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NORTH CAROLINA CAPTURES ACC SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP BY DOWNINIG NO. 16 FLORIDA STATE 4-1 Seminoles fight their way to the championship round but are unable to defeat Tar Heel ace McHugh.

Raleigh, NC - For the first time in seven years, the Florida State softball team will end conference play without being crowned Atlantic Coast Conference Softball Champions after falling to North Carolina (37-17-1) 4-1. The Seminoles (54-10), who entered as the No. 1 seed, were unable to breakthrough in two tournament games against All-ACC pitcher Radara McHugh of North Carolina. The senior from Tulsa, OK went 2-0 with a 0.00 ERA in two games against FSU and held the Seminole's batters to just a .200 batting average.

"I want to congratulate the Tar Heels and Radara McHugh for a wonderful tournament," said head coach JoAnne Graf. "You can't take anything away from the way they played this weekend and they are deserving champions. We are a tough team and I'm sure we'll bounce back and be ready for the NCAA Tournament next weekend."

North Carolina jumped on Florida State starter Jen White-Stokes (22-4) in the top of the first when leadoff hitter Quinn Porter reached on an error by first baseman Robyn Gauger and then advanced to second on a Rosie Gustavon out. Michelle Semmes and Natalie Anter then put together back-to-back singles to score Porter with the Tar Heel's first run. UNC added a second run when first baseman Beth Olen singled to short scoring Semmes and extending North Carolina's lead to 2-0.

Florida State got a run back in the bottom of the first when Serita Brooks led off with a bunt single and stole second. The steal pushed Brooks to a perfect 47 for 47 on the season. After a Brandon walk, Brooks stole her 48th base and came home with FSU's first run after UNC third baseman Dionne Streete couldn't handle the pickoff attempt.

The Tar Heels threatened to extend their lead in the top of the fourth when Beth Olen and Emily Price started the inning with back-to-back singles. After FSU replaced starter White-Stokes, ACC Player of the Year Leslie Malerich allowed an infield single to third baseman Dionne Streete to load the bases. She then retired the next three hitters, with two strikeouts, to keep FSU in the game at 2-1.

UNC broke the game open in the top of the sixth when Price reached on an error by FSU shortstop Natalie Bennett and was followed by Streete who hit a two-strike pitch deep to left field for her second homer and 14th RBI of the season. The two-run shot extended UNC's lead to 4-1.

Next up for Florida State is a trip to the NCAA Tournament, which begins May 17, 2001. The Seminoles will get word from the NCAA at 8:30 pm tonight on where they will be playing NCAA Regional action next week. Today's 2001 ACC Softball Tournament final will air at 4:30 p.m. on the Sunshine Network Sunday, May 13. For more information on the NCCA Tournament, the Seminole softball team and photos from the ACC softball banquet and tournament please visit www.seminoles.com.

NOTE: Four Seminoles were named to the 2001 All-ACC Tournament Team at the conclusion of tournament play this afternoon. Pitcher Leslie Malerich went 2-1 with a 0.95 ERA in 22 innings of work. Senior shortstop Natalie Bennett led the Seminoles with a .462 batting average, a .846 slugging percentage, two doubles and a homerun. Center fielder Serita Brooks was second on the team with a .375 batting average, a triple, a .500 slugging percentage and four stolen bases. Left fielder Monique Marier had a double, a home run and slugged .583 for the tournament. --30--

The Automated ScoreBook North Carolina vs Florida State

May 13, 2001 at ACC Tournament (Raleigh, NC)

North Carolina 4 (37-17-1)

Florida State 1 (54-10)

, r	AB	R	Ħ	RBI	BB	so	ю	A	LOB	Player				RBI				
Quinn Porter cf	4	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	Serita Brooks cf								
Rosie Gustavson rf	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	Kimmy Carter c	3	Đ	0	0	1	2	6	
Michelle Semmes ss	4	1	2	0	0	0	5	0	0	Staci Brandon 3b	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	
Natalie Anter c	4	C	2	1	0	0	8	0	0	Brandi Stuart 2b	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	
Lauren Looper pr	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Natalie Bennett ss	4	0	1	0	0	1	2	
Kelly Ramsey dp	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Robyn Gauger 1b	4	0	1	0	0	2	9	
Beth Olen 1b	3	0	2	1	6	0	3	1	1	Skyla Com pr	Û	0	0	0	0	Ç	0	
Lauren Parker pr	0	Đ	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Elisa Velasco dp	3	0	0	0	0	2	0	
Emily Price lf	3	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	Monique Marier lf	2	0	0	0	1	1	1	
Dionne Streete 3b	3	1	2	2	0	1	1	1	0	Leah Armstrong pr	0	0	0	0	0	Ú	0	
Sarah Young 2b	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	Jessica van der Lind rf	3	0	2	0	0	0	1	
Carrie Bates ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	Jen White-Stokes p	0	0	0	0	0	Ç	0	
Radara McHugh p	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	6	Leslie Malerich p	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Totals,	31	4	10	4	0	5	21	6	7	Totals	29	1	6	0	4	8	21	1
Score by Innings			R	H	E													
North Carolina 200									•									
Florida State 100	000	0 -	- 1	6	2													

E - Streete 3(12); Bennett(14); Gauger(3). LOB - Tar Heels 7; Seminoles 11. HR - Streete(2). SH - Gustavson(12). SB - Brooks 2(48). CS - Anter(1).

Carolina	IP				 Florida State	IP								
Radara McHugh					 Jen White-Stokes	3.0	6	2	0	0	2	15	16	

Win - McHugh (23-10). Loss - White-Stokes (19-4). Save - None. Ompires - Home:Diane Beasley 1st:Tim Houchin 3rd:Katrina Tholl

Start: 1:25 pm Time: 2:20 Attendance: 472

Game: ACCTOUR4

White-Stokes faced 2 batters in the 4th.