

Seminoles will play Arkansas

By George Maselli
Democrat staff writer

To get to the magical college-baseball city of Omaha, a team needs a few nice surprises along the way. Florida State's Mike Loynd fits into that category.

Loynd shook off nagging back problems and fired a four-hitter to lead the Seminoles past Georgia Tech 9-1 in the second round of the NCAA South Region II tournament Friday night.

The victory set up an early showdown of the two undefeated teams left in this tournament. The second-seeded Seminoles will play top-seeded Arkansas today at 11 a.m. The winner will be in good shape, only having to win one more game to earn a trip to the College World Series. Georgia Tech will play Eastern Kentucky at 3 p.m. in the loser's bracket. The loser of today's first game and the winner of today's second game will play tonight at 7.

Loynd provided the pitching and his teammates supplied the defense in a strange tangent from the double-digit scoring that has marked this tournament. FSU, 59-21, was urged on by a large crowd of 3,455 that included Gov. Bob Graham. He arrived fashionably late, but in time for the game-winning rally.

The score was deceptive. Georgia Tech led 1-0 after five innings behind left-hander Roger Kinard.

Fortunately for FSU, Loynd was more than sharp. Coming off a back injury that has kept him out of action for two weeks, his masterful 98-pitch performance was a collection of curve balls, sliders and a few teasing fastballs. He struck out seven, walked two and retired the last 14 Yellow Jackets in order.

"In the beginning of the game, nothing was working because I was worrying about my back," said Loynd. "In the fifth inning I started thinking about driving toward the plate with my front shoulder instead of flying open.

"My curve ball was working real well, and my slider was, too. My fastball had some pop on it, too."

It was FSU's first complete game since Loynd threw a seven-inning job at Tulane May 4.

"I never in my mind expected Mike to go nine innings," said FSU Coach Mike Martin. "It was an incredible performance for a guy who has been down on his luck with back problems to pitch like that."

some runs. Tech helped. Its pitchers had good enough stuff to record 13 strikeouts (seven looking) but walked 12, a deep hole to work from.

"Florida State is the type of club if you give them a chance and a few runs, they'll kill you," said Tech coach Jim Morris, a former FSU assistant.

The Seminoles broke through with a five-run sixth inning with the help of four walks, two wild pitches, an infield chopper, an error and a two-run single by Bien Figueroa that found a hole into center field.

The FSU defense did not make an error, but really needed few spectacular plays. When one was needed, second baseman Luis Allicea obliged on a few occasions.

Loynd got out of the first inning allowing just one run after a lead-off bloop double by Steve Newborn and a bunt single by Scott Jordan. Allicea, ranging far and wide, made a play from deep in the first-base hole and threw to Loynd covering the bag for a vital first out.

"That was the key to the game, that Mike got out of that with one run," said Martin. "The other key was that we kept our poise when we were behind. Kinard was doing a number on us."

By contrast, the Yellow Jackets made five errors and botched a few other plays that could have kept them in the game. For example, Georgia Tech shortstop Keith Kerver could not come up with Allicea's high-hopper that would have ended the fifth at 1-1 instead of 5-1.

Kerver also double-pumped as he stood with the ball as Paul Sorrento and Frank Fazzini pulled a double steal in the eighth.

Loynd's fielders had no such trouble. They simply made all the plays, including a snappy short-to-second-to-first double play that ended the second inning.

After the Yellow Jackets wasted a leadoff double and a one-out walk

in the fifth, their offense was finished.

"I feel really good," said Loynd. "I came through at the right time."

Loynd said he was feeling good about today's matchup with Arkansas, too. Kevin Smith, 8-1, will pitch for FSU.

"It looks like they can hit the ball, but their pitchers have been getting hit, too," said Loynd, 13-4. "Our hitters can score runs, too, and I think Kevin can hold them down."

Florida State					Georgia Tech				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Alicea,2b	5	2	2	1	Newbern,lf	4	1	1	0
Figueroa,ss	4	1	3	3	Jordan,cf	4	0	1	0
Fazzini,lf	5	1	1	1	McConnell,3b	3	0	0	1
Sorrento,rf	4	2	0	0	Distasio,1b	4	0	0	0
Jones,1b	4	0	0	0	Sittler,2b	3	0	0	0
Calandra,3b	4	1	1	1	Geist,rf	3	0	2	0
Zoeller,dh	1	1	1	0	Yancey,dh	3	0	0	0
Kosco,dh	0	0	0	0	Kerver,ss	2	0	0	0
Pacetti,pr	0	0	0	0	Mons,c	2	0	0	0
Blackwell,c	5	0	1	0	White,ph	1	0	0	0
Mangham,cf	4	1	0	0	Stephens,c	0	0	0	0
Totals	36	9	9	6	Totals	29	1	4	1

Florida State 000 005 031 — 9 9 0
Georgia Tech 100 000 000 — 1 4 5

E—McConnell, Jordan, Kerver, Shiver.
DP—FSU 1, Ga. Tech 1. LOB—FSU 13, Ga.
Tech 3. 2B—Newbern, Geist. 3B—Fazzini.
SB—Sorrento, Fazzini. SF—Figueroa.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Florida State						
Loynd W,13-4	9	4	1	1	2	7
Georgia Tech						
Kinard L,5-2	5 ² / ₃	5	5	4	6	6
Fleming	0	1	0	0	0	0
Stewart	2	3	3	3	3	5
Shiver	1 ¹ / ₃	0	1	0	3	2

WP—Kinard 2. T—3:14. A—3,455.