

1999 NCAA CWS Championship Game
Florida State vs Miami (Fla.)
Jun 19, 1999 at Omaha, Neb. (Rosenblatt Stadium)

Florida State 5 (57-14)

Miami (Fla.) 6 (50-13)

Name (Pos)	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	PO	A
John-Ford Griffin lf.....	2	0	1	2	2	0	2	0
Marshall McDougall 2b.....	5	0	1	0	0	1	2	2
Matt Diaz rf.....	4	1	2	0	1	0	1	1
Sam Scott dh.....	4	2	1	1	1	3	0	0
Jeremiah Klosterman c.....	5	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
Kevin Cash 3b.....	4	0	1	1	1	3	0	2
Chris Smith cf.....	4	0	0	0	0	1	6	0
Brett Groves ss.....	2	1	0	0	2	0	1	3
Ryan Barthelemy 1b.....	4	1	1	0	0	0	8	0
Blair Varnes p.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Chris Whidden p.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals.....	34	5	7	4	7	8	24	10

Score by innings:					R	H	E

Florida State	011	000	210	-	5	7	1
Miami (Fla.)	010	050	00	-	6	8	2

E - C. Whidden; Hill(16); Crespo(4).
DP - Florida St. 3. LOB - Florida St. 10; Miami (Fla.) 5.
2B - Brown(14). 3B - Barthelemy(1).
HR - Scott(12); Brown(22).
SB - Hill(52).
SH - Crespo(5). SF - Griffin(2).

Florida State	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	AB	BF
Blair Varnes.....	6.0	8	6	6	4	1	23	28
Chris Whidden.....	2.0	0	0	0	2	2	5	7

Name (Pos)	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	PO	A
Bobby Hill ss.....	2	1	2	0	2	0	1	4
Brian Seever cf.....	4	0	1	1	0	0	3	0
Manny Crespo rf.....	2	1	0	0	1	1	1	0
Lale Esquivel 3b.....	3	1	1	0	1	0	2	1
Kevin Brown 1b.....	4	1	2	4	0	1	7	0
Mike Rodriguez lf.....	3	0	0	0	1	0	3	0
Marcus Nettles dh.....	3	1	1	0	1	1	0	0
Greg Lovelady c.....	4	0	0	0	0	0	10	0
Kris Clute 2b.....	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Alex Santos p.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vince Vazquez p.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Michael Neu p.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals.....	28	6	8	6	6	3	27	5

Miami (Fla.)	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	AB	BF
Alex Santos.....	5.0	4	2	1	5	4	20	25
Vince Vazquez.....	2.0	2	2	2	2	2	8	10
Michael Neu.....	2.0	1	1	1	0	2	6	7

Win - Santos 13-3. Loss - Varnes 11-2. Save - Neu (16).
WP - Varnes(6); Vazquez(4).
Umpires - Home:Rich Fetchiet 1st:Dan Pedersen 2nd:Bill Davis 3rd:Randy Bruns LF:Tim Norman RF:Ken Couch
Start: 11:41 am Time: 2:50 Attendance: 23563

Game Notes:
Weather: Mostly Cloudy/Hazy, 66 degrees, 78% humidity, Winds SSE 16 mph
Pitches: Santos (118), Varnes (100), Vazquez (32), Neu (33), Whidden (26)
Miami (Fla.) wins its third National Championship ('82, '85)
Varnes faced 1 batter in the 7th.

*Miami ends FSU's
emotional run through
the College World
Series with a 6-5 win.*

By Steve Ellis

DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

OMAHA, Neb.

Florida State finally ran out of heroes. It may be another day before the Seminoles run dry of tears.

One of college baseball's premier rivalries came down to one run, just as it did four times during the regular season and just as it should in a game to decide the national championship.

FSU fell 6-5 to Miami on Saturday to cap a memorable and emotional College World Series for the Seminoles.

"I'm going to cry sometime during the day, and then I'm going to church (on Sunday) and play golf," said coach Mike Martin, who is now 14-22 in the CWS.

Matt Diaz had already let the tears fall as he watched Miami celebrate its first national title since 1985 near the pitcher's mound.

"Second place is first loser, and I feel that way right now," Diaz said. "It stings."

