

FSU takes LSU to limit, but loses

*The Lady Seminoles fall
in five sets to LSU in the
'Volleyball Monthly'
Invitational tournament.*

By Noeli Barnidge
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Florida State's best opportunity to win in the Volleyball Monthly Invitational went unfulfilled on Friday night.

TODAY AT TULLY GYM

- FSU vs. Penn State, 11 a.m.
- UCLA vs. LSU, 1 p.m.
- LSU vs. Penn State, 5 p.m.
- FSU vs. UCLA, 7 p.m.

Now the Lady Seminoles must pull off an upset to avoid being swept in their own tournament.

Louisiana State defeated FSU 15-12, 12-15, 5-15, 15-13, 15-13 in the nightcap on Friday, before a crowd of 765 at Tully Gym.

Earlier, No. 4 Penn State defeated No. 2 UCLA 10-15, 15-12, 15-12, 15-13.

FSU players, hoping to gain valuable experience from playing teams of such national caliber, appeared undaunted by their loss to LSU and more eager at the chance to prove themselves again today.

FSU plays Penn State at 11 a.m., and UCLA at 7 p.m.

How badly do the Lady Seminoles want to win against two of the top-four ranked teams in the country?

"Very badly," FSU senior outside hitter Luiza Ramos said. "I can't wait to win. I think we're going to do good, very good."

For FSU, a win over Penn State and/or UCLA would do wonders for the Lady Seminoles' confidence.

"It would do a lot for our confidence level," FSU outside hitter Katie Lotarski said. "We have nothing

to lose. Most people probably think we're going to lose, that we're supposed to lose. We have the advantage, I think."

On Friday night, FSU led LSU in kills 65-52, but the Lady Seminoles also committed more errors (40-27).

"Our seniors have to put the ball away," FSU coach Cecile Reynaud said. "We've also got to find a consistent setter. Maybe this is one of those seasons where one (player) does good one night and another does well the next night."

After losing its first game 12-15, FSU reeled off two consecutive wins, going 15-12 and 15-5.

In the first game, Penn State trailed UCLA in kills (78-67) but the Lady Lions took advantage of Bruin errors. UCLA committed 35 errors — seven more than Penn State.

"Penn State took control of the match and just outplayed us," UCLA coach Andy Banachowski said. "We didn't pass well enough. We got into a lot of trouble because we couldn't attack from the left side."