

Lady 'Noles defeat Gators for tourney

By TONY BRITT
Special to The Democrat

GRAHAM, N.C. — The victory wasn't as easy as they had been for the past few days, but Florida State defeated archrival Florida 9-4 Saturday to win its second straight AIAW National Slow-Pitch Tournament championship.

The Seminoles completed their season with a 56-10 record, including four victories in the 12-team, double-elimination tourney. Florida, which finished with a 50-19 mark, guaranteed a 1-2 finish for Florida teams by defeating East Carolina 1-0 and North Carolina 11-6 in earlier games Saturday.

"This has been a goal of ours all year, and I'm glad we finally achieved it, especially going undefeated in the tournament," said FSU coach JoAnne Graf, whose four-year record at FSU is now 143-72. "Our girls have been pretty psyched up for it all along, even though the games were not that close."

FSU opened the tournament with a 10-0 win over Georgia Southern Thursday, then beat South Florida 17-2 and UNCC 19-4 on Friday. Both of Friday's contests were called after six innings because of a 15-run rule.

"We played three games in a row today and eight this weekend while they only played four," said Florida coach Fran Cox, who was an assistant under Graf at FSU before accepting the Florida position in January. "Our kids played well, though, but they (FSU) played great."

FSU struck first in the championship game with a run-scoring single by Toney Donaldson and a sacrifice fly by Sandie Williams in the first inning.

Florida came back to take a 4-2 lead — the only time FSU trailed in the tournament — when Mary Guzzardo scored Beth Breier on a sacrifice fly, and Kim Hoyt hit a three-run homer down the rightfield line in the second inning.

Both teams left runners stranded with their next times at bat before Toni Robinette and Donaldson hit sacrifice flies to score Natalie Drouin and Darby Cottle in the third inning to tie the score 4-4.

Then in the fourth inning, Jan Sikes reached base on an outfielder's error, and two outs later Linda Tyrrell belted her first home run of the season to deep right field to give FSU a 6-4 lead.

FSU scored three more runs in the fifth on six hits, and pitcher Susan Painter, who improved her personal record to 39-2, held the Gators to one hit in the final two innings

to preserve the victory.

"They kind of shook us up a bit at first with those four runs," said Graf, whose team will return home today. "We had the stronger bats all the way a lot more through the lineup, though, and we were able to capitalize with runners on third base."

"We made a few errors, and our aggressiveness was lacking somewhat," said Cox, whose team won six of the 15 meetings between Florida and FSU this season. "I think when Linda hit that home run, that was a big turning point for things. She never hit a ball that hard in her life."

Cottle, who was selected to the all-tournament team and all-American teams for the second straight year at shortstop, was the leading hitter with three hits, including two doubles. She also scored three runs. Drouin and Robinette also were selected to both teams and had two hits apiece. Sikes, who made the all-American team, also had two hits.

Other all-team selections from FSU were Painter to both teams and Tyrrell to the all-tournament team.

In four games FSU collected 55 runs on 73 hits with five errors. The Seminoles' opponents scored 10 runs on 31 hits and committed 20 errors.

Cottle finished the tournament with 12 hits in 17 at bats for a .706 average. Williams and Robinette each had eight hits, while Drouin and Painter had seven apiece. Robinette and Painter led in RBIs with seven each.

AIAW All-Tournament Team
Susan Painter (FSU) pitcher; Stella Johnson (UNCC) catcher; Sandie Williams (FSU) first base; Marty Litz (Fla.) second base; Beth Breier (Fla.) third base; Darby Cottle (FSU) shortstop; Carlyce Cononie (Fla.) left field; Kim Holmes (UNCC) center field; Cynthia Shepard (E.Carolina) right field; Toni Robinette (FSU) center field; Reserves — Yvonne Williams (E.Carolina); Linda Tyrrell (FSU); Jan Croud (Fla.).

AIAW All-American Team

Susan Painter (FSU) pitcher; Robyn Keeler (W.Carolina) pitcher; Sonia Cook (S.Fla.) catcher; Alicia Hammock (Miss.) first base; Jan Sikes (FSU) second base; Anita Epperly (N.Kentucky) third base; Sue Koziol (Cleveland St.) shortstop; Darby Cottle (FSU) shortstop; Rose Barkowski (N.C.) left field; Toni Robinette (FSU) center field; Miltz Davis (E.Carolina) center field; Natalie Drouin (FSU) right field; Cynthia Shepard (E.Carolina) right field.

FLORIDA STATE

	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Drouin, rf	4	2	2	0	FLORIDA				
Cottle, ss	4	3	3	0					
Robinette, cf	3	2	2	2	Guzz' do, cf	3	0	0	1
Donaldson, c	2	0	1	2	Hoyt, lb	4	1	2	3
Williams, lb	2	0	1	2	Olivie, ss	3	0	1	0
Sikes, 2b	3	1	1	0	Litz, 2b	3	0	1	0
Shaw, 3b	3	0	2	1	Cononie, if	3	0	2	0
Gooding, cf	3	0	1	0	Olsen, c	3	0	1	0
Tyrrell, if	2	1	1	2	Croud, p	3	0	0	0
Davis, ph	1	0	0	0	Breier, 3b	3	1	1	0
Painter, p	3	0	1	0	Dunn, cf	3	1	1	0
Wiggins, pr	0	0	0	0	Rogers, rf	3	1	0	0
Totals	30	9	15	9	Totals	31	4	9	4

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E—Painter, Drouin, Cononie. DP—none.

LOB—Fla: 6, FSU 7. 2B—Cottle. HR—Tyrrell

(1), Hoyt. SF—Guzzardo, Robinette, Donaldson.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Florida						
Croud	6	15	9	9	0	0
Florida State						
Painter W. (39-2)	7	9	4	4	0	0