

# FSU slugs its way past Heels

*Florida State pounds  
out 22 hits and will play  
in the ACC Tournament  
championship game.*

**By Steve Ellis**  
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER  
**DURHAM, N.C.**

Florida State came dangerously close to being beaten twice Friday night — once by itself and once by North Carolina.

But sixth-seeded UNC finally got into the spirit of things by self-destructing in the 10th inning. Two fielding blunders allowed No. 1 seed FSU to escape with a 13-11 win and secure a spot in the ACC Championship game.

Tar Heel center fielder Jarrett Shearin, who FSU coach Mike Martin previously voted as an All-ACC outfielder, overran Jeremy Salazar's one-out single into center field. That allowed Jose Zabala to break an 11-11 deadlock and score the winning run in the top of the 10th. UNC left fielder Richie Grimsley followed that with another error as FSU added the final run.

"One of the real gutsy performances I can remember in the last 19 years by us," Martin said. "To see our guys in this kind of situation, I'm elated. We were down and kept our composure and got some great pitching out of (Mike DiBlasi)."

After rolling through the first two rounds, the Seminoles' (48-17) pitching and fielding mostly failed them in the third. The hitting did not, as FSU produced a season-high 22 hits, including six in a crucial, game-tying seventh inning. The Seminoles also picked up a superb relief effort from DiBlasi (2-1), who allowed no hits in the final three innings.

The win guarantees FSU a spot in the tournament championship game either tonight or Sunday afternoon. FSU must first play North Carolina State at 11 a.m. today. John Bentley (6-1) will be FSU's starting pitcher.

If the Seminoles win that game, this afternoon's UNC/Wake Forest winner would face FSU tonight at 8. A win by FSU in that game would give the Seminoles their third tournament championship in four years. A Seminole loss would force a Sunday afternoon game to determine the championship.

Diaz, who dyed his dark brown hair to blond last week and then back to brown on Friday, was a big part of another impressive FSU offensive display with a season-high five hits.

FSU	SP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
McDonald	3%	3	7	7	4	3
Ginn	0	0	1	1	1	0
Proctor	3%	3	3	3	3	6
DeFries W 3-1	3	0	0	0	2	4
UNC						
Bryum	4	12	8	8	2	3
DeFries L 4-3	4	9	5	4	0	2

WP—DeFries (4), PS—Gasser (7), HBP—by McDonald (Earley), by McDonald (Madrada), by DeFries (Zabala), U—Furusu, Woodall, Kramer, Manders, T—323, A—422.

North Carolina had just six hits.

FSU (40-14)		UNC (39-20)	
	SD f h bi		SD f h bi
Baderuz 2b	4 0 3 2	Mervin c	2 2 1 3
Zabala 3b	4 1 1 0	Roberts ss	3 2 1 1
Cox cf	5 3 2 1	Shenari cf	4 1 1 1