

## FSU crushes Louisville 11-3

### Weather was good; balance was lacking

By George Maselli  
Democrat staff writer

There was this rumor going around that the Metro Conference had achieved some sort of baseball balance. Yeah, sure.

Florida State did its part Thursday night to prove that there are clearly four haves and four have-nots in the Metro Conference Baseball Tournament. The Seminoles simply brushed Louisville aside 11-3 to finish the most lopsided first round in the tournament's 10-year history.

FSU, 51-19, will play Virginia Tech today at 1 in the second round. The other three top seeds — South Carolina, Memphis State and Tech — advanced easily. The average margin of victory in the four games was 10 runs. Beautiful, huh?

The Seminoles did not play terribly well in the field, committing five errors. But they got solid pitching from senior right-hander Kevin Smith, who allowed just one hit in his five innings. On the other hand, Louisville's pitching was no mystery for Seminole hitters who cranked out 17 hits, curiously 14 of them singles and the rest doubles. In the first three games of the day, 17 homers were struck.

"Did all the top seeds win? That's very unusual," said FSU Coach Mike Martin.

The reformed method of figuring the tournament's seedings certainly proved accurate.

"I thought everything went the way it was supposed to," said FSU's hot-hitting Paul Sorrento.

Actually, the biggest suspense of the day was with the weather forecast. The expected rains that would have sent this double-elimination event into turmoil, blessedly stayed away. A crowd of 3,207 watched the four games, though only a few hundred die-hards remained in the final innings of the FSU rout.

It was just about over in the first inning when the Seminoles scored four runs off jittery Louisville starter Paul Hubbard. They added two more in the second, four more in the fourth. Then, perhaps out of boredom, did not score again until the eighth.

FSU right fielder Paul Sorrento, on a 16-for-36 tear at the plate over his last 11 games, doubled and scored in the first, singled in a run in the second and singled again and scored in the fourth.

As is the case with most hot hitters, Sorrento

couldn't really explain his recent streak. "I'm seeing the ball real well," said Sorrento. "It's all confidence."

Designated hitter Tommy Zoeller broke the game open with a bases-loaded double in the fourth.

Smith, 8-1, continued his recent strong work, winning his third straight outing. Most amazingly, FSU pitchers continued a streak in which they have not allowed a home run in the last nine games.

It was the Seminoles' ninth win in their last 10 games. The going, however, does get tougher from here. Virginia Tech is 48-14-1.

Today's pitchers will be Seminole Mike Loynd, 12-3, against Hokie Dell Curry, 5-1.

Louisville					Florida State				
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Watson,lf	4	1	1	0	Alicea,2b	4	1	2	1
Tompkins,rf	5	0	0	0	Figueroa,ss	5	2	2	0
Gray,1b	3	0	1	0	Fazzini,lf	4	3	2	1

Rogers,1b	1	0	0	0	Sorrento,rf	5	2	3	1
Cleveland,c	4	0	1	1	Jones,1b	5	1	2	3
Forrest,cf	4	1	0	0	Fulton,c	1	1	0	0
Cambron,2b	3	1	0	0	Blackwell,c	1	1	1	0
Meek,ss	4	0	0	0	Calandra,3b	5	0	2	2
Holmes,dh	2	0	0	0	Zoeller,dh	3	0	1	2
Brooks,dh	0	0	0	1	Saxner,ph	1	0	0	0
Donahue,3b	3	0	0	0	Kosco,ph	1	0	0	0
Fries,3b	0	0	0	0	Mangham,cf	3	0	0	0
					Kidd,cf	2	0	2	0

Totals	33	3	3	2	Totals	40	11	17	10
Louisville	100	000	002	—	3	3	3		
Florida State	420	100	01x	—	11	17	5		

E—Alicea 2, Calandra 2, Donahue, Gray, Fries. DP—FSU 1. LOB—Louisville 8, FSU 12. 2B—Sorrento, Zoeller, Kidd. SB—Watson, Calandra.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
<b>Louisville</b>						
Hubbard L,0-4	3	9	8	8	4	1
George	3	5	2	0	1	2
Griff	2	3	1	1	1	3
<b>Florida State</b>						
Smith W,8-1	5	1	1	1	1	5
Thomas	3	2	0	0	0	1
Brown	1	0	2	0	2	0

WP—Griff. PB—Cleveland. HBP—Fazzini (by Hubbard), Brooks (by Thomas). T—2:58. A—3,205