

# What a relief for FSU baseball team

*The bullpen comes through as Florida State's bats warm up in an 8-4 win over Clemson.*

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For two days there had been no relief for opposing hitters and no need of relief for Florida State starting pitchers.

When Florida State finally had to use its bullpen on Friday, the result was familiarly impressive: an 8-4 win over No. 4 seed Clemson.

Pitcher Randy Niles (6-4) provided the good start and a trio of players added the power as No. 2

seed FSU remains the ACC Tournament's only undefeated team. Reliever Zach Diaz put the finishing touches on FSU's seventh straight victory before 4,897 at Al Lang Stadium.

"We knew we were going to eventually have to use our bullpen," coach Mike Martin said. "It doesn't take away from what Randy did. There were a lot of guys to be proud of."

The victory guarantees FSU (44-15) a spot in the championship game either tonight or on Sunday. The Seminoles first must play Duke (33-24) this morning at 11 and probably will start Chuck Howell. A win in that game would give FSU two chances to win the title.

The first would come at 8 tonight against the winner of the Clemson-N.C. State game. An FSU victory would give the Seminoles the title since every other team would have two losses in the double-elimination tournament. An FSU loss in tonight's 8 o'clock game would force a winner-take-all rematch at 1:30 p.m. Sunday.

A loss to Duke this morning also would send FSU to Sunday's 1:30 p.m. final game. Chris Chavez will not start until FSU's final game.

No matter when FSU plays for the title, it may have already played itself into the No. 1 seed for next week's NCAA East Regional in Tallahassee.

"We felt absolutely we had to make it to the championship to get a No. 1 seed," Martin said. "But our goal has always been to win this (ACC Tournament)."

FSU has whipped through this tournament like a team deserving of the top seed, especially in regard to its pitching. Niles followed dominating efforts by Randy Choate and John Bentley with another good outing for FSU's staff.

Seminole starters have given up just 16 hits in three games, including six by Niles.

"I've been saying the last three or four weeks we're coming togeth-

Please see FSU, 6D

## FSU: Seminoles get power from unfamiliar places

er as a (pitching) staff and as a team," Niles said.

The junior right-hander was on track for his best performance of the season and FSU's third consecutive complete game before stumbling in the seventh and eighth innings. A three-run homer by Clemson's Matthew LeCroy, his

23rd, ruined a shutout in the seventh inning to cut FSU's lead to 6-3. Niles was removed an inning later when he put runners on first and third with one out.

"I just felt like we needed to do something in the eighth," Martin said. "He was a little tired but he pitched a very good game."

Diaz gave up one run before stopping Clemson's final threat. FSU's J.D. Drew sealed the game with a two-run triple in the ninth.

Niles held Clemson to just one hit in the first 4½ innings and allowed just one walk. Three double plays kept him out of any jams. The Seminoles now have turned

seven double plays in the tournament.

Niles' offensive support came from an unlikely source in this tournament — power. Jeremy Salazar's sixth homer of the season, a two-run shot, gave FSU a 4-0 lead in the fifth inning.

Jeremy Morris then chased starter Skip Browning (6-4) from the game with a solo homer over the right-field wall in the sixth inning. Browning gave up eight hits and had Clemson in a 5-0 hole before making way for Mike Paradis. Geoff Sprague added another run in the sixth by way of an error, stolen base and wild pitch.

Until its two homers, Al Lang Stadium was living up to its reputation as a pitcher's ballpark. At least it was from FSU's standpoint. The Seminoles entered the ACC Tournament with the fourth-best home-run production (103) in school history. FSU did not produce a homer in its first two tournament games. Only once during the regular season had FSU gone two consecutive games without hitting a homer.

Salazar's homer broke a 70-inning home-run drought in the tournament. He also set an ACC record for the most times (21) hit by a pitch in a season.

