

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FLORIDA STATE SOFTBALL OPENS SEASON WITH VICTORIES

MACON, Ga. -- The ^{No. 16} Florida State softball team opened the 1996 season with 4-1 and 5-2 victories over Mercer in Macon this afternoon. FSU is now 2-0 on the season, while Mercer is 0-2.

Florida State All-American Shamalene Wilson led the way offensively for the Lady Seminoles as she went 5-for-6 at the plate, scored four runs and recorded five stolen bases through the two games. On the mound, senior Renee Espinoza picked up FSU's first win of the year, allowing just three hits and one earned run, while striking out eight batters. Junior Kristy Fuentes recorded the second victory, allowing just two earned runs while dismissing six batters.

Florida State had a 4-0 lead in game one, before allowing Mercer a run in the sixth inning. In game two, the Lady Seminoles had to come from behind for the win. Mercer scored two quick runs in the first inning, but a three-run FSU third inning gave the Lady Seminoles the lead for good.

"It was just good for us to get these early games in," FSU coach Dr. JoAnne Graf said. "I'm happy with the wins and I saw some good things out there, especially the performance of Shama Wilson. But we have some tough games ahead when we go out to Arizona and we still have a lot of work to do."

Florida State's home opener will be this Friday, Feb. 9 as the Lady Seminoles will host West Florida in a doubleheader beginning at 5:30 p.m.

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City Macon, GA

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