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NO. 21 FSU SOCCER SHOCKS NO. 19 NC STATE 5-1 IN RALEIGH, NC Seminoles get first-ever ACC road win in NC and set record for goals in an ACC game.

Raleigh, NC – The 21st-ranked Seminoles were upset about their result versus No. 2 North Carolina and they took it out on the 19th-ranked Wolfpack Saturday afternoon with a 5-1 win. Florida State scored three second half goals within 10 minutes of one another to blow open a 2-1 game and move to 8-4-3 on the year and 2-2-1 in the conference. The win was the first regular season ACC road win for FSU in the state of North Carolina and dropped NC State to 8-5-1 and 2-2-1 in the ACC. The Tribe's five goals were the most ever scored by FSU in a regular season conference game.

"It is tough to play a road game on a Saturday afternoon when there aren't a lot of people in the stands," said head coach Patrick Baker. "We came in having never been successful in the state of North Carolina in regular season conference play. I thought we came out a little flat.

"When we went to our bench, they responded today. Jez Ratliff was the difference in the game. Erica Lewis played exceptional in the central midfield. Alli Ferreri, after an excellent week of practice, stepped up and was really dangerous up top. She did a lot of good things and was rewarded with her first collegiate goal."

The game was dominated statistically by the Seminoles as FSU came just two shots shy of equaling a season high with 22 on the afternoon. The Seminoles did set season highs for goals (5), points (14) and assists (4). The Tribe has now tallied its two highest goal outputs this year in games versus ACC opponents NC State and Clemson.

On top of setting three season highs, FSU held the Wolfpack to a season low six shots and to just four shots on goal, the second fewest of any FSU opponent this year. The Seminoles out shot the Pack 17-1 in the second period.

The win kept FSU undefeated on the road this year (2-0-I) and moved the Seminoles into a tie for fourth place in the ACC. Of the four other ACC teams with at least one win and two losses, FSU has a 2-0-I record against that group holding the tie-breaker over Clemson and NC State. The Garnet and Gold tied Duke and still has 2-2-0 Maryland on the schedule. The win over NC State gave FSU three victories in the all-time series and the Wolfpack are now the third team FSU has recorded three wins against. It also moved FSU to .500 in the all-time series with NCSU (3-3-2) which is the first time that has happened for the Seminoles since 1996.

"As I said before, this was an important game for us," said Baker. "If you drop to 1-3-1 in the conference, you have a long road ahead of you. The win puts us right back in the middle of the pack and we know that we dictate a lot of things. We wanted to get back to .500 and beat a nationally ranked team on the road.

"Let's face it, NC State beat No. 2 North Carolina. They beat a good Maryland team on the road and they tied a highly-ranked Wake Forest squad. The have gotten some wonderful results this year. NC State is a good team that we may have just caught on the right day."

The game was evenly played at the start of the match with both teams combining for just one shot in the first 23 minutes. The first dangerous opportunity came at the eight minute mark off a corner

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kick. Annika Schmidt took the set piece from the right corner and sent a bending drive toward the Seminole net. The strike was heading towards the upper corner at the near post before goalkeeper Kerry York punched the ball out and it deflected off the crossbar and out of danger.

Florida State's first opportunity came at the 13:00 mark. Summer Corum went endline and sent a service to the backpost. Amber Tollefson was right there to bury the cross but the junior was whistled for a push before she fired on Wolfpack keeper Gretchen Lear.

The Tribe began to pressure the Wolfpack again as they looked for the go-ahead goal. In the 24th minute Jez Ratliff made a dangerous run down the right side. She passed the ball back to Cindy Schofield in the center of the box but the senior couldn't get much on the shot.

Minutes later FSU attacked again. Ratliff and Allison Ferreri combined and sent Ratliff on a run. She beat three defenders as she crossed the field but got too wide and was unable to beat Lear on the left side.

In the 27th minute, Florida State got on the board. Ratliff made another great run down the right wing. She found freshman Erica Lewis at the top of the box just to the right of the goal. She settled the ball, took one touch and fired a low drive to the near post beating Lear.

