

Seminoles stay alive — barely

After opening the day with a loss to Auburn, Florida State nips South Florida 6-5.

By Steve Ellis
DEMONSTRATOR STAFF WRITER

This time Randy Niles got it right.

The junior pitcher watched Saturday night's game end with the ball landing safely in outfielder J.D. Drew's glove.

Florida State survived a late-inning scare to remain alive in the East Regional. The Seminoles meet Auburn at 1 p.m. today. For FSU to go to Omaha, it must beat Auburn twice. Chris Chavez, the NCAA's



Ross

His ninth-inning homer for Auburn complicated FSU's plans.

National Player of the Week, will get the start.

FSU used clutch hits by J.D. Drew and Brooks Badeaux to eliminate scrappy No. 4 seed South Florida 6-5.

Auburn sent No. 1 seed FSU into the loser's bracket earlier on Saturday on David Ross' ninth-inning homer against Niles.

TODAY'S GAME

■ Auburn vs. Florida State, Dick Howser Stadium, 1 p.m.

That loss left FSU flat and the Seminoles actually trailed the Bulls until Drew tied it up 5-5 with a solo homer in the seventh inning off the Bulls' fireballing ace Luis Ramos.

Jeremy Salazar opened the eighth inning with a double and Badeaux brought him in with a two-out, game-winning single.

"J.D.'s homer was a tremendous lift for us," FSU coach Mike Martin said. "When you can tie up the game when they have momentum and do it quickly, that's very important."

Niles allowed South Florida to take a 5-4 lead on a two-run homer by Jason Dellearo but struck out three to seal the FSU victory.

"I'm really, really proud for Randy Niles," Martin said. "It takes a man to come up to you two hours after a game like (the loss to Auburn) and tell you 'I'm ready if you need me.'"

"I've had guys, after bad outings in regionals, just hide. This one here (Niles) wanted the ball. It was a great lift."

Niles added: "It was a long day. I couldn't let that game get to me."

South Florida did not go out quietly. The Bulls (39-24), plagued by poor defense early, kept coming back to tie FSU leads.

Please see FSU, 5C

FSU:

Niles ends late game successfully

From 1C

And following USF coach Eddie Cardieri and assistant Ed Stabile getting tossed after challenging third base umpire Mike Riggers on a call at third, South Florida surged ahead on Dellearo's two-run blast off Niles.

"I haven't had one (ejection) in two years," Cardieri said. "I don't apologize for it. I reacted how I reacted. It really shouldn't have been a part of the ballgame if we made plays early in the ballgame."

"This was a tough one to lose and a great one for Florida State. We had 12 or so hits which should have been enough to win. We just didn't get the defense."

One out later, starting pitcher Pete Ashley was tossed for something he shouted from the South Florida dugout.

No. 2 seed Auburn (48-14) will probably start Tim Hudson, who pitched 5½ innings in a 9-4 win over Western Carolina on Thursday. Auburn enters today with a .393 batting average and 3.00 ERA through three regional games. The Tigers are the only undefeated team remaining.

FSU's game with South Florida was the first between the two schools since the 1993 NCAA Regional and just the second time in the '90s. The Seminoles saw all it wanted of South Florida on Saturday.

That was especially true of lefty Pete Ashley (6-6), who kept the Bulls within striking distance before his departure after 5½ innings. Ashley gave up just four runs on four hits before giving way to Ramos.

Although FSU led 4-2 at the time of Ashley's departure, pitching was a problem for FSU. South Florida collected 11 hits off four FSU pitchers.

The Bulls touched Zach Diaz for six hits but just one run before he was chased in the fifth inning. His replacement, Mike DiBlasi, struck out first baseman Ross Gload as FSU escaped the inning with a 3-1 lead.

DiBlasi then got into trouble an inning later when he put runners on first and second. Chuck Howell replaced DiBlasi and gave up one run as South Florida cut the lead to one run.

Jeremy Salazar put FSU ahead 4-2 with a single to right in the sixth before things really heated up an inning later.

