

FSU nine in finale

By BOB BLANKENSHIP

Executive sports editor

MEMPHIS — Florida State's relentless baseball team steam-rolled past its third straight opponent here Saturday with a 10-2 victory over Memphis State that left the Seminoles as the tournament's only unbeaten team.

"We're in the driver's seat," beamed Coach Woody Woodward after the Tribe's third straight impressive performance left a home-town crowd limp and disgusted.

The latest Seminole success put them into today's final against number-one seeded Tulane in the double-elimination tournament that will qualify its winner for a berth in the NCAA regional playoffs.

Tulane, a 12-2 second-round victim of the Tribe's timely hitting, bounced back into the finals by also beating Memphis State 4-1 late

Saturday night for the Green Wave's third straight victory of the day.

Coach Woodward has named righthander Mike McLeod to start the championship showdown that begins at 12:30 p.m. Tallahassee time.

Florida State will need to win only once today to nail the title, while Tulane will need to take a doubleheader from FSU before claiming the championship.

"It's just great," said Woodward, "to win the way we did today. We're playing as good here in our last three games as we have all season."

Taking advantage of four Memphis errors, the Seminoles jumped on the tournament host team for 11 hits — including towering home runs by Ben Curry and Terry Kennedy — and got another surprisingly good pitching performance. It came from Jackie Smith, who is normally a short relief

man. He drew the starting assignment Saturday and went seven innings, scattering six hits while striking out a half dozen and allowing only one run. Jim Miller finished up the last two innings with a one hitter — a home run to pinch-hitter Phil Smith in the ninth.

But it made little difference, as the Seminoles jumped Rickey Evans for two runs in each of the first three innings, and that was enough to saddle him with only his second defeat of the season after seven victories.

Kennedy, Curry, Chip Bifano and Bob Benda led the hit parade, Kennedy going three for four at the plate to drive in three runs — the last one coming on a 390-foot shot over the right field fence in the fourth inning. Earlier Curry had the twin to it over the left field fence with a mate aboard.

(See SEMINOLES, page 7C)

Benda and Bifano each had two hits as the Seminoles improved their record to 36-12, now the best of any team here. It was also the Tribe's seventh straight victory, dating back to a doubleheader sweep of Mercer and including the two wins over Georgia Southern.

"That's when we started playing good," said Woodward, reflecting back to the Mercer pair. "We're just playing darn good baseball."

Woodward, who is making an effort to get as many players into the action as possible, played 15 Saturday in the second one-sided game here.

It was never really in serious doubt after Bifano opened the game with a single and scored after an error, passed ball, and Kennedy's first hit. The score went to 6-0 and 10-1 and Memphis State fans by the hundreds sat in stunned silence after figuring the No. 1 seeded Tigers were in good shape after FSU knocked off the No. 1 seeded Tulane.

But, so far things have not worked out for the two top-seeded teams.

Meanwhile, all the other teams had been eliminated by sundown Saturday without any surprises.

Cincinnati, seeded No. 7 in the seven team field, was the first to go home, losing its second game to St. Louis 4-3 in the late Friday night game that

didn't end until almost 2 a.m. (Tallahassee time).

Then on Saturday, Georgia Tech lost a 15-3 decision to Louisville and went home with its second loss and an 18-11 record.

Tulane sent two teams home earlier in the day Saturday before beating Memphis State in the Green Wave's third game of the day. First they dispatched St. Louis in a 7-2 affair then sent Louisville packing with a 9-2 decision. St. Louis left with a 30-19 record and Louisville with a 27-27 mark.

Florida St.					Memphis St.				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Bifano 2b	4	1	2	1	J.Rbnson ss	4	1	2	0
Lezcano cf	5	2	1	1	Clark 3b	4	0	1	0
Hicks 3b	5	0	0	0	Roper dh	4	0	0	0
Kennedy c	5	2	3	3	A.Rbnson 1b	4	0	1	0
Coulter rf	4	0	0	0	Prssgrve rf	2	0	0	0
Mobley dh	3	2	1	1	Hendrsn lf	3	0	1	0
Curry 1b	4	2	1	2	Zurowski cf	3	0	1	0
Benda ss	4	0	2	1	Kennon c	3	0	0	0
Huff lf	4	1	0	0	Boyd 2b	3	0	0	0
McGlone c	1	0	0	0	Reed ph	1	0	0	0
Schimchak rf	1	0	1	0	Remmeat 2b	1	0	0	0
G. Jones 2b	0	0	0	0	Smith ph	1	1	1	1
McArdle lf	0	0	0	0	Krech ph	0	0	0	0
Smith p	0	0	0	0	Walker ph	1	0	0	0
Miller p	0	0	0	0	Thetford ph	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	39	10	11	9	Evans p	0	0	0	0
					Graves p	0	0	0	0
					TOTALS	33	2	7	1

Florida St. 222 100 210-10
 Memphis St. 001 000 001-2

E—J. Robinson, Clark, Pressgrove, Boyd, Bifano, Curry. DP—FSU 1. LOB—FSU 11, Memphis St. 7. 2B—Benda, J. Robinson, Zurowski. HR— Kennedy 2 (7), Curry (5), P. Smith. SB—Bifano 2, Benda, Huff, Pressgrove.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Smith (W,5-2)	7	6	1	0	1	6
Miller	2	1	1	1	2	1
Evans (L,7-2)	4	4	5	7	4	3
Graves	5	6	3	3	1	4

HBP—By Graves (Curry, Jones). T—2:45. A—1200.