FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARCH 12, 2000

NO. 1 FSU COMPLETES SWEEP OF DUKE WITH 9-6 VICTORY

Tallahassee, FL – Florida State topped Duke 9-6 this afternoon in front of 2,032 fans at Dick Howser Stadium. FSU improved its record to 23-2 (3-0 ACC), the best season-opening start since the 1986 squad began the year 26-2. The Seminoles won their 17th straight while Duke dropped to 5-17 overall (0-3 ACC).

Sophomore RHP Blair Varnes (4-1) went 6.0 innings for the win, giving up three runs (two earned) on eight hits. Duke starter Ryan Caradonna fell to 1-4 with the loss as he allowed five runs on eight hits in five innings of work.

The Blue Devils got on the board first with a run in the top of the third inning. Larry Broadway reached on a base hit back to the mound and advanced to second on a throwing error by Varnes. Broadway moved to third on a bunt base hit by Wes Goodner and scored on Pichi Balet's fielding error.

FSU bounced back with a four-spot in the bottom of the third to take a 4-1 lead. Marshall McDougall hit a solo home run home run, his fourth of the year to tie the game at one. Ryan Barthelemy and Karl Jernigan followed with back-to-back singles and advanced one base each on a wild pitch. Balet atoned for his error with a three-run homer over the left field wall.

In the top of the fifth, the Blue Devils picked up two runs to cut FSU's lead to 4-3. J.D. Alleva recorded an RBI with a single to right and Jeff Becker knocked in the second run on a fielder's choice.

Scott Boyd put FSU up 5-3 in the bottom of the fifth when his single to left scored Jernigan, who had reached on a fielder's choice.

The Seminoles took control with four more runs in the sixth to push their lead to 9-3. Barthelemy knocked in the first run of the inning with a single to right. Groves plated two more with a doubled down the third base line and Boyd picked up his second RBI of the night with a base hit to right.

Duke added a run in the eighth and two in the ninth to complete the scoring.

Daniel Hodges worked 2.1 innings in relief of Varnes, allowing three runs (two earned) on five hits. Chris Whidden got the final two outs of the game as he recorded his third save of the season.

McDougall (2-for-4), Barthelemy (2-for-3), Jernigan (2-for-4) and Boyd (3-for-5) led the Tribe offensively.

Next up on FSU's schedule is a Tuesday (6:00 p.m.) game against South Florida at Dick Howser Stadium in Tallahassee. Freshman Matt Lynch (3-0) is the scheduled starter for the Seminoles.

Duke 001 020 012 6 14 0 FSU 004 014 00x 9 14 3

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The Automated ScoreBook Duke University at Florida State Mar 12, 2000 at Tallahassee, FL (Dick Howser)

Duke_University 6 (5-17,0-3-0 ACC)	Florida State 9 (23-2,	3-0-0 A	CC)				
Name (Pos) AB R H RBI BB SO PO A	Name (Pos)	AB	R	H RBI	BB	SO	PO A
Scott Grossi rf/2b	Chris Smith rf John-Ford Griffin lf Marshall McDougall 2b. Ryan Barthelemy 1b Karl Jernigan cf Brett Groves ss Pichi Balet 3b Bobby Spano pr/3b Scott Boyd dh Blair McCaleb c Mike Futrell ph/c Blair Varnes p Daniel Hodges p Chris Whidden p	3 4 5 2 1 5 2 0	0 2 2 2 2 1 1 0 0 0 0	1 0 2 1 2 1 2 0 1 2 1 3 0 0 3 2 1 0 0 0	2 1 2 0 0 2 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 1 1 1 0 0 1 1 0	0 0 0 5 4 9 0 2 0 0 1 1 2 0 1 5 0 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 1 0 1 1 0 1 1 0 1 1 0 1 1 1 0 1
Totals 40 6 14 5 3 8 24 11	Totals	37	9	14 9	7	6	27 11
Score by innings: R H E							
Duke University 001 020 012 - 6 14 0 F('a State 004 014 00 - 9 14 3					,		
E - Balet; Spano; Varnes. DP - Seminoles 1. LOB - BLUE DEVILS 10; Seminoles 12. 2B - G. Thompson; Groves(8); McCaleb(2). HR - McDougall(4); Balet(3). SB - Griffin(2). CS - Kelly.							
Duke University IP H R ER BB SO AB BF	Florida State	IP H	F	ER	BB	S0	AB BF
Ryan Caradonna 5.0 8 5 5 4 3 23 27 Larry Broadway 0.2 4 4 2 1 5 7 Brad DuPree 1.1 2 0 1 1 6 8 K. Thompson 1.0 0 0 0 1 3 3	Blair Varnes Daniel Hodges Chris Whidden	2.1 5	3	2 2 0	2	3 3 2	25 26 12 14 3 3
Win - Varnes 4-1. Loss - R. Caradonna 1-4. Save - C. Whidden WP - Broadway; R. Caradonna; Varnes. HBP - by DuPree (Jernigan). Umpires - Home:Ken Couch 1st:Tony Thompson 3rd:Steve Manders Start: 1:09 Time: 3:06 Attendance: 2032							
Game Notes: FSU extends winning streak to 17 games. The FSU record of 23–2 is the best start since 1986 (26–2).							