Auburn 8, FSU 7

FSU (48-14)					Auburn (48-14)				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Badeaux ss	4	0	2	0	Sullivan rf	5	1	1	0
Drew cf	4	1	1	0	Macrory 2b	5	1	1	0
Morris lf	5	1	2	2	Kersh 1b	5	1	3	3
Sprague 1b	4	0	1	2	Hudson cf	4	1	1	0
Zech 2b	4	0	0	0	Etheredge lf	4	1	2	1
Mayfield dh	3	0	0	0	Reif dh	5	1	1	0
Salazar c	3	3	2	0	Wandall 3b	5	1	3	0
McCorkel rf	4	0	1	0	Ross c	4	1	1	3
Zabala 3b	4	2	2	1	Kelly ss	4	0	2	1
Choate p	0	0	0	0	Knorst p	0	0	0	0
Niles p	0	0	0	0	Woodward p	0	0	0	0
Totals	24	7	11	5	Totals	41	8	15	8

FSU	001	042	000—7
Auburn	000	100	115—8

E—Badeaux 2(12), Kelly (24), Knorst (1).
 DP—FSU 1, Auburn 3. LOB—FSU 5, Auburn 10.
 2B—Badeaux (13), McCorkel (8), Morris (21).
 Sprague (18), Kersh (14), Sullivan (15). 3B—
 Zabala (1). HR—Etheredge (20), Kersh (12).
 Ross (2). SB—Sprague (5). SH—Ross (4).

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
FSU						
Choate	8	13	5	5	1	5
Niles, L 7-5	½	2	3	3	1	1

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Auburn						
Knorst	4½	6	5	4	2	1
Woodward, W	4½	5	2	2	0	1

HBP—by Knorst (Badeaux).
 U—Sylvester, Norman, Perez, Runchey. T—
 2:40. A—3,891.

FSU 6, USF 5

USF (38-24)					FSU (49-14)				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Pilger rf	4	1	1	0	Badeaux ss	5	0	1	1
Eaton cf	5	0	3	0	Drew cf	4	2	1	1
Gload 1b	5	2	2	1	Morris lf	2	0	0	1
DeLeon 3b	5	0	1	0	Sprague 1b	1	0	0	0
Deleare ss	2	2	2	3	Woodward 1b	3	0	0	0
Silverman 2b	5	0	1	1	Zech 2b	2	2	1	0
Lentr dh	2	0	0	0	Salazar c	4	0	2	0
Lynch ph	1	0	0	0	Cox dh	3	1	2	2
Romano c	4	0	1	1	Kistlerman rf	0	1	0	0
Diaz lf	3	0	1	0	McCorkel rf	2	0	0	0
Ashley p	0	0	0	0	Henderson rf	0	0	0	0
Ramos p	0	0	0	0	Zabala 3b	3	0	0	0
					Diaz p	0	0	0	0
					DiBlasi p	0	0	0	0
					Howell p	0	0	0	0
					Niles p	0	0	0	0
Totals	34	5	12	5	Totals	29	4	7	5

USF	000	101	200—5
FSU	100	201	11x—6

E—Ashley, 2(4), Silverman 2(4), Badeaux
 2(14), Zabala (22). DP—Fsu 2, LOB—USF 10,
 FSU 8. 2B—Gload, (25), Salazar (12). HR—
 Deleare (20), Drew (31). SB—Diaz (10). Cox
 2(13), Drew (32), Morris (24), Zech (31). CS—
 Eaton, Zech. SH—Diaz (4), Pilger (5).
 Henderson (1). SF—Morris (4).

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
USF						
Ashley	5½	4	4	1	4	4
Ramos	2½	3	2	2	3	2

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
FSU						
Diaz	4½	6	1	1	1	1
DiBlasi	½	1	1	1	2	1
Howell	½	3	2	2	0	1
Niles	3	2	1	1	1	4

WP—DiBlasi. PB—Romano. U—Norman,
 Zibelli, Runchey, Riggers. T—3:00. A—3,139.