

Seminoles earn a familiar trip

Florida State gains its 13th College World Series berth with a 7-1 victory over Brigham Young.

"We're going to be in the College World Series. You can write that down. We'll see if they'll be there."

— Mike Martin Jr., after losing at Clemson 9-5 on May 8 in the second game of the three-game series.

By David Lee Simmons
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

The coach's son never has been one to shy away from saying what he believes. On Monday, Mike Martin Jr. backed up the words, supporting yet another great pitching

effort to help send Florida State to Omaha.

Martin's three-run homer keyed a four-run fifth inning while Mike Bell pitched FSU's third straight complete game in a 7-1 victory over Brigham Young in the championship game of the Atlantic II Regional before 3,511 at Howser Stadium.

Bell, a junior left-hander, struck out six with no walks, allowing Brigham Young's run on a double play, of all things.

FSU (52-20) advances to the College World Series for the sixth time in nine years. It will be the Seminoles' 13th CWS trip overall.

Coach Mike Martin predicted that FSU would be seeded fifth in

the eight-team CWS, which begins Friday at Rosenblatt Stadium. Pairings will be announced today.

FSU has the most appearances in the CWS without a title.

"Folks, one of these days, we're gonna get it right," the elder Martin said.

FSU also continued its dominance in the championship round of regional play at home. The Seminoles, who have hosted 11 of the last 12 years, have advanced to the CWS in each of the six times they have made the championship round while hosting.

Martin Jr., who earned MVP honors, all but guaranteed a win Sunday and backed up his comments Monday — on and off the field. He can take heart in knowing that Clemson, FSU's hated Atlantic Coast Conference rival, is staying home after losing Sunday in the East Regional at home.

"I honestly didn't think they had a chance against us," Martin Jr. said of Brigham Young. "With the momentum, the fans behind us, the way we were playing, I didn't think we could be stopped."

FSU had no reason to think otherwise, doing to Brigham Young what it had done in its three previous games to go through this regional undefeated. The Seminoles outscored their opponents 25-9, enjoyed consecutive complete games from Paul Wilson, Charlie Cruz and Bell, and committed only three errors while capitalizing on opponents' mistakes.

Against the sixth-seeded Cougars (37-18), the break came in the fifth, when Mickey Lopez grounded to third but reached when first baseman Steve Cooper bobbled the throw from third. Doug Mientkiewicz singled to set up Martin's three-run shot over the right-field fence.

Two walks, a wild pitch and a fly-out later, Colby Weaver scored when Cooper couldn't handle Steve Nedeau's grounder.

FSU turned three double plays to Brigham Young's one.

"We knew going into the game that we couldn't make those kind of mistakes," Brigham Young coach Gary Pullins said.

FSU's starting pitching became downright predictable during the regional. Bell (7-1), who has battled Cruz for the No. 3 starter's job, scattered nine hits and allowed only one batter to reach second base after Brigham Young scored its run in the fifth. Bell retired the last six batters to pick up his first complete game of the season.

Mientkiewicz, who went 3 for 3 and reached base five times Monday, was named to the all-regional team, along with Wilson, Cruz and Nedeau.

Senior shortstop Link Jarrett, who played his last game at Howser, will be making his third CWS appearance. This time, he said, FSU might just win it.

"It feels different this year," said Jarrett, who played errorless ball in 24 chances in the regional. "We're going out there to compete and win it. It seems like before, this (regional) was our peak."

BYU (37-20)					Florida State (52-20)				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Nelson 2b	4	0	1	1	Lopez 2b	5	1	0	0
McDowell ss	4	0	1	0	Mntkiewicz 1b	3	2	3	0
Hall dh	4	0	1	0	Martin c	5	1	2	3
Espiritu c	4	0	1	0	Weaver dh	3	2	1	1
Cooper 1b	4	0	1	0	Buttery ph	1	0	0	0
Bills cf	4	0	2	0	Hodges rf	5	0	0	0
Hagerman rf	3	1	1	0	Jarrett ss	3	0	0	0
Moore 3b	3	0	1	0	Zech lf	2	1	1	1
Trythall lf	2	0	0	0	Morris lf	0	0	0	0
Francom ph	1	0	0	0	Nedeau cf	4	0	3	0
McNaughton rf	0	0	0	0	Niles 3b	4	0	1	1
Totals	33	1	9	1	Totals	35	7	11	6

BYU	000	010	000—1
Florida St.	011	040	10x—7

E—Cooper 2. DP—Brigham Young 1, Florida State 3. LOB—Brigham Young 5, Florida State 10. 2B—Bills 2. HR—Martin (6). CS—Martin.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Brigham Young						
Bloomfield L, 8-4	4	8	5	4	1	1
Foderaro	½	0	1	0	3	0
Schaerrer	1½	0	0	0	1	0
Jamie	2	3	1	1	1	2

Florida State	
Bell W, 7-1	9 9 1 1 0 6

WP—Bloomfield 3, Foderaro. U—Ford, Daugherty, Donovan, Walker. T—2:18. A—3,511.