"I knew I had to come into the game and try to make a difference and I wanted to do that," said Lewis. "When I saw Jez (Ratliff) cross the ball I trapped it and saw my mark was coming at me pretty hard. I thought I could get past her so I cut it back, put it on my left foot and shot to the right side of the net. Thankfully it got past the keeper."

The goal changed the complexion of the game as FSU started to take control of the possession time and attack more frequently. In the 32nd minute, Schofield had a chance to get a goal against the only ACC team she has never tallied one against in her four year career. The senior striker picked up a loose ball down the left side. She made a long run and laid the ball off to Ferreri waiting at the top of the 18. The freshman, in search of her first goal of her career, fired a shot that was just blocked by the NC State defense as it left her foot.

Ferreri did get that first career goal just moments later. Freshman Leah Gallegos sent a long looping ball down the left side of the pitch to Ratliff. The speedy sophomore chased it down and turned to goal. She sent a perfect service to the backpost where Ferreri was waiting. The freshman deflected the shot past the keeper and into the side netting staking FSU to a 2-0 lead.

"Jez (Ratliff) made a beautiful run down the sideline and I saw that she had the girl beat," said Ferreri. "As soon as she turned the corner, I made a diagonal run across the box and just spotted it and was able to score.

"Today was a nice day for me personally and for this team. It was nice to get that second goal and put a little cushion on that lead. In the ACC, every game is important and it felt good to do my part and help our team win. The fact that was my first goal hasn't even really hit me yet but I'm sure it will."

Just before the half the Wolfpack pulled within a goal as they scored with just over 1:30 remaining in the period. Schmidt sent Lindsey Underwood in behind the FSU defense as she found a seam on the left side. York charged to cut down the angle but Underwood beat her to the ball and just lifted over the sliding keeper.

"I lit into the team at the half," said Baker. "The way we gave up that goal with just 1:36 on the clock was so similar to our break down defensively against Duke and we worked on that so much. With the experience we have in the back, they shouldn't score that easy. It was something we could have

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solved. I was furious. It is so different to go in up 2-0 on their field than it is 2-1. I told them what we needed to get done in no uncertain terms and I think the team responded beautifully."

With the score 2-I, FSU came out in the second half and totally dominated the game. The Tribe out shot NC State I7-I and took eight shots on goal compared to zero for the Pack. In a ten minute stretch, FSU took I0 shots, scored three goals and hit a post and a crossbar as they blew the game open.

"NC State went to a 4-3-3 to start the half and with the wide players we have, we like when teams play that against us," said Baker. "We were able to run at them and create chances."

"The defensive alignment NC State utilized made it easier for me to use my speed to get in," said Ratliff who had the first multi-assist game of her career Saturday. "It was almost as if they were employing an offsides trap because their whole back line would just step and be completely flat. They were just leaving us so much space to run into and today we were able to take advantage of that."

After an initial shot by NC State just a couple minutes into the second period, the Seminoles didn't let the Wolfpack cross into their half for the next nine minutes. In that span, both Gallegos and Schofield each missed two goals before the flood gates opened up for FSU.

The barrage began with a Gallegos penetration. The freshman sensation picked up the ball and made a dangerous run across the top of the box. As soon as she found an opening she fired a shot at the open net but it was blocked out of bounds by the defense before it reached its destination.

On the ensuing corner, senior Meredith Jones sent a great service to the near post to a waiting Schofield. Before the senior could bury the cross, the Wolfpack defense made a last ditch attempt to block the shot and ended up deflecting it past Lear and into the goal.

"I didn't think the corner I was able to socre on was that dangerous," said Jones. "I sent it into the box and they knocked it into the net. A lot of that had to do with the fact that Cindy (Schofield) was waiting at the near post if they hadn't deflected it."

Just 1:09 later, another Jones corner helped FSU open up a 4-1 lead. The senior drove this corner to the center of the box and about 12 yards out from goal. Fellow senior Jenny Garcia headed a low bouncing shot at Lear. As the ball was heading through Lera's legs and into the net, it just caught the back of the keeper's calf and deflected along the goal line where Schofield tapped it in to the open net.

