

Lady Gators end FSU's domination

By BOB COHN

Democrat sports writer

After taking eleven straight games this year from the Florida women's softball team, Florida State's Lady Seminoles picked exactly the wrong time to lose their first.

The Lady Gators scored three runs in the bottom of the sixth inning of the second game between the teams to win 4-2 and wrap up the district 3 southern regional tournament at Messer Field, Saturday.

FSU, facing elimination if it lost just one game, won the opener, 1-0 in eight innings. Pitcher Robin Willy won a tense pitcher's duel over Florida's Laurie Champagne.

But Champagne and the rest of the Lady Gators came back to break the spell that Florida State had apparent-

ly cast over them.

The Lady Seminoles, entering the final round of competition, had defeated Florida the afore-mentioned 10 straight times. Florida, though, had the upper hand, having made it through the tourney unbeaten, while FSU was coming out of the loser's bracket.

"They had really only outplayed us twice," said Florida coach Donna Dolbier. The other eight were real close. They could have gone either way."

The first game proved her words correct again. The teams battled evenly until the bottom of the eighth, when FSU loaded the bases on singles by Sue Spanagel, Debbie Willis and Willy.

Cathy Norton's grounder to second forced Spanagel at the plate, but Mary Schuehler came through with a sacrifice fly that scored pinch-runner Donna Morgan with the winner.

Florida had now lost its advantage, and had gone down to FSU for the 11th straight time. But coach Dolbier refused to say that the Lady Seminoles had her team's number, or that there was a 'jinx' or any such nonsense.

"That's the way it's been this season. A lot of close games," she shrugged.

Pitcher Willy, whose confidence is equal to her considerable pitching ability, thought after her brilliant seven-hitter that there was no doubt who would win.

"We'll definitely win this next one," she stated flatly.

Willy was almost true to her word. Under threatening skies and with a noisy partisan crowd in attendance, Dianne Lawrence, the FSU catcher, belted a two-run homer in the sixth to

put the Lady 'Noles ahead 2-1.

With Willy sailing right along, most people present thought it would be a matter of two more innings and FSU would have the title, and number 12 over Florida.

Only someone forgot to point this out to the Lady Gators.

Champagne led off and reached first on an error. Angie Nix, who hurt her arm diving for Lawrence's homer, followed with a single, and then Marlene Brice drove both runners in with a triple to make the score 3-2, Florida.

Peggy Rosanden hit a sacrifice fly to send Brice home and push the score to 4-2.

First game

Florida	000 000 00 — 0 7 3
Florida St	000 000 01 — 1 8 1
Champagne (L) and Brice; Willy and Lawrence.	

Second game

Florida St	000 002 0 — 2 6 2
Florida	010 003 x — 4 7 4
Willy (L) and Lawrence; Champagne and Brice.	