

**From the Tallahassee Democrat  
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**By Steve Ellis**

DUNWOODY STAFF WRITER

The next championship Florida State coach Mike Martin wanted to play for after Saturday night was supposed to take place in Omaha.

Instead, FSU must face Miami in a super regional title game today for a trip to the College World Series after giving the Hurricanes new life in the best-of-three series. FSU committed a season-high six errors at the worst possible time, and Miami took advantage of the generosity with a 7-5 victory.

"I told Mike before this ever started, we've been so even over the years and played so well, this series ought to really come down to the third game in the ninth inning," Miami coach Jim Morris said. "I'm not sure my heart will take that."

FSU produced at the plate and even made it interesting after falling behind 7-3 before 5,421, the 12th largest crowd ever at Dick Howser Stadium. The Seminoles cut the lead to two runs with the help of John-Ford Griffin's 33rd double of the season in the seventh inning but the earlier

defensive miscues were too much to overcome.

"We screwed up, and they capitalized on our mistakes," FSU center fielder Karl Jernigan said.

The winner of today's 1 p.m. game will face Southern California in the opening round of the CWS. The Trojans swept Georgia Tech in Atlanta. Mike Ziegler (8-4, 3.35 ERA) will try to make that happen for FSU. Miami will start Kibu Bengochea (5-4, 3.62). FSU rocked Bengochea for nine runs in two appearances in the

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## REGIONAL

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regular season.

Miami will be without first baseman Lefe Esquivel, who left Saturday's game with an abdominal injury. Esquivel hit four homers against FSU in the regular season.

"We made some mistakes, but it's over with," Martin said. "It's history. You turn the page."

Martin had cautioned during Friday's euphoria that his team could not provide Miami extra chances. Apparently, some Seminoles didn't hear him as six errors led to four runs.

Pichi Balet gave FSU an early lead and then took it away. FSU's hottest batter in the postseason, after hitting .073 in the regular season's final 14 games, lifted a two-run shot over the left-field wall in the second inning. It was the first home run in 20 games for Balet, who brings a postseason batting average of .545 into today's game after two hits on Saturday.

But his first error of the postseason erased the good he did at the plate. With runners on second and third in Miami's bottom of the second, Mike DiRosa hit a rather routine grounder at Balet. But the junior third baseman threw low and wide to first baseman Ryan Bartholomew to allow

both runners to score. Miami made it 3-2 on a difficult ball that deflected off starting pitcher Jon McDonald and was misplayed by Groves.

"We definitely beat ourselves," Balet said before Martin corrected him and said "they beat us."

While FSU struggled in the field after committing no errors in its previous two games, it did enough at the plate to keep it close. Center fielder Jernigan launched a solo shot over the scoreboard to tie it at three in the fourth. But the Hurricanes once again responded in their half of the inning as Kevin Howard hit an RBI single to put Miami ahead 4-3.

It was Miami's fifth run

that chased McDonald, who had pitched so brilliantly in the super regional. Danny Matienzo's RBI single in the fifth inning with no outs was the seventh and final hit given up by McDonald, who threw 60 pitches.

Miami wasn't done, but FSU nearly was as yet another error brought in two more Miami runs. The Hurricanes had runners on second and third with one out when Kris Gluts hit a grounder to Groves. But an easy play at home plate turned into an adventure when Groves threw wide to the plate to score run, and then no one covered as Blair McCaleb went scrambling to the backstop for the errant throw.

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### JUNE 3

Florida St. .... 020 100 200—5 10 3  
Miami (Fla.)..... 030 130 11x—7 9 0  
Jon McDonald, Chris Whidden (4), Chris Ginn and McCaleb; Brian Walker, Luke DeBold (8), Ryan Channell (9) and DiRosa. HR—Pichi Balet (Florida St.), Karl Jernigan (Florida St.). W—Walker. L—McDonald. S—Channell.