FSU, which lost to Miami despite the valiant effort of gimpy-legged Blair Varner, leaves the College World Series without a title for the 17th time. The Seminoles hardly go home empty handed.

They departed Omaha with their best effort in the CWS since finishing second in 1986, and with much more. After falling to 1-1 in the CWS, starting eyeball-to-eyeball

MIAMI: It was FSU's third trip to the title game

At elimination, this team earned new fans. The Seminoles also put a new face on their CWS tradition of underachieving.

On this trip, FSU overcame injuries and deficits with the youthful exuberance of John-Ford Griffin, the courage of Varnes and the steady nerves of College World Series MVP Marshall McDougall.

"I call them winners," pitching coach Jamey Shouppe said of the entire FSU team.

FSU, in just its third title game, came as close to finally winning it all as it ever has. It lost the title in 1970 by one run, 1-1, in 15 innings against Southern California.

"We went out fighting, and that's all anybody can ask for," catcher Jeremiah Klosterman said.

Martin said "What a great week we had in Omaha. We will leave with our heads high."

Miami, on the strength of two huge hits by Kevin Brown, can do FSU one better — it can hold the 1989 national-championship trophy high. It also took the monkey off the back of coach Jim Morris, who had not won the title in five consecutive trips to Omaha leading up to this season.

Brown accounted for four of Miami's six runs on a double and a home run.

FSU could not match Miami hero for hero, although McDougall gave it a try in the eighth inning. His team trailing 6-5, McDougall dug into a Michael Neu fastball and launched it to left field.

"I kept saying 'Oh no, oh no,'" Neu said. "Then all of a sudden the wind came our way, and it held the ball in the park."

Kevin Cash, a hero the night before with a ninth-inning, game-tying home run against Stanford, had a chance to repeat his feat with two outs and nobody on in the ninth. He went down on strikes, and reality set in.

"There's no doubt in my mind we were going to win," Martin said

moments after the game. "Kevin Brown kind of did a number on us today. That was a turning point of the game, but I didn't give up then, no sir."

"I never had a balclub like this. It was a tremendous effort on our part."

No effort was more impressive than Varnes'. He wined his way through the Miami lineup and gave up six runs on eight hits.

"Was that gutsy?" Martin said. "Is that what it's all about? That's typical of our baseball team all year."

Varnes, a heartbroken observer for most of the series because of a torn knee ligament, was the surprise starter against Miami. He mastered the Hurricanes with the exception of Brown and really two pitches. Yet he left the game with FSU trailing 6-4 after six innings.

The freshmen quietly pitched in practice this week, including a good workout on Wednesday. Varnes' mobility had improved since he injured his knee in a celebration pickup after FSU beat Auburn in the super regional.

Team physician Steve Jordan

determined that Varnes could not do further damage to his knee. So with one look, the decision was made to start Varnes.

"I hadn't pressed him to throw," Shouppe said. "I didn't think it was a possibility."

"I turned around to him, and he smiled and said 'I hope you are going to ask me what I think you are.'"

The question was "Can you pitch?" and the answer was yes.

Unlike the slugfest between Stanford and FSU game the day before, several pitches determined the national championship. None was bigger was a 2-2 pitch to Brown in the fifth inning.

The teams were locked in a pitchers' duel when Varnes threw a fastball on the corner to Brown. With the bases loaded and two out, the Miami first baseman found the gap between right and center field for a bases-clearing double that put Miami ahead 6-2. It followed yet another controversial call.

On the pitch before, with the count 1-2, Brown apparently swung at Varnes' pitch. The first-base un-

pire, on the appeal, ruled it a check-swing.

"I thought he swung," Martin said.

On Brown's second chance, he changed the game.

FSU added two runs in the sixth and one more with the help of Ryan Barthelemy's triple in the eighth.

FSU struck first in the second inning when Griffin singled to right field to drive in Brett Groves, who scored when catcher Greg Lovelady could not handle a one-hop throw from Manny Crespo. Brown hit a home run to tie the game 1-1 in the second before FSU countered with a home run by Sam Scott, who put FSU ahead with yet another clutch hit.

But not for long. FSU, again, went home without a title.

"I know how they feel," Morris said, "because I've been there."