



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

SPORTS INFORMATION



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 6, 2002

CONTACT: Elliott Finebloom (850) 321-7096

STUART'S GRAND SLAM KEYS FSU SOFTBALL'S 7-0 WIN OVER PITT
Malerich picks up ninth win and extends scoreless streak to 17 2/3 innings.

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – The 22nd-ranked Seminole softball team used a grand slam by Brandi Stuart and another strong performance by senior Leslie Malerich on the mound to defeat the University of Pittsburgh 7-0 Wednesday night. The home run was Stuart's team-leading fourth of the season and helped to improve FSU to 17-7 in 2002. The loss dropped the Panthers to 3-10 as both teams now prepare for this weekend's Seminole Invitational Tournament.

The Seminoles took a 1-0 lead on Pitt in the bottom of the second. Brandi Stuart led off the inning by singling the first pitch she saw to left field. The junior then swiped her 22nd base of the season as she stole second. Stuart advanced to third on a wild pitch before senior Kimmy Carter grounded out scoring Stuart. The RBI was the team-leading 20th of the season for Carter.

Florida State took control of the game in the bottom of the fourth. Senior Becky Brock started the FSU rally with one out in the inning when she singled a 1-0 pitch up the middle. Shandra Colzie followed her with a perfect bunt single advancing Brock to second. After Tatiana George reached on a fielder's choice, Jessica van der Linden walked to load the bases with two outs. That brought up Stuart, FSU's leading home run hitter. After working the count to 3-2 and staying alive with two foul balls, the Cerritos, Ca. native hit the second grand slam of her career, this one over the right field wall. Stuart's last grand slam came as a freshman when her walk-off slam in the seventh helped FSU down the Gators. This was the second grand slam Florida State has hit this season.

The lead grew to 7-0 in the bottom of the fifth when Tatiana George led off the inning with a walk and was followed by van der Linden who singled to right field. Instead of clearing the bases, this time Stuart loaded them when she singled to right field. Florida State went up 6-0 on the next play when Carter reached on a fielder's choice but Panther catcher Tiffany White dropped the ball on the force out at home allowing George to score. Beth Wade then extended the FSU lead to 7-0 as her ground out scored van der Linden.

In another strong outing, Malerich picked up her ninth win of the season and her fourth in-a-row as she allowed just one hit in four innings of work. She extended her scoreless innings streak to 17 2/3 and struck out six more batters. She now leads the team in wins (9), appearances (15), innings pitched (87.1) and strikeouts (85).

Florida State softball opens play in the Seminole Invitational this Friday, March 8 at 4:00 p.m. against Middle Tennessee. The Seminoles then face Iowa State at 6:00 p.m. Both of those games are scheduled for the Seminole Softball Complex but FSU will face Auburn Saturday at the tournament's second location, Messer Field. That game is set for a 12:00 p.m. start. For complete coverage of Seminole softball please visit our official athletic website at www.seminoles.com.

--FSU Sports Information--

No. 22 Florida State Softball
Pittsburgh at Florida State
Mar 06, 2002 at Tallahassee, FL (Seminole Softball)

Pittsburgh 0 (3-10)

Florida State 7 (17-7)

	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	PO	A	LOB
Velazquez ss.....	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0
Smith dh.....	3	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Mitchell 1b.....	3	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0
Hulpa 3b.....	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2
Pickard rf.....	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
White c.....	2	0	0	0	1	2	7	0	0
Gill cf.....	3	0	1	0	0	1	3	0	0
Blackmon 2b.....	2	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	1
Steich lf.....	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Gasti p.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Totals.....	23	0	2	0	3	9	18	7	5

Player	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	PO	A	LOB
Shandra Colzie rf.....	4	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0
Tatiana George ss.....	2	2	0	0	1	0	1	3	0
Robyn Larson ss.....	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Jess van der Linden cf/lf	2	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Brandi Stuart 2b.....	3	2	3	4	0	0	1	1	0
Kimmy Carter c.....	2	0	0	1	1	0	10	0	0
Monique Marier lf.....	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shundra Colzie cf.....	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Beth Wade 1b.....	3	0	0	1	0	0	8	0	2
Skyla Cox dh.....	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	2
Becky Brock 3b.....	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0
Leslie Malerich p.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Casey Hunter p.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals.....	26	7	7	6	3	6	21	7	4

Score by Innings	R	H	E
Pittsburgh.....	000	000	0 - 0 2 1
Florida State.....	014	020	X - 7 7 0

E - White. LOB - Panthers 5; Seminoles 4. HR - B Stuart(4). SB - Velazquez; Gill; B Stuart(22).

Pittsburgh	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	AB	BF
Gasti.....	6.0	7	7	6	3	6	26	29

Florida State	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	AB	BF
Leslie Malerich.....	4.0	1	0	0	0	6	13	13
Casey Hunter.....	3.0	1	0	0	3	3	10	13

Win - L Malerich (9-5). Loss - Gasti (1-5). Save - Casey Hunter (1).

WP - Gasti; Casey Hunter 2(2).

Umpires - Home:Gary Smith 2nd:Ken Hayes

Start: 6:00 pm Time: 1:45 Attendance: 83

Game: 362002

Game notes:

Skyla Cox gets first start of her career at DP.

First-ever meeting between FSU and Pitt.