

FSU ends season with another ACC loss

But the Seminoles will be ready for tourney, coach says

By Steve Ellis
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Florida State's baseball team has lost four of its past six Atlantic Coast Conference games.

But Mike Martin insists the Seminoles will be tournament-ready when ACC Tournament begins this week.

No. 3 FSU, hampered by average pitching and silly mistakes that included a balk, lost 5-3 to North Carolina to end its regular season Sunday before 2,627 at Howser Stadium.

FSU (35-19 overall, 16-7 ACC) lost two of three against North Car-

olina (43-13, 14-10) over the weekend. The Seminoles were out-hit 13-7 on Sunday.

Martin, suffering through a stomach virus, had good reason to be ill.

"I'm concerned but not worried," he said. "This ball club knows how to play. It is talented. It's now time to turn it on and this ball club will turn it on."

"Today we were outplayed."

FSU, which finished second in the ACC, faces No. 7 seed Virginia in the tournament Wednesday at 5 p.m. Martin said he'll pitch either Jonathan Johnson or David Yocum.

The Seminoles will learn today whether they'll host one of eight sites for the NCAA regionals that will be played next week.

"I think it's going to be a close call," Martin said. "Losing four of the last six might hurt but on the other hand, the bottom line is administration of the tournament and money."

The bottom line for North Carolina against FSU on Sunday was the solid pitching of starter Jim Wallace (5-0), who held the Seminoles to five hits in five innings.

FSU, trailing 4-3 in the sixth inning, blew an opportunity to tie when J.D. Drew was picked off

third base. North Carolina scored its final run on reliever Chuch Howell's balk in the eighth inning.

"We just didn't have the heart," FSU first baseman Doug Mientkiewicz said. "I'm disgusted. But we slid last year and turned it around."

The Seminoles finished 14-9 during last year's regular season before making the finals of the ACC Tournament and winning an NCAA Regional on its way to the College World Series.

On Sunday, Mike Martin, Jr. celebrated Senior Day with a homer in the third inning that put FSU

Please see FSU, 3B

ahead 1-0. But fellow senior Charlie Cruz put FSU in a hole an inning later.

North Carolina scored the tying run in the fourth inning on Tyrone Brown's RBI single before Brett Kaplan launched a two-run homer over the right-field wall to put the Tar Heels ahead 3-1. Cruz allowed nine hits in five innings with eight strikeouts.

In his last start, against Georgia Tech, Cruz gave up 11 hits in five innings.

"Charlie pitched OK today," Martin said. "But he will be just fine. All he needs is a win."

North Carolina 5, Florida State 3

UNC (35-19)					FSU (43-13)				
ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi	
Stoner 1b	3	1	1	2	Lopez 2b	5	1	1	0
Jones 2b	4	0	1	0	Hodges rf	5	0	1	2
Torbett 3b	5	0	1	0	Mkiewicz 1b	4	0	2	0
Rowell c	5	0	3	0	Drew cf	4	0	1	0
Kaplan dh	3	0	1	0	Zech 3b	2	0	0	0
Grimsley dh	1	0	0	0	Morris lf	2	0	0	0
Boone rf	5	1	1	0	Nedau lf	2	0	0	0
Smith lf	4	1	1	0	Martin c	4	1	2	1
Whitlock ss	3	1	2	0	Faurot dh	1	0	0	0
Brown cf	3	1	2	2	Zabala dh	1	0	0	0
					Senior pr	0	0	0	0
					Badeaux ss	2	1	0	0
Totals	36	5	13	4	Totals	32	3	7	3

North Carolina	000	301	010	—3
Florida State	000	020	000	—3

E—Rowell, Whitlock, Bell, Zech, DP—Fsu 1.
LOB—UNC 10, FSU 8. 2B—Smith, Whitlock, Drew, Mientkiewicz. HR—Stoner (10), Martin (8). SB—Brown (6), Martin (13). Sac—Brown, Grimsley, Stoner, Whitlock, Zech.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
North Carolina						
Wallace W, 5-0	5	5	3	3	2	3
Chrismon S, 8	4	2	0	0	2	2
Florida State						
Cruz	5	9	3	3	0	8
Bell L, 7-3	½	2	1	1	0	0
Howell	2½	2	1	1	1	3
Morgan	1	0	0	0	0	0
BK—Howell, HBP—Jones by Cruz.						
Umpires—Erby, Eldridge, Pittman. T—2:48.						
A—2,627.						