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SEMINOLE SOFTBALL BOUNCES BACK WITH 5-0 WIN OVER NEW MEXICO STATE Brandi Stuart and Jessica van der Linden combine to help No. 17 FSU get back on track.

Las Cruces, NM — After watching her chance to be the hero slip away in game one with a bases loaded opportunity in the bottom of the eighth in a loss to Texas Tech, All-American Brandi Stuart didn't let history repeat itself. In FSU's second game of day one at the Troy Cox Classic, the Cerritos, CA native came up with the bases loaded in the first and second innings against host New Mexico State and launched a two-RBI triple and a two-RBI single to knock in four runs in her first two at bats. Florida State (10-5) went on to down host New Mexico State (7-16) 5-0 in bouncing back from its earlier loss to the Red Raiders.

Stuart ended up going 3-for-3 on the evening with a single, a double and a triple while recording four RBIs in raising her total for the season to 10. Sophomore Jessica van der Linden pitched a complete game shutout in limiting the Aggies to just two hits and raising her record to 5-I on the season.

Florida State's bats awoke in the first inning of game two as FSU put its first three runners on base on three consecutive singles all coming with the batter facing two-strike pitches. With no outs and the bases loaded, Stuart ripped a would-be double down the left field line before the third base umpire ruled it foul. Stuart took the next pitch she saw, a 3-2 offering, and went the other way with it sending a hard hit triple down the right field line this time scoring Shandra Colzie from first and Tatiana George from second. Jessica van der Linden attempted to score on the triple but was gunned out at the plate to keep the Seminoles lead at 2-0.

The Aggies fought right back in the top of the second when three straight Seminole errors loaded the bases with no outs. Van der Linden induced the next two batters into ground balls and got back-to-back force outs at home. She then corralled a smash back up the middle to throw out second baseman Shayne Gipson at first to end the Aggie threat.

The Seminoles loaded the bases for the second time in a row in the second but this time with two outs. Van der Linden attempted to help her own cause as she came up with the bases juiced. With the count at 3-2, the sophomore watched ball four and the walk forced home Monique Marier with FSU's third run. That brought up Stuart in another bases loaded situation. After knocking in two with a first-inning triple, the Easton All-American sent a single up the middle bringing in another two runs and pushing the Florida State lead to 5-0.

Van der Linden, the reigning ACC Rookie of the Year who is developing into the ace of the staff, completely controlled New Mexico State allowing just two hits and one walk while striking out ten, one away from a season-high, to earn her fifth win of the season. The Puerto Rican National Team pitcher now leads the team in wins (5), ERA (0.67), strikeouts (49) and opponent batting average (.109).

The Seminoles return to action Saturday, February 23 at the Troy Cox Classic when they face the University of Dayton (0-2) at 2:00 p.m. EST. Florida State will conclude day two of round-robin play at 6:00 p.m. EST when they face the host Aggies for the second time in two days.

--FSU Sports Information--

No. 18 Florida State Softball New Mexico State vs Florida State

Feb 22, 2002 at Las Cruces, NM (Presley Askew Comp)

New Mexico State 0 (7-16)

Florida State 5 (10-5)

P	AB		н	RBI	вв	so	PO	A	LOE	3	Player				RBI					LOB
GIPSON 2b			0	0	0	2	1	4	3	- 3	Shandra Colzie cf									0
WESCOTT rf	3	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	()	Tatiana George ss	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	2	0
RHYNE 1f	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	()	Jess van der Linden p	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	4	1
SPINO dh	3	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	l	Brandi Stuart 2b	3	0	3	4	0	0	1	1	0
STEPHENS C	3	0	1	0	0	0	5	1	()	Kimmy Carter rf	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
BRIGGS 3b	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	()	Elisa Velasco 1b	3	0	1	0	0	1	6	1	1
NOBBE ss	2	0	0	0	1	0	2	2	2	2	Julie Jordan c	2	0	0	0	1	2	14	1	1
BROWN 1b	3	0	0	0	0	2	8	0	1	L	Monique Marier 1f	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
RUIZ cf	3	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	()	Bryttani Lindheim 3b	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
KNIGHT p	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	()	Becky Brock 3b	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	27	0	2	0	1	10	18	13	7	7	Totals	25	5	8	5	2	5	21	9	5
Score by Innings				H	_															
New Mexico State 000																				
Florida State 230	000	x -	5	8	4															

E - KNIGHT; T George 2(4); B Stuart(2); B Lindheim(2). DP - Aggies 1. LOB - Aggies 7; Seminoles 5. 2B - B Stuart(3). 3B - B Stuart(1). HBP - T George. SB - BRIGGS. CS - B Stuart(1).

Win - van der Lind (5-1). Loss - KNIGHT (3-12). Save - None.

HB - KNIGHT. PB - STEPHENS; Julie Jordan(1).

Umpires - Home: Ray Rosalez 1st: Luis Padilla 3rd: Gary Galindo

Start: 6:50 PM Time: 1:54 Attendance: 100

Game: 2222002B