

TAR HEEL SID

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**OFFICE OF ATHLETIC MEDIA RELATIONS****April 20, 1996****SEMINOLES, ESPINOZA CAPTURE ACC SOFTBALL TITLE**

RALEIGH, N.C. -- Florida State won its second straight Atlantic Coast Conference softball title and fourth in five years by beating the North Carolina Tar Heels 3-1 Saturday night in the finals of the 1996 ACC Softball Tournament.

Renee Espinoza carried the load on the mound for the Seminoles, tossing a complete-game, one-hitter in a game that was delayed by three hours and 13 minutes due to inclement weather.

Espinoza, the tournament's Most Valuable Player, lost her bid for a no-hitter in the seventh inning when North Carolina's Lorin Slade doubled to the gap in right-centerfield. Espinoza then got Christine Kubin and Jeanine Gunther both to fly out to end the game.

"To win a conference tournament is always special," FSU head coach JoAnne Graf said. "It's for all the players, it means a lot to the school and it's something we strive for."

"Renee threw a good game."

Other than a wild pitch in the first inning which led to the Tar Heels' only run, Espinoza was brilliant for the Seminoles. In the Tar Heel first, Robyn Coombs reached on an error, stole second and advance to third on a ground out. The Seminoles elected to intentionally walk Kubin but one of Espinoza's balls sailed to the backstop allowing Coombs to score.

The score remained 1-0 until strong winds and heavy rains interrupted play in the bottom of the third inning. Wind ripped apart portions of the outfield fence and scattered it about the outfield grass, while rains made puddles out of parts of the infield.

A team of about 20 worked to re-assemble the outfield wall and members of the grounds crew salvaged the infield after the storm passed.

After play resumed, Florida State took the lead in the fourth when Tami Post and Dana Bailey delivered RBI singles to put the Seminoles up 2-1.

"I was worried about (the delay)," Graf said. "Emotionally, it's tough. We came back pretty fired up, and we were able to score pretty early which helped because that changed the momentum in our favor."

The Seminoles added another run in the fifth and Espinoza kept the Tar Heels in check on the mound. After the first inning, Espinoza retired 13 straight batters before giving up Slade's double in the seventh.

"After the first inning when I overthrew that ball, I was frustrated and angry with myself," she said. "That's just something I don't do. The break definitely helped get me in the game mentally."

Espinoza finished the tournament with a 3-0 record. In three tournament games, she allowed just one unearned run, struck out 12 and walked only three.

Florida State also placed the most number of players on the all-tournament team. Joining Espinoza from the Seminoles were Kristy Hull, Windy Weltz and Shamalene Wilson. Kubin, Brandy Arthur and Jennifer Shelton made the team from North Carolina.

Rounding out the all-tourney team were Paige Bolton and Laura Williams from Georgia Tech, Weezy Calderone and Jamie Hahn from Virginia and Amy Sandler and Kelly Shipman from Maryland.

1996 FSU Lady Seminole Softball

North Carolina vs Florida State Apr 20, 1996 at ACC Tourney-Raleigh

North Carolina 1 (32-29-1)

Florida State 3 (44-17)

Name (Pos)	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	PO	A
Coombs, Robyn ss	3	1	0	0	0	0	2	1
Arthur, Brandy dh	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Slade, Lorin 1b	3	0	1	0	0	1	6	4
Kubin, Christine 3b	2	0	0	0	1	0	2	4
Gunther, Jeanine c	3	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
Klesaris, Jennifer lf	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Shaver, Jamie 2b	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	1
Harman, Melissa cf	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Lefferts, Colleen rf	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shelton, Jennifer p	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

Name (Pos)	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	PO	A
Wilson, Shama cf	3	1	1	0	0	0	2	0
Calkins, Myssi lf	2	1	1	0	1	1	3	0
Hull, Kristy c	2	0	0	0	0	1	3	2
Post, Tami 3b	3	0	2	2	0	0	0	1
Schnute, Kelly pr	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fuentes, Kristy dh	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
McGregor, Jesse ss	3	0	1	0	0	0	3	1
Taff, Windy pr	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Weltz, Windy 2b	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Bailey, Dana rf	3	0	2	1	0	0	4	0
Williams, Corrie 1b	2	0	0	0	0	1	6	0
Molin, Misty ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Espinoza, Renee p	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

Totals..... 22 1 1 0 1 2 18 11

Totals..... 23 3 7 3 2 4 21 6

Score by innings: R H E

North Carolina	100	000	0	-	1	1	0
Florida State	000	210	-	3	7	2	

E - Espinoza, R, Post, T.

DP - UNC 1. LOB - UNC 1, FSU 6.

2B - Slade, L.

SB - Coombs, R, Calkins, M, Wilson, S. CS - Kubin, C, Lefferts, C.

SH - Hull, K, Weltz, W.

North Carolina	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	Florida State	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Shelton, Jennifer	6.0	7	3	3	2	4	Espinoza, Renee	7.0	1	1	0	1	2

Winner - Espinoza, R 23-6. Loser - Shelton, J 7-10. Save - None.

WP - Espinoza, R.

Umpires - Yarranton, Abercrombie, St. Germaine, Vavrinec

Start: 6 pm Time: Attendance:

Game Notes:

There was a 3 hour-plus delay due to rain

This marks FSU's fourth ACC Tourney title and second consecutive.