

# Lady 'Noles score 36 runs to win 2 games

By TONY BRITT  
Special to The Democrat

GRAHAM, N.C. — Florida State moved one step closer to its second consecutive national championship Friday night when the Seminoles broke open a 2-1 game and defeated upset-minded North Carolina-Charlotte 19-4 in the semifinals of the AIAW National Slow-Pitch Softball Tournament.

The Seminoles, now 55-10, will face the winner of today's 11 a.m. game between the Lady Gators of Florida and East Carolina. The championship game is scheduled for 2 p.m. If FSU loses, there will be a second double-elimination game immediately following.

FSU advanced to the semifinals Friday afternoon by beating South Florida 17-2. Toni Robinette's three-run homer in the fifth inning and a 11-run sixth inning highlighted the Seminoles' first win of the day.

FSU held a 3-2 lead when Robinette hit a ground ball past leftfielder Mary Oliver for her third home run of the season, scoring pinch hitter Wendy Davis and Darby Cottle, who had singled.

In the bottom of the sixth, FSU collected eight hits for 11 runs and the game was called with two outs because of the 15-run rule.

Robinette, Cottle and Cathy Gooding each had three hits for the Seminoles, who upped their record to 54-10. Robinette, known by her teammates at "Tigger," named after the Winnie the Pooh storybook character, also made a leaping one-handed catch in deep centerfield, which South Florida's Sonia Cook had hit to open the sixth inning.

"I got the nickname when I was a kid," said the senior from Holly Hill. "And it just stuck with my teammates. Tigger's kind of bouncy-bouncy, and I guess I'm kind of bouncy-bouncy, too."

"When I saw that fly ball coming at me I thought 'Oh no!' And when I was at the plate I just wanted to get a base hit. A base hit was all we needed to score a run. I didn't see the ball go by the outfielder. I just watched my base coach and she said 'Keep going.'"

Friday's meeting was the 10th this season between FSU and South Florida. The Brahms had beaten the Seminoles twice — 6-0 at home during the regular season and 2-1 during the regional tournament at FSU — which worried FSU coach JoAnne Graf.

"We definitely played well today," said Graf. "It was a much-better-played game than yesterday (a 10-0 victory over Georgia Southern). South Florida is a tough opponent. I was surprised we had scored that much."

"Tigger's tough, too. She's made several diving catches for us during the season. She's deceiving. She looks slow, but what she lacks in speed she makes up for in determination."

South Florida, 45-19, moved to the loser's bracket.

In other games played Friday afternoon (all in the loser's bracket): North Carolina defeated Georgia Southern 7-3 to eliminate the Eagles; Western Carolina defeated Cleveland State 12-0 to eliminate the Vikings; Florida defeated Lakeland Community College 14-4 to eliminate the Lakers; Auburn defeated Northern Kentucky 5-3 to eliminate the Horsewomen; Western Carolina defeated North Carolina 7-2 to eliminate the Tar Heels; and Florida defeated Auburn 5-0 to eliminate the Tigers.

SOUTH FLORIDA					FLORIDA STATE				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Lamont, cf	3	0	0	0	Drouin, rf	4	1	1	0
Peterson, rf	3	0	0	0	Cottle, ss	4	3	3	0
Cook, c	3	0	2	0	Robinette, cf	4	2	3	4
Oliver, lf	3	0	0	0	Donaldson, c	4	1	2	2
Smith, 3b	3	0	1	0	S. Williams, 1b	3	1	2	1
J. Williams, 1b	2	0	0	0	Wiggins, rf	0	1	0	0
Oriola, ss	2	1	1	0	Sikes, 2b	4	1	2	0
Beyer, 2b	2	0	1	0	O'Neal, pr	0	1	0	0
Lee, p	2	1	2	0	Shaw, 3b	3	1	0	0
Jones, rf	1	0	0	0	Gooding, cf	3	2	3	2
Mason, rf	1	0	1	1	Tyrrell, lf	2	0	0	1
					Long, ph	1	1	1	1
					Painter, p	3	1	2	4
					Davis, ph	1	1	1	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>15</b>

South Florida 000 020 — 2 8 3  
Florida State 200 13(11) — 17 20 2  
E—Beyer, J. Williams, Mason, Sikes, Drouin. 2B—Donaldson. 3B—Painter. HR—Robinette (3). SF—Gooding.

		IP H R ER BB SO					
South Florida							
Lec L	5 2/3	17	16	14	2	0	
Gardier		0	3	1	1	0	
Florida State							
Painter W, (37-2)	6	8	2	1	0	0	