



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

SPORTS INFORMATION



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: May 24, 2002

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FLORIDA STATE SOFTBALL REACHES FINAL FOUR WITH 4-3 WIN OVER HUSKERS

Seminoles reach the semifinals for the first time since 1990 and will face Arizona tomorrow.

Oklahoma City, OK – For the first time since 1990, the Florida State softball team has advanced into the final four at the Women's College World Series as they downed Nebraska (50-14) 4-3 in an elimination game Saturday night. The win sends the Seminoles (55-19) into the semifinals where they will face defending national champion Arizona at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, May 26. The Tribe's 55th win of the year marks the fifth most in a single season in school history.

The Seminoles utilized a big fifth inning as they scored all four of their runs on four hits and three Nebraska errors. Kimmy Carter's two RBI single and Jessica van der Linden's RBI double were the key hits, which drove in three of the four runs. Leslie Malerich was a warrior once again as she equaled a career best with her 35th win and became just the second FSU pitcher to ever win two games in a Women's College World Series. She is now 6-1 in the NCAA Regional and World Series.

Nebraska ace Peaches James (22-9) opened up the first by snaring a Shundra Colzie liner up the middle that looked like it was headed for the outfield. The leaping grab brought co-captain Kimmy Carter to the plate who James retired on her first strikeout of the night. Van der Linden next sent a deep drive to right that looked like it might make it over the 190-foot fence in right but just didn't have enough to get out of the park as FSU went down 1-2-3 to open the game.

The Huskers got off to a good start after FSU starter and ace Malerich (35-13) opened up the game going 0-2 on Nebraska lead-off hitter Kim Ogee. After Lisa Wangler sacrificed Ogee to second, regional No. 7 MVP Amanda Bucholz came up with a runner in scoring position and just one out. Bucholz drew a walk on a 3-2 count giving Nebraska runners on first and second. The senior fought back to get the next batter on a pop up and then recorded her first strikeout of the game to end the Husker threat.

First team All-American Brandi Stuart got the Seminoles going in the top of the second as she laced a double off the wall in left field. After Stuart was sacrificed to third by Tatiana George, the Seminoles tried to manufacture a run on a squeeze bunt but Monique Marier's attempt didn't get far enough away from the plate and Husker catcher Amber Burgess picked it up and tagged out Stuart as she was coming home with the potential lead run.

Nebraska once again got off to a good start in the second as pitcher James led things off by singling through the right side of the infield. Florida State and Malerich bounced back by cutting down the lead runner on an attempted sacrifice and then got the runner on first out when she left early. Malerich then recorded her second strikeout of the game to end the inning and keep the game tied at 0-0.

With two down in the top of the third, Colzie drew the first walk of the game off of James as she watched a 3-1 pitch sail high sending her to first. That brought up FSU's leading RBI producer in senior catcher Carter. The co-captain came into the game with 50 RBIs on the year. Before Carter got a chance to drive in Colzie, the junior college transfer took off and stole her 13th base of the season. With the count 3-2, Carter smashed a hard hit liner to deep left field that Wangler was in perfect position to make the catch and end the Seminole uprising.



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For the third straight inning, the Cornhuskers got their lead-off hitter on base as Malerich issued her second free pass of the game bringing up Ogee who singled in her first at bat. The senior lost Ogee on a 3-2 pitch to issue her second walk of the game and put Nebraska in great position with two on and nobody out. Wangler advanced the runners on a ground out to second putting both Nebraska base runners in scoring position with just one out. Bucholz next sent a deep drive to left the Monique Marier hauled in but the shot was deep enough to score the first run of the game on the sac fly.

The game moved to the top of the fourth with the Huskers up 1-0 and the heart of the Seminole order coming up to the plate. Van der Linden got things started with her first hit of the World Series as she drove a ball just to the left of James who got a glove on it but could not handle the smash putting the sophomore at first. James then got Stuart to foul out to the catcher for the first out of the inning and George then reached via a fielder's choice with van der Linden getting cut down on her way to second. James then retired the side as she corralled Marier's pop out.

