Wake Forest forces another game

The Demon Deacons beat Florida State 2-1 and will play today for the ACC championship.

> By Steve Ellis **BURHAM, N.C.**

Florida State knew it already would be hosting the Atlantic II Regional. And the Seminoles knew they'd likely have the No. 1 seed in this week's tournament based on the strength of their previous ACC Tournament games.

Wake Forest was playing for its

ACC CHAMPIONSHIP

Florida State vs. Wake Forest, 1 p.m. today. TV: Sunshine (cable 23). Radio: WNLS (1270 AM).

postseason life. Winning an ACC Tournament championship, something Wake Forest (40-21) hasn't done since 1977, probably was the only chance the school would have to make it to the NCAAs.

Incentive was definitely on Wake Forest's side on Saturday night. So was pitcher John Hendricks, who held FSU hitless through five innings to help Wake Forest edge the No. 1 seed Seminoles 2-1. Had the Seminoles won, they would have been ACC Tournament champions because they would have been the only team without a loss in the double-elimination tournament.

Instead, the teams will play again today at 1 p.m. with a third tournament title in four years at stake for FSU (49-17). Chris Chavez (7-3) will start for FSU.

Please see FSU, 8D

FSU:

Brian Cox had the Seminoles' RBI

From 1D

After Hendricks (13-4) and FSU starter Nick Stocks (6-2) waged a wonderful pitching duel for eight innings, the game was lost by FSU on a rare error by center fielder Brian Cox. Demon Deacons first baseman Jon Palmieri singled with pinch-runner Stephen Sullivan on first base and no outs.

Sullivan rounded second as Cox hall the scoop up the ball in an trace to get Sullivan at third trace in the ball slipped over Cox's gove and Sullivan dashed home to break FSU's nine-game winning streak against Wake Fact about 1-0. est dating to 1995,

"The guy was going for third and it was the winning run of the ballgame and nobody out, so I had to come get the ball and throw him out, and I missed it," Cox said. "It just slipped over the left side of my glove."

FSU coach Mike Martin wasn't

him by saying he wouldn't trade him for any of PSU's former center fielders, including J.D. Drew.

Wake Forest players were just thankful for the break.

"First thing, I hoped Sully was faster than their center fielder," Hendricks said. "I was 0 for 11 on a team playing Florida State before this game, so a lot of times you think they have got some kind of charm. I thought (Sullivan) would trip or something."

Sullivan didn't. And as FSU assistant coach Jamey Shouppe said, he belped waste an outstanding effort by Stocks. The freshman gave up eight hits, but struck out seven and stranded 14 Wake Forest

Corey Slavik's solo homer in the sixth inning put Wake Forest

game," Wake Forest coach George Greer said. "We saw great defense until the last play.

After producing 58 hits the previous four games, the Seminoles managed just four against Hendricks' junk pitches.

"He kept us off balance all about to blame Cox, and backed | night long," Martin said. "He made

us hit what he wanted us to hit. It was a great game, the kind of game in which the team that makes the mistakes is going to lose and that's what happened."

It took PSU eight innings to score against Hendricks, who held the Seminoles hitless for five innings and allowed just four hits the entire game. When FSU finally got to Hendricks, who defeated N.C. State on Wednesday, it squandered those rare opportunities.

PSU stranded two runners in the fifth and seventh innings and three in the sixth. Then in the eighth inning, Cox hit an RBI double to tie the game at one, but it wasn't enough. Now Wake Forest will play in a championship game for the first time in 20 years.

PSU began the day by dominating North Carolina State 13-1. In winning that morning game, the Seminoles put themselves in a posttion to have two chances to win the championship.

John Bentley (6-1) did his part in defeating N.C. State by going eight innings. He allowed 10 hits but only one run prior to the eighth inning. The Seminoles produced 12 hits, including five from Matt Diaz.

From the Tallahassee Democrat May 18, 1998 Page 24

