

# FSU blasts Lady Eagles for 10-1 win

By TONY BRITT  
Special to The Democrat

GRAHAM, N.C. — Defending national champion Florida State had no trouble disposing of Georgia Southern Thursday, pounding the Lady Eagles for 17 hits and a 10-0 victory in the Lady Seminoles' opening game of the AIAW national slow-pitch softball tournament.

Pitcher Susan Painter led the top-seeded Lady Seminoles, limiting Georgia Southern to three hits, including a string in which she retired 13 consecutive batters.

"She's the key to our winning," said FSU coach JoAnne Graf. "She's an outstanding pitcher. In a tournament like this, we can't afford to put anybody on base."

FSU's Natalie Drouin led off the first inning with a home run on the way to a 3-for-4 game, including a triple and three RBIs. Darby Cottle, batting second, also went 3-for-4, with a triple and two RBIs, as did first baseman Sandie Williams, who had a solo homer in the third. Left-fielder Linda Tyrrell scored three runs.

"They're tough. What else can you say?" said Georgia Southern coach Bill Spieth. "They can hit, run and throw. We knew that before we played them. You can't make any mistakes against them. They take advantage of every opportunity."

At first Graf was worried as three controversial plays early in the game went in Georgia Southern's favor. Catcher Toney Donaldson had a single taken away in the first inning for stepping out of the batter's box. Painter was narrowly thrown out at home plate attempting to score from second on a single by Cottle in the second inning. And in the third, Donaldson was called out for running out of the basepath while beating out a swinging bunt.

"Those three calls were very questionable," said Graf. "I don't know how well the home-plate umpire could have seen the first call around Donaldson. I was blocked out on the play at home plate, but I asked my first-base coach (Winnie Dodgion), and she said she (Painter) was in there. And there was no interference on the call at first."

"The umpire got us fired up. We were playing a little lethargic at first. Then we started playing pretty well, and they weren't hitting the ball well."

The Lady Seminoles, 53-10, scored in every inning except the fifth. Georgia Southern committed six errors while FSU was flawless in the field.

Two of the Lady Eagles' hits came in the first inning, then Kelly Stewart singled to left in the sixth. Painter improved her pitching record to 36-2.

"We played well on this field today," said Graf. "A lot of our players have played here with the ASA (American Softball Association). It usually takes a little getting used to. The outfield seemed to skip a little, and the infield was a kind of dirt-gravel while we're used to red clay."

"The rest of the way's going to be tough. South Florida has beaten us twice — once in the regionals and once at their place. I think we'll have the upper hand, though. East Carolina has more power than anybody besides us."

"Other than playing ball, we're just relaxing, visiting the shops around here and keeping out of the hot sun."

South Florida, which defeated Western Carolina 4-1, will play FSU today at 4:30 p.m. with the winner to face either East Carolina (a 13-2 winner over Florida) or North Carolina (a 5-4 winner over second-seeded Northern Kentucky) at 8:30 p.m. If FSU loses, it will play at 5:45 p.m.

**FLORIDA STATE** 122 301 1 — 10 17 0  
**GEORGIA SOUTHERN** 000 000 0 — 0 0 0  
W — Susan Painter. L — Cheryl Hendrix.  
Preliminary round — Ga. Southern 12, Lakeland CC 4; Western Carolina 3, Auburn 0; Florida 7, North Carolina 1; North Carolina-Charlotte 6, Cleveland State 2.  
First round — South Florida 4, Western Carolina 1; East Carolina 13, Florida 2; North Carolina-Charlotte 5, Northern Kentucky 4.