

# **FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY**

## **S P O R T S I N F O R M A T I O N**

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RUSTON, LA--It was not a memorable night for freshman Christy Larsen in the NCAA South Regional Playoff Friday night at Lady Techster Softball Complex as Florida State was eliminated losing to Texas A&M 1-0 in the first game and 6-1 in the second game to host Louisiana Tech.

In the first game, playing third base, Larsen committed a mental error which in turn aided in scoring the Lady Aggies lone run of the evening. In the bottom of the seventh inning with left fielder Zina Ochoa on second base, Larsen cleanly fielded a grounder by second baseman Renee Blaha. Thinking there was a force play at third, she went to the base. Blaha was safe at first. Following line drive out by Rhonda Halbert to shortstop Tiffany Daniels, right fielder Tory Parks lined a shot up the middle to score Ochoa from second with the decisive run.

"I was mentally out of it," said Larsen. "The last thing I remembered was a 3-0 count on Blaha and I thought she walked giving me a force at third. I was thinking one batter ahead. You can get away with that in the outfield, but not in the infield." Larsen made the majority of her starts in right field and moved to third base late in the season.

It had been a scoreless tie going into the bottom of the seventh in a pitching duel between FSU hurler Debbie DeJohn and A&M starter Julie Carpenter. "It was a tough game to lose," said DeJohn. "There were too many what ifs involved in the whole thing. I thought that Texas A&M had only a few hard hit balls all night."

With the loss, DeJohn finishes the season with an 18-3 record. She scattered five hits while striking out none and walking one. Carpenter raised her record to 37-19 allowing only two hits while striking out two and walking one.

In the second game against Louisiana Tech, Christy Larsen was called on at the last minute to pitch in place of her older sister Julie, who had been hit with a pitch in the lower wrist a day before during a scrimmage game.

To lead off the game, Larsen hit Tech centerfielder Barbara Carter. The following batter, Deanna McGough, in an attempt to move Carter to second, laid down a bunt back to the mound. Larsen fielded the ball and threw wildly to first, as the ball caromed off the wall and ended up in right field allowing Carter to score and McGough to advance to third base. McGough scored two pitches later on a wild pitch making the score 2-0 five minutes into the game.

From there it was all Debbie Nichols, the sole pitcher on the

Louisiana Tech squad. Nichols, a sophomore with a 48-6 record on the season, retired the Lady Seminoles in order through the sixth inning.

To ruin Nichols' bid for a perfect game, Larsen led off the bottom of the seventh with a double in the gap between left and centerfield. She moved to second on an infield ground out by Sandy Martinez and scored on a single by Kelly Flaczinski. "It was good to get that hit and score the run after everything else that happened," said Larsen.

Florida State was its own worst enemy throughout the contest committing five errors while Larsen allowed no earned runs. FSU head coach JoAnne Graf said that the Lady Seminoles could not emotionally bounce back after the 1-0 loss to Texas A&M. "To come back and play a game against a team like Louisiana Tech 20 minutes after the loss we suffered is virtually impossible," said Graf. "To top it off, Christy was not mentally prepared to pitch the game. We called on her at the last minute after Julie's finger swelled up due to her wrist injury. We just lost our competitiveness. I was proud of our effort in the first game. It was a game that could have gone either way. We played aggressive defense and held them when we needed to."

The 15th-ranked Lady Seminoles ended their season with a 44-14 record. Texas A&M, now 40-18, and Louisiana Tech, 49-6, will battle it out in a best of three series to determine who goes to the Women's College World Series in Sunnyvale, CA, May 25-29.

