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Seminoles shut out Tigers for ACC title

Florida State breezes through tournament to win its second conference crown.

> By Steve Ellis DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER ST. PETERSBURG

The idea was to showcase Atlantic Coast Conference baseball to a new audience.

The ACC Tournament instead became a celebration of Florida State baseball culminated by a 10-0 shutout of Clemson on Saturday night.

The Seminoles, before a partisan crowd of 4,637 at Al Lang Stadium, completed their five-game romp as a perfect warmup for the NCAA East Regional that begins in Tallahassee on Thursday.

"I'm elated. I don't think we could ask for any more than we got," coach Mike Martin said. "What we can do is not fall in love with ourselves. We won't be complacent."

FSU became the first team to breeze through the ACC tournament undefeated since 1991 when Clemson accomplished the feat. The Seminoles, winner of 17 of last their 20, dominated the All-Tournament team with six players: Jeremy Salazar, Scott Zech, J.D. Drew, MVP Jereny Morris, Chris Chavez and Randy Choate.

"Unbelievable," said winning

"Unbelievable," said winning pitcher Chavez (3-1).

The No. 2 seed Seminoles (46-15) earned its second ACC Tournament championship in six attempts by sweeping through the tournament in impressive fashion, including a two-hitter by Chavez on Saturday night.

With FSU pitching emerging as it did, the only question left unanswered is who will join FSU in the East Regional that begins at Dick Howser Stadium Thursday. There was no question from Mike Martin's viewpoint that FSU will awarded the No. I seed when the 48-team NCAA field is announced on Monday.

"I do feel confident and I do believe this ballclub deserves it."

Once again, FSU's starting pitching set the stage for another easy win. Chavez (3-1) put in his best effort since becoming a starter on April 1.

No. 4 seed Clemson had just two hours rest following its 11-6 victory over North Carolina State on Saturday afternoon in the double elimination. It wasn't nearly enough as PSU quickly wore the Tigers out with an early offensive explosion.

The Seminoles (46-15) opened with four runs off starter Scott Hauser (5-4), including a two-run double by Jose Salazar. Four of Sa-

lazar's five hits in the tournament were for extra bases.

FSU advanced to Saturday night's game with an unblemished tournament record after defeating No. 7 seed Duke for a second time in four days.

The Seminoles used a five-run third inning and picked up a complete-game effort from Chuck Howell (8-1) to win 12-2.

More marks for Drew

Drew became PSU's first ACC Player of the Year since joining the conference six years ago. Drew was elected unanimously.

The league's coaches vote for the award. Other FSU players to make the Ali-ACC first team were outfielder Jeremy Morris and pitcher Randy Choate.

Second baseman Scott Zech, third baseman Geoff Sprague and relief pitcher Zach Diaz were named to the All-ACC second team.

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