"Jenny (Garcia) had a great header on that second corner," said Jones. "She headed it down and unfortunately the keeper was able to get a piece of it as it was heading through her legs and into the net. Cindy (Schofield) was there to finish it off. It was as great effort by both of them."

The goal was the 32nd in the senior All-American's storied career and with goals against Wake Forest and NC State in the last few weeks, she has now scored at least one goal versus every team in the ACC.

"That's really neat because every team in the conference is so good," said Schofield. "It is an accomplishment that I am proud of. Since not that many people score against UNC, to just have them on the list is something to be proud of."

The onslaught continued for FSU as Gallegos almost recorded her seventh goal of the season. The Los Angeles native made a run into the right side of the box. She took two steps and fired a low liner to the near post. The shot caught the post and bounced out.

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Then in the 66th minute Lewis almost struck again. The Jacksonville, FL native picked up a cross off a great run from Ratliff. The freshman, who was about 20 yards out from goal, took a looping shot that almost beat Lear over the top but the keeper was able to just get a fist on it and knock it into the crossbar. The rebound caught the inside of the post and looked as if it had crossed the line but the ref ruled the ball was still in play.

Less than a minute later it was déjà vu all over again for Lewis. Garcia collected the ball in the middle of the pitch and laid the pass off to Lewis standing about 25 yards away just to the right of goal. She blasted an identical shot over the top of Lear and this time it fell in over the keeper's head staking the Tribe to a 5-I lead.

"I had that shot about a minute before and I was a little upset because I thought it had crossed the line but the ref ruled otherwise," said Lewis. "I wanted to get that one back and a minute later I had the chance. Before the game, we had talked about wanting to get the keeper off her line and I saw that she was. I thought I may be able to sneak one past her. I hit it and it got over her head.

"It feels really good to help my team. Today was a big confidence boost for me. It lets me know that I can make a difference and that I have a role on this team whether it is coming off the bench or whatever role they ask me to play."

The Seminoles kept applying the pressure and it almost paid off once again as Gallegos went endline on the left side and served a beautiful ball to Ratliff in the box. The Oklahoma native fired a shot that was just deflected and caught the inside of the post. Once again the shot looked as if it had crossed the line but the ref ruled play on.

The shot was the third of the game for Ratliff on top of her two assists. She created havoc all day for the Wolfpack defense whether she was playing on the right or left side in the wide midfield or in her customary position up top.

"It felt good to get in the game and see the effort pay off with immediate rewards," said Ratliff. "We needed a big game like this. We have been looking to put a complete game together against a quality opponent who has had some big wins this season. We were fortunate enough to do that today."

In the 71st minute, Schofield almost had the sixth multi-goal game of her career. Senior Katie Talley attacked the Wolfpack defense from the right flank and went endline. Her cross found Schofield at the near post and the senior's sliding shot just went wide of the post.

"We broke out in the second half today and got endline a lot," said Schofield. "Our flank players did an extremely good job of getting wide and getting into the box. Our center backs were wonderful too today and that opened up the middle of the field. We even got some long range goals. We created a lot and finished our chances unlike what we did against UNC Tuesday night."

The Seminoles return home Tuesday, October 22 when they host Jacksonville University in a game scheduled for a 7:00 p.m. start. The Dolphins are 12-1-2 on the year and undefeated in A-Sun play (7-0-2). The game against JU will be the second-to-last regular season home game for the Seminoles. The Tribe is currently less than 1800 fans away from reaching the 10,000 fan mark for the first time in school history and will look to break that mark on Senior Night against Virginia Saturday, November II. For more information on the 21st-ranked FSU soccer team, please visit the official website for the Florida State University athletic department at www.seminoles.com.

--WWW.SEMINOLES.COM--

Soccer Box Score (Final) No. 21 Florida State Soccer #21 FSU vs #19 NCSTATE (Oct 19, 2002 at Raleigh, NC)

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