — over the final three innings to earn the victory.

"Yeah, there was a lot of pressure," said Lewis, 10-6. "But I've been in short relief for a month and a half and I'm getting used to it."

"I wouldn't want any other role. You get more victories as a starter, but the meat of the game is the seventh, eighth and ninth innings. That's the exciting part."

Seminole hitters did their part, espe-  
See FSU, 3F

cially right fielder Paul Sorrento.

"We feel real confident," said the sophomore who was 5 for 5 with two RBIs. "We've got to win two, and I guess South Carolina is in the driver's seat, but we did it last year."

At this point in a tournament, coaches scratch for any pitching they can find. Martin found just enough. He gambled by starting Kevin Smith, who started and beat Louisville on Thursday night.

Smith struggled, but left the game in the fourth inning with FSU leading 5-2.

"The key to the game was our relief pitching," said Martin. "Paul Thomas did a good job, and Richie Lewis closed the door."

Lewis entered in the seventh after Thomas was touched for a two-run homer by Joe Datin to make it 7-5. That was it, and each out was accompanied by a roar until the end.

The Seminoles broke on top with three runs in the top of the first. Gamecock third baseman Dave Hollins made a two-out error that opened the gates. Vince Calandra, in the midst of a spectacular tournament, made it happen with a clutch two-run single.

But from there, the Seminoles hung on. They scored two runs in

the fifth for some breathing room, one coming on Frank Fazzini's 28th homer of the season.

They got another solo homer from Luis Alicea in the sixth, and scored another on a double by hot-hitting Sorrento.

South Carolina's Rob Rinehart said things were still under the Gamecocks' control.

"No, we're going to win it," he said. "We're still in the driver's seat."

Florida State					South Carolina				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Alicea, 2b	5	1	1	1	Barns, ss	4	0	1	0
Figueroa, ss	5	1	1	0	Rinehart, lf	3	2	0	0
Fazzini, lf	5	2	2	1	Datin, 1b	4	2	1	2
Sorrento, rf	5	2	5	2	Lendenski, dh	1	0	0	0
Jones, 1b	4	1	1	0	Aldrich, dh	3	1	1	1
Fulton, c	4	0	2	1	Mackie, cf	4	0	1	1
Calandra, 3b	4	0	2	2	Killian, rf	4	0	1	1
Zoeller, dh	5	0	0	0	Lambert, c	3	0	0	0
Kidd, cf	1	0	1	0	Cook, ph	0	0	0	0
Mangham, cf	2	0	0	0	Reed, pr	0	0	0	0
					Nelson, c	0	0	0	0
					Hollins, 3b	2	0	1	0
					L. Jenkins, 3b	2	0	0	0
					Polk, 2b	3	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>

Florida State	300	022	000	—	7	15	1
South Carolina	200	010	200	—	5	6	1

E—Hollins, Alicea. DP—S. Carolina 2. LOB—FSU 10, S. Carolina 9. 2B—Jones, Mackie, Kidd, Figueroa, Sorrento. HR—Fazzini (28), Aldrich (12), Alicea (12), Datin (21). SB—Mangham. S—Polk.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
<b>Florida State</b>						
Smith	3 1/3	4	2	2	5	4
Thomas	2 2/3	2	3	3	1	0
Lewis W, 10-6	3	0	0	0	1	3
<b>South Carolina</b>						
Price L, 3-6	1	4	3	0	1	0
Currie	3 1/3	5	2	2	2	1
Boley	4 2/3	6	2	2	2	3

WP—Lewis, Boley. T—3:29. A—4,563.