Malerich cruised through the fourth picking up her third strikeout while setting the Huskers down in order for the second time in the game. Malerich's third K matched her total for the entire World Series.

After James retired Elisa Velasco to start the fifth, Beth Wade recorded her first hit of the 2002 WCWS bringing up pinch hitter Jackie Hirschfeld. The senior sent a grounder through the left side for her first hit of the Series also. That brought in Seminole killer Leigh Ann Walker who has defeated the Seminoles three times in her career with two runners on board and one out in the inning. Colzie next loaded the bases on an error at third as the junior smashed a shot right at the Nebraska third baseman. The Seminoles, who are 2 for 5 in the postseason with the bases loaded, sent Carter and her single season record 50 RBIs to the plate. The co-captain sent a drive through the left side of the infield scoring two runs but two Nebraska fielding errors on the play allowed all three runners to score giving FSU the 3-1 lead. Van der Linden, after going hitless in seven at bats coming in to the game, got her second of the game as she sent a double to left center plating Carter and putting FSU in front 4-1. The Seminoles two hits off Walker in the fifth equaled the total they recorded in seven innings against the hurler last season in Tallahassee when the two teams faced off.

Malerich seemed to feed of the big inning as she came in and recorded her third K in a row by setting down the first two batters she faced swinging. Her five K's through five innings against the Huskers were more than the three strikeouts she had amassed in two games against UCLA and Cal at the World Series. The Huskers answered back though as they drew a walk and put together back-to-back hits to load the bases with two outs. Nicole Trimboli then singled to left scoring two runs but FSU got her at second as Becky Brock threw down to Stuart as the Husker over ran the base when she thought an FSU overthrow would allow her to advance.

With the Huskers back within a run at 4-3, Walker came out and set the Seminoles down in order as two Seminoles watched strike three and Brock popped out to second. Nebraska looked to even the game or take the lead in the bottom of the sixth after touching Malerich for more earned runs in the fifth than she had given up all World Series in 16 innings of work. Nebraska led off by walking on Malerich's 99th pitch of the night. The hurler induced a ground out for the second out of the inning before getting another ground out to the mound to end the sixth.

Carter, the FSU hero in the fifth, tried to help the Seminoles add to their advantage as she drew a one-out walk in the seventh. After a fielder's choice cut down Carter on her way to second, Stuart



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came up with two outs and a runner sitting on first but Walker got the All-American on a ground out to third to move the game to the bottom of the inning.

As the game entered the bottom of the frame, the Garnet and Gold moved within three outs of their first semi-final berth since 1990 as the Huskers sent their No. 9, No. 1 and No. 2 hitters to the plate in an attempt to stave off elimination. Malerich started things off with her sixth K of the night as Cindy Roethemeyer watched strike three. That brought up Ogee who was 1-for-1 with two walks and a run scored. The centerfielder grounded out to George with Wangler the only thing separating the Seminoles from the semifinals of the College World Series.

Florida State will make a run at the NCAA Championship game Sunday, May 26 at 3:30 p.m. EST in a nationally televised game on ESPN2 versus six-time National Champion Arizona. The Tribe will need to take two games from a Wildcat team that is 54-11 on the season if they want to advance to their first ever WCWS Championship game. For more information on the Seminole softball team and the 2002 College World Series, please log on to seminoles.com. Feel like you are with FSU in Oklahoma City by logging on to the university's official athletic website, which has a 2002 College World Series webpage that contains a live stats link, World Series photo galleries and diaries, press conference transcripts and so much more.

Florida State 4, Nebraska 3 Game #10 of the Women's College World Series

With a Florida State victory over Nebraska, Malerich became only the second Seminole pitcher to collect two victories in the College World Series. Debbie DeJohn was the first Seminole to perform such a feat when she defeated Fresno State and UNLV back in 1990. That year the Seminoles went 2-2 in the WCWS, they're best showing ever in a College World Series. In 2002, Malerich defeated No. 1 UCLA and Nebraska.

