

FSU holds on for win

By David Lee Simmons
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Florida State advanced to the second round of the Atlantic II Regional baseball tournament on Thursday night, but Central Michigan sure made it interesting.

The second-seeded Seminoles pulled out an 8-6 victory over the fifth-seeded Chippewas, but not before the two teams traded some power rallies.

Mickey Lopez and Mike Martin Jr. homered during a four-run sixth inning, but Central Michigan's five-run seventh kept FSU (49-20) from cruising into the winner's bracket.

FSU advance to tonight's matchup against fourth-seeded Jacksonville (39-22), a 7-2 winner over third-seeded Kansas earlier in the day.

In the opening game of the day, top-seeded Ohio State stopped sixth-seeded Brigham Young, 6-1. The Buckeyes (49-7) face Kansas (39-17) today at 3 p.m. after Brigham Young (35-19) meets Central Michigan (38-20) in an elimination game at 11 a.m.

FSU will start right-hander Paul Wilson (11-5, 2.16 ERA) today against Dolphin left-hander Dan Slater (5-4, 3.63 ERA). The teams split two regular-season games.

FSU appeared to put Central Michigan away in the sixth by building a 7-1 lead. Then came the Chippewas' rally in the seventh, keyed by Kevin Young's three-run homer.

That not only cut FSU's lead to 7-6, but also chased starter Jonathan Johnson (12-1) and Scooby Morgan, who served up the homer.

FSU jumped to a 2-0 lead in the third inning, thanks in part to bad positioning by Central Michigan's outfield. That helped Steve Nedeau hit a leadoff double over left fielder Schneider's head. Nedeau moved to third on Jack Niles' sacrifice bunt, and scored on Mickey Lopez's sacrifice fly to center.

Doug Mientkiewicz and Martin doubled for the second run.

FSU could not convert on a bases-loaded situation in the fourth, but added a run in the fifth on another Central Michigan miscue. Mientkiewicz drew a leadoff walk, advanced to second on Siler's balk and to third on Martin's sacrifice bunt. Siler fielded Colby Weaver's pop-up bunt, then Link Jarrett fol-

lowed with an RBI single to left.

Central Michigan scored its first run in the sixth on Rick Smith's sacrifice fly to left field that had Scott Zech backpedaling to the track. But Jarrett's relay throw from Zech caught Pat Mahoney off first base for the double play.

That set up FSU's four-run sixth. Hodges doubled, went to third on Siler's wild pitch and scored one out later on Niles' single. Lopez followed with his second homer of the season and third of his career. The homer was the first in 19 at-bats in regional tournament play over two seasons.

Martin then hit a solo homer over the right-field screen, his fifth of the season.

After Central Michigan scored five runs in the seventh inning, Phil Olson came in for FSU and held the Chippewas to an infield single the rest of the way for his fourth save.

FSU added an insurance run in the eighth on Martin's single.

Thursday's box

FSU 8, Cent. Michigan 6

C. MICHIGAN					FSU				
ab r h bi					ab r h bi				
Kruger rf	5	1	1	1	Lopez 2b	4	1	1	3
Young 3b	5	1	2	3	Mtkwcz 1b	2	2	1	0
Ruhlig dh	3	1	1	0	Martin c	4	1	3	3
Mhny c	4	0	2	0	Weaver dh	4	0	0	0
Smith 1b	3	0	1	1	Jarrett ss	4	0	2	1
Cwdry pr	0	0	0	0	Zech lf	2	0	1	0
Gabel 1b	0	0	0	0	Morris lf	1	0	0	0
Schnder lf	4	1	1	0	Hodges rf	4	1	1	0
Brke ss	2	1	1	0	Neddeau cf	3	1	1	0
Carroll cf	4	1	1	0	Niles 3b	2	2	1	1

Mtrpgh 2b 2 0 1 0
VDme ph 1 0 0 0
Wilms ph 1 0 0 0
Totals 34 6 11 5 Totals 30 8 11 8

Central Michigan 000 001 500 — 6
Florida State 002 014 01x — 8

E—Mahoney, Siler, Johnson, Neddeau. DP—FSU 2. LOB—Central Michigan 5, FSU 7. 2B—Mahoney, Muter-spaugh, Hodges, Jarrett, Martin, Mentrkiewicz, Neddeau, Zech. HR—Young (17), Lopez (2), Martin (5). SB—Jarrett. S—Martin, Niles, Zech. SF—Smith, Lopez.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Cent. Mich.						
Siler L, 9-4	5½	10	7	7	3	3
Nielsen	2½	1	1	1	1	2

Florida State						
Jhnsn W, 12-1	6	8	4	4	2	6
Morgan	½	2	2	2	0	1
Olson S, 4	2½	1	0	0	0	1

WP—Siler. BK—Siler 2. HBP—Ruhlig (by Johnson), Niles (by Nielsen).
T—2:48. A—2,182.