

*After flattening Oklahoma 23-2 on Saturday, the Seminoles have two chances to eclipse Auburn today.*

By Steve Ellis  
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

One win away.  
Make that one homer away considering the manner in which Florida State has been mowing through the NCAA Atlantic II Regional baseball tournament.

The team that has done the unexpected all season is that close to reaching the College World Series for the 16th time. After hammering Oklahoma 23-2 on four Matt Diaz homers on Saturday, all FSU must do is win once today against Auburn.

If the Seminoles don't do it in the 2 p.m. game at Doak Campbell Stadium, they'll get a second

#### ATLANTIC II REGIONAL

##### SATURDAY'S RESULTS

- FSU 23, Oklahoma 2.
- Auburn 7, Rutgers 4.
- Auburn 9, Oklahoma 8.

##### TODAY'S GAMES

- FSU vs. Auburn, 2 p.m.
- FSU vs. Auburn, if necessary, 6 p.m.

chance at 6 p.m., because they have yet to lose a game in the double-elimination tournament.

The No. 1-seeded Seminoles (52-18) made it to the CWS each of the previous five times they went into the final day of a regional undefeated.

Coach Mike Martin warned Saturday that, last Sunday, FSU needed to win one of two games to earn the ACC Tournament championship. FSU was beaten twice by

Please see FSU, 6D

**FSU:**  
*Coach Martin noted that FSU was in the same position last week, then lost twice*

From 1D

Wake Forest.

"We're playing well," Martin said. "There are a lot of things that we understand and that is, we were in this position last week. We do not take anything for granted. This tournament is not won. Our job is to keep playing hard and see what happens."

The possibility of going to Omaha was as unlikely three months ago as the prospect of FSU ripping 60 hits, including 17 homers, in three regional games. Top-seeded FSU launched eight of those homers on Saturday.

"We accomplished two things," said coach Larry Cocheil, in his eighth season at Oklahoma. "We kept them under 27 runs and Diaz didn't hit for the cycle. This is the worst I've ever been beaten in a regional."

"Give credit to their hitters, but we certainly didn't pitch stellar today."

Including a 27-6 victory over

Delaware on Friday, FSU scored 50 runs and had 45 hits in two days. The 50 runs set an NCAA-regional record for most runs in consecutive games.

The Seminoles (52-18) have won their three regional games by an average of 15 runs. Their 60 runs over the three games is the most by an FSU team in a regional.

FSU, a team more noted for pitching and defense, is hitting .456 in the tournament.

"Unbelievable," outfielder Brian Cox said of Diaz's four homers.

Cox could have been talking about the entire team, which produced 21 hits on Saturday.

It was a tossup as to who had more fun against Oklahoma — Cox, Diaz or starting pitcher Wes Crawford (9-3). Crawford allowed just four hits in seven innings.

Diaz extended FSU's freshman record for homers to 21 and tied Jeff Ledbetter's school record of four homers in a game set in 1982 against Georgia State. It also tied the NCAA postseason record.

Cox broke Donny Erickson's school record for consecutive hits by hitting in 10 straight at-bats. The streak ended in FSU's 10-7 win over Liberty on Thursday. When the streak ended in the fourth inning on Saturday, Cox responded an inning later by hitting his second homer of the game.

The senior centerfielder, who played at nearby Florida High, is 12 for 17 with four homers and 13 RBIs in the regional. He's also riding a 22-game hitting streak. Cox is hitting .512 in the postseason, including the ACC Tournament.

"It's nice," Cox said of the consecutive-hit streak. "It's something I'll remember for a long time."

"When you go up to the plate the first couple of times and score five or six runs like we have in the last couple of games, it gets a lot more relaxing. Things just started going our way."

The No. 4-seeded Sooners came into the regional with 109 homers, but FSU provided the clinic on power hitting. Oklahoma pitchers Jared Hoerman and Valentino Pascucci had every reason to complain of whiplash as they watched four homers sail out of Dick Howser Stadium in the first two innings.

Terry Henderson and Karl Jernigan took home-run cuts in the first inning before Cox and Diaz hogged the show. FSU led 6-0 in the first.

With Hoerman gone, Cox and Diaz contributed their first homers of the day an inning later as FSU took a commanding 9-0 lead. The Seminoles also exploded for seven runs in the fifth inning.

The eight home runs fell one

sly of both the FSU record and the NCAA-regional record for homers in a game. Going into Saturday night's Oklahoma-Auburn game, FSU accounted for 17 of the 49 homers in this regional.

Even a big fan of pitching like Mike Martin can appreciate such a display of power.

"That's fun," he said.

FSU (52-18)						OKLAHOMA (43-19)					
	AB	R	H	E	BI		AB	R	H	E	BI
Badeaux 3b	6	2	5	2		Hart 3b	3	0	0	0	
Zabala 3b	7	2	3	1		Hill cf	4	0	1	0	
Cox cf	5	5	5	5		Wathan ss	3	0	0	0	
McCorkle cf	2	1	1	0		Vidales 3b	3	1	1	0	
Salazar c	5	1	1	0		Brookout 1b	4	1	2	2	
Klosterman c	0	0	0	0		Park dh	2	0	0	0	
Henderson dh	2	1	3	3		Hawkins ph	1	0	0	0	
Otero dh	1	0	0	0		Shickard rf	2	0	0	0	
Mayfield ph	3	1	1	0		Cocheil ab	1	0	1	0	
Diaz lf	4	6	5	7		Montano 3b	4	0	2	0	
Cash 1b	3	2	2	0		Olney lf	1	0	0	0	
Jernigan lf	6	2	2	2		Niles lf	2	0	0	0	
Groves ss	3	1	2	2		Batts c	2	0	0	0	
Kelly pr	0	0	0	0		Van Horn c	1	0	0	0	
Woodward 1b	2	0	1	0		Hoerman p	0	0	0	0	
Crawford p	0	0	0	0		Pascucci p	0	0	0	0	
Smalley p	0	0	0	0		Graves p	0	0	0	0	
						Smith p	0	0	0	0	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>23</b>		<b>Totals</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	
<b>Florida State</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>871</b>	<b>465</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>24</b>						
<b>Oklahoma</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>						

E—Brookout (5), Hart (10), Vidales (3).  
CP—FSU 1, LOB—FSU 7, OK & 28—Cash (10), Groves (10), Salazar (10), Vidales (2), Hill—Cox 2 (10), Diaz, M, 4 (7), Henderson (4), Jernigan (3). Brookout (3), SB—Diaz M, (10), SP—Badeaux (3).

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
<b>FSU</b>						
Crawford W (9-3)	7	4	1	1	2	5
Smalley	2	4	1	1	0	3
<b>Oklahoma</b>						
Hoerman L (7-5)	1	5	4	3	1	1
Pascucci	1	3	2	2	0	2
Graves	2 1/3	5	3	3	0	3
Smith	4 1/3	11	9	6	2	2
EC—Smith (5), U—Laddaga, Korman, Burleson, Yeast, T—2-59, A—3-33.						