Brandi Stuart hit her first double of the WCWS and continues her hot bat at the plate in the series. In the three games this tournament, the Seminoles have collected 12 hits with Stuart owning four of them. This is only the third extra base hit for Florida State in the series. Stuart's double in the second was her 27th of her career, moving her into a tie for third all-time with Lisa Davidson.

Coming into tonight's game against Nebraska, Leslie Malerich had accumulated three strikeouts through two games. She recorded one against UCLA and two versus Cal. Against the Cornhuskers, Malerich struck out a total of six Husker batters. At one point in the game, Malerich had struck out three Nebraska batters in a row.

Third baseman Becky Brock returned to the batting line-up and hit ninth against Nebraska. Although Brock had been playing third base in every game of the series, she had not been hitting due to a sprained ankle that has hampered her running ability. Brock looked good in her first attempt, fouling off a couple pitches before grounding out to first for the second out of the third inning. She then popped up to second in her second attempt during the sixth inning.



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After drawing a third inning walk, Shundra Colzie went on to steal second base for her first stolen base of the tournament and team's second of the series. Colzie for the season is 13-16 in the stolen base category. Brandi Stuart collected FSU's first stolen base of the WCWS off UCLA catcher Stacey Nuveman. So far the Seminoles have gone a perfect 2-2 in stolen bases in Oklahoma City.

Nebraska's run in the third inning is only the ninth run allowed by Florida State all year in the third. For the season, the Seminoles have outscored their opponents 70-9 in the third inning.

In game three against the Cornhuskers, Beth Wade and Jackie Hirschfeld collected their first base hits of the series. Wade started the four run fifth with a bloop single to right center. Then Jackie Hirschfeld, who came in as a pinch hitter for Brock, singled to left field on a 3-2 offering by Peaches James.

In the fifth inning with the bases covered in garnet and gold, Kimmy Carter came through yet again for the Seminoles, taking a 1-1 offering through the gap between third and short off Cornhusker relieve pitcher Leigh Ann Walker. This is the second time in the post season that Carter has stepped up to the plate with the base loaded and connected for the Seminoles. In the NCAA regional, Carter tripled with the bases loaded knocking in three RBIs and helping FSU to a 6-1 victory over Georgia Tech.

Entering tonight's game against Nebraska, centerfielder Jessica van der Linden had been hitless at the plate. She finally broke through with a sharp single off the glove of pitcher Peaches James in the fourth. Then van der Linden came through once again in the fifth inning. She doubled to left field driving in Kimmy Carter for her first RBI of the College World Series. Jessica van der Linden's double was her team leading 14th of the season. She has accumulated 28 for her career moving her to 3rd all-time in the Seminole record books.

Coming into tonight's game against the Cornhuskers, the Seminoles had only managed to get two hits off Nebraska pitcher Leigh Ann Walker when she faced FSU back in 2001 at the Seminole Softball Complex in Tallahassee, Fla. In the fifth inning, the Seminoles equaled that total when Kimmy Carter and Jessica van der Linden singled and doubled to left, respectively.

--FSU SPORTS INFORMATION--

21st Annual
Women's
College
World Series

May 23-27, 2002
Don E. Porter Hall of Fame Stadium
Oklahoma City, Okla.

<i>Game 10</i>	
Florida State	4
Nebraska	3

2002 NCAA Women's College World Series
Florida State vs Nebraska
May 25, 2002 at Oklahoma City, OK (Hall of Fame Stadium)

Florida State 4 (55-19)

Nebraska 3 (50-14)

