

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

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FLORIDA STATE SOFTBALL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TALLAHASSEE, FL--Florida State failed in its quest for a third consecutive Atlantic Coast Conference softball championship by losing to Virginia 3-0 in the final game of the ACC Tournament Saturday in Tallahassee.

FSU forced a deciding game by upending North Carolina with a dramatic, last inning rally for the come from behind 6-5 victory in the semifinals.

Needing to beat Virginia twice, Florida State forced a winner take all game with the Cavaliers by squeaking past UVA 1-0 in the first championship game.

Virginia captured its first ever ACC crown by taking the nightcap 3-0. Cavalier pitcher Michelle Collins took tournament MVP honors by throwing all 33 innings for Virginia. In leading UVA to the title Collins went 3-1 with a 0.42 ERA. She tossed two shutouts, struck out 26 and scattered 16 hits in only allowing two runs.

Virginia increases its record to 27-16, while Florida State goes to 45-15.

Game 1

North Carolina	001 110 2	5 8 1
Florida State	000 003 3	6 10 2

Davis, Gill(7)-Flynn. Fuentes, Aase(4)-Weltz. WP- Aase(16-7). LP- Gill(6-11). E- Huff, Davidson, Shepard. LOB- UNC(8), FSU(5). 2B- Olow, Wilson. 3B- Smith, Olow. HR- Huff, Davidson. SB- Smalls, Calkins 2, Feltmann. SH- Render 2, Braye, Shepard, Weltz.

Davidson hits solo homerun off Gill to win game.

Game 2

Florida State	001 000 0	1 3 0
Virginia	000 000 0	0 6 0

Looper-Braye. Collins-Schmidt. WP- Looper(18-6). LP- Collins(18-12). DP- FSU(1). LOB- FSU(4), UVA(8). SB- Weltz. SH- Lawton, Weltz.

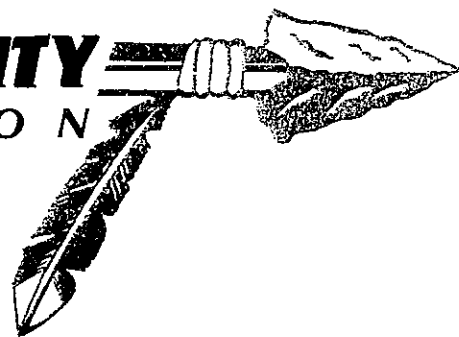
Game 3

Florida State	000 000 0	0 3 2
Virginia	001 200 X	3 4 1

Aase-Braye. Collins-Schmidt. WP_ Collins(19-12). LP- Aase(16-8). E- Davidson 2, Smith. LOB- FSU(5), UVA(6). 2B- Hahn. 3B- Annis. SH- Feltmann, Killorin.

All Tournament Team

Vicki Huff (UNC), Stephanie Weitman (GTU), Jen Olow (FSU). Shamalene Wilson (FSU), Christine Kubin (UNC), Windy Weltz (FSU), Terri Bolden (GTU), Eileen Schmidt (UVA)< Tanya Spishak (UVA), Michelle Collins (UVA), Marla Looper (FSU).



Virginia takes ACC from FSU

The Lady Seminoles can't fight out of the losers' bracket and Virginia ends FSU's two-reign as league softball champion.

By Noeli Barnidge
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Florida State followed the same map it used to reach the Atlantic Coast Conference softball championship last year. Unlike last season, the Lady Seminoles' blueprint faded in the title game.

Going into the final round of the ACC Tournament on Saturday, FSU needed three straight wins to three-peat as ACC champions.

FSU won twice before Virginia defeated the Lady Seminoles 3-0 to win the ACC title before a crowd of 226 at Lady Seminole Field.

Like last season, FSU won two games in the losers' bracket to force Virginia into a decisive final game.

Unfortunately for FSU, a third ACC title in three attempts was not in the many clouds that hovered over Lady Seminole Field during the nine-hour softball marathon.

FSU defeated North Carolina 6-5 and Virginia 1-0 to force the final game.

"It's great to finally win," Virginia coach Peggy Kellers said. "Last year was one of the toughest losses we've ever experienced. Last year, in the first game, we played not to lose. When we did lose, we panicked."

"This year we loosened up after the first loss. We weren't shocked that Florida State beat us in the first game because Florida State doesn't roll over and die."

FSU, after rallying to defeat North Carolina thanks to Lisa Davidson's dramatic inside-the-park home run in the seventh inning, and after edging Virginia, ap-

peared to lose steam in the finale. "We didn't run out of gas," FSU coach JoAnne Graf said. "We just got outplayed."

Virginia pitcher Michelle Collins, voted the Most Valuable Player of the tournament, proved invaluable to the Cavaliers.

Collins, who pitched in all four of Virginia's games in the tournament, allowed only two earned runs off 16 hits. Collins, a junior, had 26 strikeouts in 33 innings.

"Collins had our number this weekend," Graf said.

Collins pitched three complete games against FSU and one

against North Carolina. She held FSU to one run on eight hits, while striking out 18.

In the finale, FSU (45-15) fell behind 1-0 when sophomore Weezy Calderone singled to score junior Ivette Velez in a controversial play at the plate.

Velez was ruled safe, after she and FSU catcher Wendy Braye bumped. Braye held onto the ball and appeared to tag the plate, while Velez appeared to not have touched the plate.

"They just kind of jumped ahead of us with that tag play at the plate," Graf said. "I argued the

call and I thought we got her, but the umpires didn't see it that way."

Game One

North Carolina	001 110 2-5 8 1
Florida State	000 003 3-6 10 2

Davis, Gill (7) and Flynn; Fuentes, Aase (4) and Weltz. WP—Aase (16-7), LP—Gill (6-11). Leading hitters—UNC: Huff 2-3 (HR, RBI), Kubin 2-3 (RBI); FSU: Calkins 2-4 (2 SB), Olow 2-4 (2B, 3B, 3 RBI), Davidson 2-4 (HR, RBI), Wilson 1-3 (2B), Shepard 1-2 (RBI), Weltz 0-1 (RBI).

Game Two

Florida State	001 000 0-1 3 0
Virginia	000 000 0-0 6 0

Looper and Braye; Collins and Schmidt. WP—Looper (18-6), LP—Collins (18-12). Leading hitters—FSU: Lawton 1-2 (RBI); Virginia: Calderone 2-4, Schmidt 2-2.

Game Three

Florida State	000 000 0-0 3 2
Virginia	001 200 x-3 4 1

Aase and Braye; Collins and Schmidt. WP—Collins (19-12), LP—Aase (16-8). Leading hitters—FSU: Weltz 2-3; Virginia: Calderone 2-3 (RBI), Hahn 1-3 (2B), Annis 1-3 (3B, RBI),