

# Florida State survives Red Foxes scare

*FSU defeats Marist 4-2 in the NCAA East Regional.*

**By Steve Ellis**  
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

The only thing FSU coach Mike Martin knew about Marist was that pitcher Mark Barron was an outstanding player.

No. 1 seed Florida State found out just how good in a hard-fought pitchers' duel that FSU won 4-2 in the first round of the NCAA East Regional.

FSU and its 3,096 fans at Dick Howser Stadium survived a ninth-inning scare from sixth-seeded Marist. Zach Diaz loaded the bases with one out before retiring the last two batters.

"Marist is one of the scrappiest teams we faced this year," Martin said.

If not for starter John Bentley, J.D. Drew, and some outstanding defense, FSU might have joined UCLA as the only No. 1 seeds to lose to a sixth-seed in the NCAA Regionals on Thursday.

Drew hit his 29th home run of the season in the seventh inning, ending an eight-game drought without a homer. After the game, Barron (10-3) got Drew to sign the ball. Drew accounted for two of FSU's four runs.

"(Barron) threw a lot of changeups," Drew said. "I was looking for a fastball and, fortunately, I was able to get a good swing on (the home run)."

Barron, a second-team All-America two years ago and Marist's leading hitter, held FSU to five hits and three earned runs over 7 $\frac{2}{3}$  innings.

Barron was on the bench when Ed Shove lined to FSU first baseman Geoff Sprague to end Marist's final threat in the ninth inning.

"This game really didn't surprise me too much," Marist coach John Szefc said. "I really felt like as

The freshman Bentley (5-1) gave up seven hits and just two hits in 7½ innings — a week after opening the ACC Tournament with a complete-game victory. The only serious mistake Bentley made came in the fourth inning, when he missed Jeremy Zalazar's throw back to the mound after a pitch. Speckardt tied the game 2-2 when he scored from third base as the ball sailed by Bentley.

FSU (47-15) extended its regional win streak to 13 games — dating to 1994 — to set up a 3 p.m. matchup with Central Florida, which lost to South Florida 5-4 on Thursday. Randy Niles (6-4, 4.50 ERA) will face Central Florida's lefty ace Travis Held (6-2, 3.36 ERA).

Florida State 4, Marist 2											
MARIST (32-18)						FSU (47-15)					
	a	b	r	h	b		a	b	r	h	b
Cervini 3b	4	0	1	0		Badeaux ss	5	0	1	1	
Tosciano rf	4	1	1	0		Drew cf	2	2	1	1	
Barron p/dh	3	0	0	0		Morris lf	4	0	0	0	
McGowan c	4	0	2	1		Sprague 1b	4	0	1	0	
Speckhardt cf	3	1	2	0		Woodward lb	0	0	0	0	
Becker lf	3	0	1	0		Zech 2b	3	1	1	1	
Shove 2b	3	0	0	0		Mayfield dh	3	0	0	1	
Sanfilazo ss	3	0	1	0		Salazar c	4	0	0	0	
Andros lb	2	0	0	0		Henderson rf	2	1	0	0	
Lynch ph	0	0	0	0		McCorkel rf	1	0	1	0	
McEvily pr	0	0	0	0		Zabala 3b	2	0	1	0	
Zelno lb	0	0	0	0		Bentley p	0	0	0	0	
Webb p	0	0	0	0		Diaz p	0	0	0	0	
Totals	29	2	8	1		Totals	30	4	6	4	

Marist	100	100	000-	2
FSU	011	010	10x-	4

E—Andros (3), Cervini (25), Shove (10), Salazar (6). DP—MU 1, FSU 2. LOB—MU 5, FSU 9. 2B—McGowan (9), Tosciano (4), Zech (10). HR—Drew (29). SB—Speckhardt (14), Drew (31), McCorkel (10), Sprague (10), SH—Becker (9), Shove (5). SF—Mayfield (1), Zech (2).

IP H R ER BB SO					
MARIST					
Barron L(10-3)	7½	5	4	3	4
Webb	½	1	0	0	0
FSU					
Bentley W(5-1)	7½	7	2	1	0
Diaz	1½	1	0	0	2

PB—McGowan. HBP—by Barron (Zabala), by Bentley (Lynch). U—T. Norman, N. Zibelli, D. Runchey, M. Rippers. T-2:33. A-3096.