Name (Pos)	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	PO	A
Colzie, Shundra rf.....	3	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
Carter, Kimmy c.....	3	1	1	2	1	1	6	0
van der Lind, Jess cf.....	4	0	2	1	0	0	2	0
Stuart, Brandi 2b.....	3	0	1	0	1	0	1	2
George, Tatiana ss.....	2	0	0	0	0	0	4	1
Monique Marier lf.....	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Velasco, Elisa dh.....	3	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Wade, Beth 1b.....	3	0	1	0	0	1	6	1
Cox, Skyla pr.....	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brock, Becky 3b.....	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Hirschfeld, Jackie ph.....	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Colzie, Shandra pr.....	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malerich, Leslie p.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Totals.....	27	4	6	3	3	5	21	7

Name (Pos)	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	PO	A
Ogee, Kim cf.....	2	1	1	0	2	0	1	0
Wangler, Lisa lf.....	3	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
Buchholz, Amanda ss.....	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0
Trimboli, Nicole 1b.....	3	0	1	2	0	0	4	0
Burgess, Amber c.....	3	0	0	0	0	1	7	0
James, Peaches p/dh.....	2	0	1	0	1	0	2	1
Suhr, Leigh 2b.....	3	0	0	0	0	1	4	0
Lawrick, Sheena dh.....	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Lawhorn, Liz rf.....	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Roethemeyer, Cindy 3b.....	2	1	0	0	1	2	0	2
Steffan, Anne rf.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Walker, Leigh Ann p.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Totals.....	22	3	5	3	5	6	21	4

Score by innings:	R	H	E
Florida State	000	040	0 - 4 6 0
Nebraska	001	020	0 - 3 5 3

E - Wangler(7); Buchholz(9); Roethemeyer(15).
LOB - FSU 6; Nebraska 5.
2B - van der Lind(14); Stuart(9).
SB - Shu Colzie(13).
SH - George(13); Wangler(11). SF - Buchholz(1).

Florida State	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	AB	BF
Malerich, Leslie....	7.0	5	3	3	5	6	22	29

Nebraska	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	AB	BF
James, Peaches.....	4.1	4	2	2	1	2	16	18
Walker, Leigh Ann...	2.2	2	2	1	2	3	11	13

Win - Malerich 35-13. Loss - James 22-9. Save - None.
Umpires - Home:Bryan Smith 1st:Marty Makar 3rd:Lori Bish
Start: 9:49 Time: 2:30 Attendance: 4026

Game Notes:
Game ten of the 2002 NCAA Women's College World Series.
Nebraska is eliminated from the 2002 NCAA Women's College World Series.

2002 NCAA Women's College World Series
Florida State vs Nebraska
May 25, 2002 at Oklahoma City, OK (Hall of Fame Stadium)

Score by innings: R H E

Florida State 000 040 0 - 4 6 0
Nebraska 001 020 0 - 3 5 3

Florida State inning 1

Shu Colzie lined out to p (1-0). Carter struck out swinging (1-2). van der Lind flied out to rf (0-0). 0 runs, 0 hits, 0 errors, 0 LOB.

Nebraska inning 1

Ogee singled through the left side (3-2). Wangler grounded out to p, SAC, bunt (0-0); Ogee advanced to second. Buchholz walked (3-2). Trimboli popped up to ss (2-0). Burgess struck out swinging (1-2). 0 runs, 1 hit, 0 errors, 2 LOB.

Florida State inning 2

Stuart doubled to left field (3-2). George grounded out to 1b unassisted, SAC, bunt (0-0); Stuart advanced to third. Marier reached on a fielder's choice (0-0); Stuart out at home c unassisted. Velasco struck out swinging (2-2). 0 runs, 1 hit, 0 errors, 1 LOB.

Nebraska inning 2

James singled through the right side (2-1). Suhr reached on a fielder's choice (3-0); James out at second 1b to ss. Suhr out at first 1b unassisted, runner left early. Lawrick struck out swinging (2-2). 0 runs, 1 hit, 0 errors, 0 LOB.

Florida State inning 3

Wade popped up to 2b (1-2). Brock grounded out to 1b unassisted (1-2). Shu Colzie walked (3-1). Shu Colzie stole second. Carter lined out to lf (3-2). 0 runs, 0 hits, 0 errors, 1 LOB.