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| Florida State & Clemson 4   |  |  |  |  |  |  |    |   |    |    |            |  |  |     |     |     |     |    |   |   |   |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|----|---|----|----|------------|--|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|---|---|---|
| FLORIDA ST  |  |  |  |  |  |  | sf | 7 | h  | 16 | CLEMSON    |  |  |     | sf  | 7   | h   | 16 |   |   |   |
| Bedford ss  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 4  | 2 | 1  | 0  | DeBours 2b |  |  |     |     |     |     | 4  | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Drew of   |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1  | 5 | 3  | 2  | Burnham 2b |  |  |     |     |     |     | 1  | 5 | 3 | 2 |
| Moms if   |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1  | 5 | 3  | 2  | LaCroy c   |  |  |     |     |     |     | 4  | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Sprague 1b  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 4  | 1 | 1  | 2  | Embler 1b  |  |  |     |     |     |     | 3  | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3   |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0  | 1 | 0  | 0  | Padgett rf |  |  |     |     |     |     | 4  | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Mayfield dh   |  |  |  |  |  |  | 3  | 1 | 1  | 0  | Sprague ss |  |  |     |     |     |     | 4  | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Swanson c   |  |  |  |  |  |  | 4  | 1 | 1  | 2  | Staley dh  |  |  |     |     |     |     | 3  | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| McConnel rf   |  |  |  |  |  |  | 4  | 0 | 0  | 0  | Borgert ph |  |  |     |     |     |     | 1  | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Zabala 3b   |  |  |  |  |  |  | 3  | 1 | 1  | 0  | Broome of  |  |  |     |     |     |     | 3  | 1 | 1 | 0 |
|   |  |  |  |  |  |  |    |   |    |    | Holstad 2b |  |  |     |     |     |     | 3  | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Totals  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 35 | 8 | 11 | 7  | Totals     |  |  |     |     |     |     | 31 | 4 | 7 | 4 |
| Florida State   |  |  |  |  |  |  |    |   |    |    |            |  |  | 000 | 222 | 002 | — 8 |    |   |   |   |
| Clemson   |  |  |  |  |  |  |    |   |    |    |            |  |  | 000 | 000 | 210 | — 4 |    |   |   |   |
| E—DeBours, McConnel, DP—FSU 3, Clemson 1, LOB—FSU 4, Clemson 3, 2B—Drew, Burnham, Broome, 3B—Drew, HF—Swanson (5), Moms (2), LaCroy (2), 5B—Zabala, Zach. |  |  |  |  |  |  |    |   |    |    |            |  |  |     |     |     |     |    |   |   |   |
| Florida State   |  |  |  |  |  |  |    |   |    |    |            |  |  |     |     |     |     |    |   |   |   |
| sf H R ER NB SO   |  |  |  |  |  |  |    |   |    |    |            |  |  |     |     |     |     |    |   |   |   |
| Niles W, 6-4  |  |  |  |  |  |  |    |   |    |    |            |  |  |     |     |     |     |    |   |   |   |
| 7.1 6 4 4 1 5   |  |  |  |  |  |  |    |   |    |    |            |  |  |     |     |     |     |    |   |   |   |
| Diaz  |  |  |  |  |  |  |    |   |    |    |            |  |  |     |     |     |     |    |   |   |   |
| 1.2 1 0 0 1 2   |  |  |  |  |  |  |    |   |    |    |            |  |  |     |     |     |     |    |   |   |   |
| Clemson   |  |  |  |  |  |  |    |   |    |    |            |  |  |     |     |     |     |    |   |   |   |
| sf H R ER NB SO   |  |  |  |  |  |  |    |   |    |    |            |  |  |     |     |     |     |    |   |   |   |
| Browning L, 6-4   |  |  |  |  |  |  |    |   |    |    |            |  |  |     |     |     |     |    |   |   |   |
| 5 6 5 5 0 2   |  |  |  |  |  |  |    |   |    |    |            |  |  |     |     |     |     |    |   |   |   |
| Parade  |  |  |  |  |  |  |    |   |    |    |            |  |  |     |     |     |     |    |   |   |   |
| 0 0 1 0 2 0   |  |  |  |  |  |  |    |   |    |    |            |  |  |     |     |     |     |    |   |   |   |
| Panos   |  |  |  |  |  |  |    |   |    |    |            |  |  |     |     |     |     |    |   |   |   |
| 4 3 2 2 1 4   |  |  |  |  |  |  |    |   |    |    |            |  |  |     |     |     |     |    |   |   |   |
| WP—Parade 2, PB—LaCroy, BK—, HB—Embler (by Niles), Zabala (by Panos).   |  |  |  |  |  |  |    |   |    |    |            |  |  |     |     |     |     |    |   |   |   |
| (Browning batted 1 batter in the 6th.   |  |  |  |  |  |  |    |   |    |    |            |  |  |     |     |     |     |    |   |   |   |
| T—2:40, A—4,000.  |  |  |  |  |  |  |    |   |    |    |            |  |  |     |     |     |     |    |   |   |   |