

A shocking finish

Wichita State eliminates FSU

By David Lee Simmons
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OMAHA, Neb. — Depth had been the key to Florida State's pitching staff all season.

The Seminoles had gotten it from the starters, the middle relievers, the stoppers.

To one degree or another, all fell apart in a rubber match with Wichita State, which survived a late FSU rally to beat the Seminoles 12-9 in the College World

Series on Friday night before 15,667 at Rosenblatt Stadium.

Instead of top-seeded FSU, it will be the fourth-seeded Shockers who will face Texas in the championship game today at 1 p.m. The Seminoles, finishing the season at 54-18, failed in their bid for a third trip to the championship game (1970 and 1986).

They leave Omaha without a national championship in any of their 10 trips here. It was also Coach Mike Martin's fourth trip.

"I promise you I will pray every day for a national championship," Martin said. "(Those) 22 guys (players) will never be forgotten. When we were seven runs down, not one quit. (Losing) never entered my mind."

After falling behind 11-4, FSU staged a five-run rally behind Brad Parker's three-run homer in the eighth but fell short.

FSU starter Clyde Keller suffered his first loss since May 29 of last year after he gave up five runs in five-plus innings, falling to 13-1. Tim Nedin and Ricky Kimball gave up six runs combined, all earned, following Keller's departure.

Pat Cedenio, 13-4, allowed six runs but got the win for Wichita State, 67-16.

Martin made a critical pitching decision that set the tone for the rest of the game for the Seminoles, lifting Keller with the score tied 4-4 and going to lefthanded middle reliever Tim Nedin.

Plagued with control problems all year, Nedin led the team in wild pitches (11) and hit-batsmen (eight),

though he was coming into the game after an inning of perfect relief in Wednesday's 7-4 loss to the Shockers. Nedin was drafted on the 21st round this week by the Minnesota Twins.

Nedin proceeded to give up RBI doubles to Todd Dreifort and Mike Jones as Wichita pulled ahead, 6-4.

"In that situation, with a left-handed batter up, we do everything we could to keep the runner from scoring," Martin said. "In that situation. . . that was his role. Unfortunately, it didn't work out."

In came stopper Kimball, who gave three hits, three walks and a wild pitch as Wichita pulled ahead.

"We probably had to go to (Kimball) a couple times too many (in the CWS)," Martin said.

Keller didn't seem to have the same stuff as he had when he held Wichita to four hits during FSU's 4-2 win on Sunday. There was also the possibility that the Shocker batters had learned how to deal with Keller's trick palmball pitch.

"I felt strong, but my location wasn't there," said Keller, who gave up eight hits but walked only

two.

The Shockers got to Keller early, scoring a run in the first on Mike McDonald's double to right-center.

FSU came right back in the second and took the lead, 4-1, on singles by Buddy Cribb, Chris Brock and Rocky Rau, plus a fielder's choice ground-out by Pedro Grifol.

Wichita tied the score 4-4 in the fourth when Keller gave up a three-run homer to Mike Wentworth, the No. 9 hitter. The Shockers then pulled ahead in the sixth when Pat Meares led off with a single, chasing Keller. Nedin then served up the two run-scoring doubles, with Meares' run being credited to Keller.

After Kimball helped spot Wichita an 11-4 lead, the Seminoles rallied in the eighth. Cribb led off with a walk off Cedeno, followed by a walk to Brock. Up stepped Parker, who blasted his 15th homer of the year over the left-field wall.

"We didn't give up," Parker said. "We haven't given up all year."

Parker and Marc Ronan, who followed with a single during the five-run rally, broke out of an offensive slump. Parker was 1 for 3 with the homer, while Ronan went 3 for

3. Parker's homer came off Jim Newlin, who has a CWS-record three saves, though he did not qualify for one tonight.

Pinch-hitter Allen Bevis drove Ronan in with a triple to the right-field wall and scored on Pedro Grifol's groundout to second. That cut the Shocker lead to 11-9.

Wichita calmed things down with Meares' solo shot off Mike Brady in the bottom of the inning.

FLORIDA ST.					WICHITA ST.				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Reboin 1b	5	0	0	0	Audley cf	5	0	1	2
Gilliland ss	3	0	0	0	Forbes 2b	5	1	1	0
Bargas 3b	4	0	0	0	McDonald lf	5	0	3	1
Cribb dh	5	2	2	0	Wedge c	3	1	1	0
Brock rf	3	1	1	0	Winslow 1b	5	1	0	0
Harrison ph-rf	0	1	0	0	Meares ss	4	4	3	1
Parker lf	3	2	1	3	Dreifort rf	4	2	3	3
Ronan cf	3	2	3	0	Jones 3b	3	2	2	1
Rau 2b	3	0	1	2	Wentworth dh	2	1	1	3
Bevis ph-2b	1	1	1	1	Wilson pr	0	0	0	0
Grifol c	4	0	0	2					

Florida St.	040	000	050—9
Wichita St.	100	302	51x—12

E—Dreifort, Cedeno, Gilliland. DP—Wichita St. 1, FSU 1. LOB—Wichita St. 8, FSU 4. 2B—McDonald 2, Dreifort, Jones. 3B—Bevis. HR—Wentworth (2), Parker (15), Meares (8). SB—Gilliland (15), Ronan (43), Meares (27). CS—Gilliland. SH—Ronan, Wentworth.

Florida St.	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Keller L, 13-1	5+	8	5	5	2	4
Nedin	1/3	2	1	1	0	0
Kimball	1	2	5	5	4	1
Brady	1 2/3	3	1	1	1	2
Wichita St.						
Cedeno W, 13-4	7 1/3	7	7	6	5	4
Newlin	1 2/3	2	2	2	0	2

Keller faced one batter in the sixth. WP—Kimball. PB—Grifol. T—3:11. A—15,667.