Nebraska inning 3

Roethemeyer walked (3-2). Ogee walked (3-2); Roethemeyer advanced to second. Wangler grounded out to 2b (1-2); Ogee advanced to second; Roethemeyer advanced to third. Buchholz flied out to lf, SF, RBI (1-0); Roethemeyer scored. Trimboli grounded out to 2b (1-2). 1 run, 0 hits, 0 errors, 1 LOB.

Florida State inning 4

van der Lind singled to pitcher (0-1). Stuart fouled out to c (2-0).

George reached on a fielder's choice (1-2); van der Lind out at second 3b to 2b. Marier popped up to p (0-0). 0 runs, 1 hit, 0 errors, 1 LOB.

(Nebraska inning 4

Burgess flied out to lf (0-0). James fouled out to ss (1-1). Suhr struck out swinging (2-2). 0 runs, 0 hits, 0 errors, 0 LOB.

Florida State inning 5

Velasco grounded out to p (0-1). Wade singled to left center (0-1). Cox pinch ran for Wade. Hirschfeld pinch hit for Brock. Hirschfeld singled through the right side (3-2); Cox advanced to second. James to dh. Lawhorn to rf for Lawrick. Walker to p for Steffan. Shu Colzie reached on a fielding error by 3b (1-2); Hirschfeld advanced to second; Cox advanced to third. Sha Colzie pinch ran for Hirschfeld. Carter singled, advanced to second on an error by lf, advanced to third on an error by ss, 2 RBI (1-1); Shu Colzie scored; Sha Colzie scored; Cox scored. van der Lind doubled to left field, RBI (0-0); Carter scored, unearned. Stuart intentionally walked (3-0). George popped up to 2b (0-2). Marier flied out to cf (2-2). 4 runs, 4 hits, 3 errors, 2 LOB.

Nebraska inning 5

Wade to 1b for Cox. Brock to 3b for Sha Colzie. Lawhorn struck out swinging (1-2). Roethemeyer struck out swinging (1-2). Ogee walked (3-2). Wangler singled to left field; Ogee advanced to second. Buchholz singled to third base; Wangler advanced to second; Ogee advanced to third. Trimboli (C)ingled to left field, 2 RBI, out at second 3b to 2b (1-0); Buchholz advanced to third; Wangler scored; Ogee scored. 2 runs, 3 hits, 0 errors, 1 LOB.

Florida State inning 6

Velasco struck out looking (0-2). Wade struck out looking (1-2). Brock popped up to 2b (0-1). 0 runs, 0 hits, 0 errors, 0 LOB.

Nebraska inning 6

Burgess flied out to cf (1-0). James walked (3-1). Suhr reached on a fielder's choice (0-0); James out at second ss unassisted. Lawhorn grounded out to p (1-0). 0 runs, 0 hits, 0 errors, 1 LOB.

Florida State inning 7

Shu Colzie struck out swinging (1-2). Carter walked (3-1). van der Lind reached on a fielder's choice (1-2); Carter out at second p to ss. Stuart grounded out to 3b (1-0). 0 runs, 0 hits, 0 errors, 1 LOB.

Nebraska inning 7

Roethemeyer struck out looking (2-2). Ogee grounded out to ss (3-2).

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Wangler flied out to cf (1-1). 0 runs, 0 hits, 0 errors, 0 LOB.

C.e Notes:

Game ten of the 2002 NCAA Women's College World Series.

Nebraska is eliminated from the 2002 NCAA Women's College World Series.

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NCAA WOMEN'S COLLEGE WORLD SERIES

May 23-27, 2002

**Don E. Porter ASA Hall of Fame Stadium
Oklahoma City, Okla.**

Game 10: Florida State 4, Nebraska 3

FLORIDA STATE HEAD COACH JoANNE GRAF

General comment:

"Great ball game. I think that Nebraska is an outstanding team. They come at you with a lot of different weapons and I think that you say can it kind of went back and forth the whole game. (There was) a lot of pressure, a lot of intensity for both teams. I think that both teams played with a lot of heart. They gave us a heck of a battle and our kids fought hard also."

