

# Bulldogs bust Seminoles 4-3

## FSU loses chance to go to fourth College World Series

STARKVILLE, Miss. — Living on the edge for most of the postseason, Florida State finally fell off.

Sporting a two-run lead, the Seminoles allowed Mississippi State to score three in the eighth as the Bulldogs pulled out a 4-3 win Monday for the NCAA South II Region championship.

The game, played before 7,285 at Mississippi State's Dudy Noble Field, had to be played Monday following Sunday's rain delay.

Tommy Raffo's two-run double to right off FSU starter Brad Gregory, combined with Jon Shave's run-scoring single, overcame FSU's 3-1 lead.

The Seminoles tried to rally in the bottom of the eighth, but Eddie Perez's line drive with runners on first and third went right back to pitcher Bobby Reed for a double play.

FSU, ranked No. 3 by Collegiate Baseball-ESPN and Baseball America, finishes the season at 57-15. The wins were the third-most in school history, but were not enough to give FSU its fourth trip to the College World Series in Omaha, Neb., in five years.

Instead, the honor goes to the Bulldogs (49-19), who haven't been to the CWS since the 1985 team.

FSU went to the CWS last year, losing to national-champion Wichita State to finish in a tie for third place.

loss to the Bulldogs.

"We came into the toughest place to play, in terms of fan support, in the country," said Martin.

And in one of the most exciting games of the tournament, FSU simply fell short. It was your basic pitchers' duel between Reed (15-2) and Gregory (5-2), who was pitching on two days' rest.

Bulldog coach Ron Polk gambled and held his ace out of Sunday night's 11-9 loss to FSU in the first championship game. Reed took the extra day's rest and struck out four and walked one while holding FSU to six hits.

After giving up a solo homer to Chris Roberts in the second, Reed retired 12 out of 13 batters before allowing a run in the seventh.

Gregory was similarly impressive, striking out seven and walking one, scattering nine hits. After giving up a solo homer to Tracy Echols and a double to Jim Robinson in the second, Gregory set-

This year, the Seminoles will stay at home, shut down by a host team playing for pride and an overdue return trip to Omaha. Playing on foreign regional soil for the first time since 1982, FSU made things even tougher by dropping into the losers' bracket on Saturday after an 11-8

Perez took the first pitch and blasted it right back at Reed's face. Reed snagged the ball with his

While he remained unbeaten, FSU remained winless in regionals when trying to come out of the losers' bracket. The Seminoles lost to South Alabama in the first regional championship game in 1987, but beat the Jaguars in the second game to advance to Omaha.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Mississippi St.						
Reed W,15-2	9	6	3	2	1	4
Florida St.						
Gregory L,5-2	9	9	4	4	1	7
HBP—Perez (by Reed)	U	—	Eldridge (HP),			
Homoika (1b),			Henderson (2b),			
Salazar (3b).						
A—7,285.						