



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

SPORTS INFORMATION



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEBRUARY 29, 2000

NO. 1 FLORIDA STATE TOPS CHARLESTON SOUTHERN, 7-2

Tallahassee, FL – No. 1 Florida State (14-2) overcame a slow start to defeat the Charleston Southern Buccaneers (9-7) this afternoon at Dick Howser Stadium. RHP Blair Varnes had a solid outing for FSU on the mound while left fielder John-Ford Griffin and shortstop Brett Groves had two hits apiece.

"It was a very competitive ball game," said FSU head coach Mike Martin. "If their second baseman makes that catch on the Brett Groves' line drive in the fourth inning we have a different game on our hands."

Varnes improved to 2-1 with his most impressive start this season. Varnes did not allow an earned run (two unearned) over six innings in the win.

"Blair was very sharp today," said Martin. "When we struggled a little bit with those errors in the third inning he kept his composure and got us in the dugout. He was getting his sidearm stuff over and had better velocity today. He is a guy who is very important to the success of this ball club."

Varnes did not walk a Buccaneer batter while striking out a career-high nine batters. He gave up just six hits, none of which were for extra bases.

"It seems like my problem has been not getting warm enough," said Varnes. "It has been taking me two or three innings to get going. I felt good out there today and I think I could have gone a couple more innings if I needed to. I have to avoid the big inning early."

Charleston Southern scored their only runs of the game in the third inning, taking advantage of three Seminole errors. Second baseman Jay Corrigan reached on an error by FSU third baseman Pichi Balet and then stole second. Left fielder Ted Malikowski then reached on an error by second basemen Marshall McDougall and Corrigan scored. First baseman Brandon Massey then singled to center to score Malikowski and make it 2-0 CSU.

Florida State got one run back in the third when Groves singled, stole second and scored on right fielder Chris Smith's double to right field.

In the bottom of the fourth, FSU scored four to take a 5-2 lead. First baseman Ryan Barthelemy started the rally with a walk, center fielder Karl Jernigan singled and designated hitter Mike Futrell loaded the bases when he drew the second walk of the inning. Groves had what proved to be the game-winning hit when his line drive was just out of the reach of Corrigan's glove at second. Barthelemy and Jernigan scored on the play to put the Tribe up for good. FSU added two more runs when catcher Blair McCaleb plated Groves and Futrell with a single.

Griffin made it 6-2 with his third home run of the season and McCaleb had another RBI with a sacrifice fly in the seventh to complete the scoring.

CSU RHP Chad Humbert took the loss, allowing seven runs on eight hits in 5.2 innings. Humbert struck out nine Seminoles in the loss and walked three.

Freshman LHP Daniel Hodges worked the seventh and the eighth without giving up a run and striking out three. Smith finished things off with two strikeouts in a scoreless ninth. Varnes, Hodges and Smith combined for 14 strikeouts without allowing a walk.

Groves tied a pair of personal bests with three runs scored and three stolen bases in a game, while Smith extended his hitting streak to 12 games.

FSU will start freshman LHP Matt Lynch (1-0) instead of junior RHP John Bentley (1-0) on Wednesday. Game time is 3.30 p.m.

"Lynch will go tomorrow," said Martin. "Bentley is a little bit tender so we aren't going to risk it. He'll start next week in Daytona."

| | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|---|---|
| CSU | 002 | 000 | 000 | 2 | 7 | 0 |
| FSU | 001 | 411 | 00x | 7 | 8 | 4 |

The Automated ScoreBook
 Charleston Southern at Florida State
 Feb 29, 2000 at Tallahassee, FL (Dick Howser)

Charleston Southern 2 (9-7)

Florida State 7 (14-2)

| Name (Pos) | AB | R | H | RBI | BB | SO | PO | A |
|---------------------------|----|---|---|-----|----|----|----|---|
| Jesse Cochenhour cf..... | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| Jay Corrigale 2b..... | 5 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Kyle Leon rf..... | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Ted Malikowski lf..... | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Brandon Massey 1b..... | 4 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 1 |
| David Martindale 3b..... | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Garrett Veirs ph/3b..... | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Adrian Vanderburg dh..... | 4 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Chris Kellett c..... | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 0 |
| Brad Jones ph..... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Richard Gomersall ss..... | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Chad Humbert p..... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Matt Coenen p..... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Totals..... 36 2 7 1 0 14 24 10

Score by innings: R H E

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------|---------|
| Charleston Southern | 002 000 000 | - 2 7 0 |
| Florida State | 001 411 00 | - 7 8 4 |

E McCougall 2; Balet; McCaleb.
 DP - CS 2. LOB - CS 9; Seminoles 3.
 2B - Vanderburg; Smith(5).
 HR - Griffin(3).
 SB - Corrigale; Futrell(1); Groves 3(10); Boyd(1).
 SH - Kellett. SF - McCaleb.

| Charleston Southern | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO | AB | BF |
|---------------------|-----|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|
| Chad Humbert..... | 5.2 | 8 | 7 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 23 | 27 |
| Matt Coenen..... | 2.1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 7 |

| Name (Pos) | AB | R | H | RBI | BB | SO | PO | A |
|----------------------------|----|---|---|-----|----|----|----|---|
| Chris Smith rf/p..... | 4 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| John-Ford Griffin lf..... | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Marshall McDougall 2b..... | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Ryan Barthelemy 1b..... | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 11 | 1 |
| Karl Jernigan cf..... | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Clint Thigpen ph/rf..... | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Mike Futrell dh/cf..... | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Brett Groves ss..... | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Bobby Spano ss..... | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Pichi Balet 3b..... | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Scott Boyd ph/3b..... | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Blair McCaleb c..... | 2 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 1 |
| Blair Varnes p..... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Daniel Hodges p..... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

Totals..... 29 7 8 7 4 10 27 11

| Florida State | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO | AB | BF |
|--------------------|-----|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|
| Blair Varnes..... | 6.0 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 25 | 26 |
| Daniel Hodges..... | 2.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 7 | 7 |
| Chris Smith..... | 1.0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 5 |

Win - Varnes 2-1. Loss - Humbert 1-3. Save - None.
 PB - McCaleb.
 HBP - by Smith (Jones).
 Umpires - Home:Al Davis 1st:Bruce Ravan 3rd:Wayne Funderburke
 Start: 3:30 Time: 2:21 Attendance: 808

Game Notes:
 Chris Smith extends hitting streak to 12 games.
 Mike Futrell hitting streak ends at 10 games.
 Brett Groves had career high 3 runs and career high 3 stolen bases.