On Florida State's team effort in the fifth inning:

"That's been a key all year. We've had a lot of people come in and pinch hit and pinch run and even relief pitch. Jess (van der Linden) was ready if she needed to come in. I think the kids have all stepped it up a little bit. It was just one of those magical innings when everything did work. It was a fun inning. It really was."

On Florida State's play at the Women's College World Series:

"I think that they're putting it all together and they're just going after it. They don't really surprise me because I've seen some of these kids for four years, but I've seen the team all year. I think that they're just putting it together and they're playing really composed."

FLORIDA STATE SENIOR KIMMY CARTER

On her two-RBI hit in the fifth inning:

"It wasn't just me, it was a team effort. I love being in those situations, any RBI situation. She (Beth Wade) started it off and it was a team effort."

FLORIDA STATE SOPHOMORE BETH WADE

On her hit to start Florida State's fifth-inning rally:

"That was nice. I was just telling myself as I was walking to the plate, 'Let's go, let's get something started here, get a little rally going,' and it happened. I got a hit. Three or four people got a hit. It was a total team inning right there. Everybody got on it right there and we scored a few runs."

NCAA WOMEN'S COLLEGE WORLD SERIES

May 23-27, 2002

**Don E. Porter ASA Hall of Fame Stadium
Oklahoma City, Okla.**

Game 10: Florida State 4, Nebraska 3

NEBRASKA HEAD COACH RHONDA REVELLE

General comment:

"It's hard to end your season on a game like this. I felt like we beat ourselves. We threw the ball around and we did that in the first game too. That hasn't been characteristic of our team lately. It's hard to lose the game on that. You just want to keep coaching after the game is over."

"When you look at it as being the final game of the season, then you have to see the big picture. And, the big picture is that we really put together a good season and a pretty consistent season. We had a three-to-four-week stretch where it was trying but, overall, I thought we learned a lot and got better from that."

"Once it all settles and the emotions settle down and you think about the fact that you finished fifth in the country, yes, we wanted to be competing for a national championship. But fifth place isn't anything to be ashamed of."

NCAA WOMEN'S COLLEGE WORLD SERIES

May 23-27, 2002

**Don E. Porter ASA Hall of Fame Stadium
Oklahoma City, Okla.**

POSTGAME NOTES

Game 10: Florida State 4, Nebraska 3

- For the second time in school history, Florida State won two games at the WCWS (the first was in 1990). The Seminoles have made the Series six times but have never won more than two contests.
- FSU senior pitcher Leslie Malerich improved to 6-1 in NCAA postseason play this year. Malerich has allowed just eight runs in 60.0 innings (0.93 earned run average) in the postseason. Malerich also tied her personal mark for wins in a season with her 35th victory tonight (she had 35 as a sophomore in 2000).
- For the fourth time in school history, Nebraska finished the College World Series tied for fifth.
- Nebraska's run in the third inning was only the ninth given up by Florida State in the third frame all season. The Seminoles have scored 70 in the same inning.
- The Huskers ended the season with 51 wins, tying for the second highest single-season mark in program history (the 2000 squad also recorded 51 victories). Last year's NU team won 52 games.
- The three runs surrendered by the Seminoles were the most in their last 15 games (April 30 vs. Virginia, a 4-3 victory).
- Florida State sophomore centerfielder Jessica van der Linden hit her 28th career double to move into third on Florida State's all-time list of two-baggers.
- Seminoles senior catcher Kimmy Carter hit a two-run single in the fifth inning. It marked her second bases-loaded hit in NCAA postseason play this year. In the regional championship May 19 versus Georgia Tech, Carter connected with a bases-loaded triple.
- Nebraska senior pitcher Leigh Ann Walker ended her career as the Huskers' all-time leader in strikeouts with 851. She also stands second in wins (83) and winning percentage (.764).