

Florida State wins another easy one

John Bentley and FSU brush aside UNC-Greensboro and prepare for this weekend's series against N.C. State.

By David Lee Simmons
DEMOCRAT WRITER

While John Bentley worked on his slider, Florida State worked on sliding past North Carolina-Greensboro.

Bentley, fighting for a spot on the team's weekend pitching rotation, struck out a season-high six over five innings Wednesday as the Seminoles shut down UNC-Greensboro 13-4 before a chilled Dick Howser Stadium crowd of 675.

FSU (13-7) scored six runs in the first inning and then sprinkled runs the rest of the way to sweep this two-game set with the Spartans in preparation for its Atlantic Coast Conference-opening series this weekend with North Carolina State. But after scoring another run in the second, the Seminoles stalled in the third.

The Spartans scored three runs in that inning and loaded the bases before Bentley (3-0) forced Jeremy Purcell into a groundout to end the threat. Bentley gave up two soft singles and a bunt in the inning, and the Seminoles were hurt by a call reversal that turned a groundout into an error that kept the Spartans' rally alive.

"We gave them five outs in that third, but Bentley kept his composure and got us out of there," said FSU coach Mike Martin. "UNCG came alive there but we shut them down the rest of the way."

Bentley is hoping that an improved slider will improve his chances of making the weekend rotation, though Martin will go with Wes Crawford, Chris Chavez and Jon McDonald this weekend against North Carolina State.

The improved slider kept UNC-Greensboro off balance as Bentley scattered seven hits — all singles — and walked only one. Only two of his three runs were earned.

"I was trying to stay focused, mainly to concentrate on my slider," said Bentley, a sophomore right-hander from North Florida Christian. "I've been fooling around with it trying to do different things with it. I probably kept my concentration where I needed it to be."

Florida High graduate Brian Cox drove in three runs, including a two-run single to key the first-inning rally for the Seminoles. Jeremy Salazar kept his team-leading 12-game hitting streak alive with an RBI single in the fourth.

Nick Stocks, Scott Proctor, David Kelly and Zach Diaz combined to hold UNC-Greensboro to one run on three hits the rest of the way.

